



The 40-10



LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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E D I T O R I A L

This issue is full of information about people. I am particularly pleased that several of us were able to visit the site of the Battle of Messines. There is a short report on the Centenary Commemoration event on 7th June this year with, immediately before it, a biographical note about Major Willie Redmond. He was a particularly well known politician in Ireland whose views and policies were inspirational. He was also a peacetime volunteer soldier who joined up on the outbreak of the Great War though far too old to serve. Although relegated, for that reason, to a Staff job not in the front line, he “talked” his determined way forward until, sadly, he was caught in the open by enemy fire. Had he not died at that point he might well have been influential in the design and development, without bloodshed, of the new Government of Ireland after the War. Sadly we shall never know.

We also have a second article “Dead but not War Dead” about the unfortunate soldiers of many Regiments who lost their lives in Slovenia shortly after the Great War where they were part of a peace-keeping border force. Their graves have been ignored by the British Government who sent them there and, as you will see, the descendant of one of them, Jim Powrie, has made a huge effort not only to locate the graves but also to attempt to persuade various elements of the British Government and of the Army to take an interest in this most unfortunate oversight (some might say scandal). This second report by Lt Col Nick Weekes of Jim’s work brings matters up to date from the article in our issue of Autumn 2015. We intend to take the matter further and are now taking advice on how best to do this.

We have articles about two officers of the Regiment who seemed to us to have rather faded from view. Archie Nye rose through the ranks as described in our issue of Autumn last year. That account finished in 1922 when five of the Irish Infantry Regiments in the Army were disbanded. Archie transferred to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and his career and achievements up to the end of World War 2 are described in these pages. He was outstanding among officers of the Regiment for what he did as well as for the rewards which were showered upon him. They were crowned by his appointment as Vice Chief of the Imperial General Staff (or second senior officer in the British Army) in 1941. Archie Nye deserves to be remembered by us.

The other officer about whom we have some information was neither as senior as Archie Nye nor as important to history. But he did have an unusual if not unique career and got to wear a unique badge. This was Victor Haddick – see pages 6 and 7. We have reason to believe that a portrait of Haddick exists but do not know

where. If any one comes across information on this, would they please let Nick Weekes know. (nickweekes@hotmail.com).

On page 16 there is a report of a very unfortunate event on the square at Crinkill barracks in 1843. A soldier acting unwisely under extreme provocation shot the Adjutant of the Battalion then in residence. We are not sure what happened to him but the story illustrates what in those days could go wrong if the quality and training standards of officers are allowed to deteriorate. We also describe the short career and death in action of a cockney soldier in the 2nd Battalion, and we have obituary notices for two of our best known and devoted supporters: Terry Goodman and Noel Cullen who have both died in this last year.

P S W

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The Irish Peace Tower, Messines Ridge

Back cover

Patrick MacGill's Wish (stone)

Major Willie Redmond (1861-1917)



William Hoey Kearney Redmond was born on 15 April 1861 into a Catholic gentry family of Norman descent that had been associated with County Wexford for seven centuries. His father, William Archer Redmond, was the Home Rule Party MP for Wexford Borough from 1872 to 1880 and was the nephew of the elder John Edward Redmond who is commemorated in Redmond Square near Wexford Railway Station. Willie Redmond's older brother was John Redmond who became leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party; he also had two sisters. His mother Mary was of Protestant stock from County Wicklow and a daughter of General R H Hoey of the Wicklow Rifles and the 61st Regiment.

Willie Redmond grew up in Ballytrent, County Wexford and like his father was educated at Knockbeg College and St Patrick's College, Carlow (1871-72). On leaving school he apprenticed himself on a merchant sailing ship before taking a commission in the Wexford Militia, the Royal Irish Regiment, on 24 December 1879. He became a second lieutenant in October 1880 but then resigned the following year to join the Irish National Land League, which would see him imprisoned three times for his activities as a land reform agitator. He and his brother John travelled to Australia to raise funds for the Land League, and while there met two sisters who would eventually become their wives. Willie married Eleanor Mary Dalton.

Willie was elected in absentia as MP for his father's old Wexford Borough constituency, subsequently taking his seat in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. When the Wexford Borough constituency was abolished during the 1885 general election, he was returned for Fermanagh North constituency. In 1892, he was elected for the Clare East constituency, from which he was returned unopposed from 1900 until his death.

With the advent of the First World War, John Redmond, then the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, called on Irish volunteers to enlist in Irish regiments of the Kitchener's New Service Army, namely the 10th and 16th (Irish) Divisions, in the belief that it would strengthen the cause to later implement the Home Rule Act, which had been suspended for the duration of the War. At 53 years of age, Willie Redmond was one of the first Nationalist volunteers to volunteer for the Army after hearing that a German Zeppelin had bombed civilian targets in Britain. Doing so, he addressed vast gatherings of fellow volunteers, Hibernians and the UIL, encouraging voluntary enlistment in support of the British and Allied war cause and "for the greater good"; In November 1914, he made a famous recruiting speech in Cork:

"I do not say to you Go. But grey haired and old as I am, I say Come: Come with me to the war. If Germany wins we are all endangered".

He felt he might serve Ireland best in the firing line and was one of five Irish MPs who served with Irish brigades.

Willie Redmond was commissioned as a Captain in his former regiment the Royal Irish Regiment, and went to the Western Front with the 16th (Irish) Division in the winter of 1915-16. He was soon in action and was mentioned in despatches Sir Douglas Haig. Willie Redmond was promoted to the rank of Major on 15 July 1916. But the promotion took him away from the action much to his displeasure and he only succeeded in returning to his beloved 'A' Company of the 6th Battalion the night before the Battle of Messines on 6 June 1917 where, according to Major Charles Taylor, his senior officer, he 'spoke to every man'.

One of the nineteen British mines blown on 7th June was at Macdelstede Farm immediately in front of the Royal Irish Regiment's 'A' and 'B' Companies, which then advanced, shoulder to shoulder with men of the 36th (Ulster) Division, on the great attack on Messines Ridge and towards the small village of Wytschaete (now Wijtschate). On reaching their first objectives the

remainder of the Battalion passed through them and took Wyteschaete. But Major Willie Redmond, one of the first out of the trenches, was hit almost immediately in the wrist and then in the leg; unable to carry on he could do no more than urge his men forward. Some distance away from where Redmond lay, Private John Meeke of the 36th (Ulster) Division's 11th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was searching the battlefield for the wounded and saw the Major fall. Using what cover he could, he made his way to the 16th (Irish) Division officer he had seen. As he tended the Major's wounds they came under heavy fire resulting in Meeke receiving a wound to his left side. The Major saw that the young Ulsterman was bleeding profusely and ordered him to return to the British lines. Pte Meeke refused and moments later was hit again. Once more the Major gave Private Meeke an order to return to the British lines and yet again he refused. The two men were repeatedly fired on until they were eventually rescued by a patrol from the 36th (Ulster) Division who were escorting German prisoners back to the British lines. Major Redmond was carried off the field of battle to a Casualty Clearing Station located at a hospice in the grounds of the Locré (now Loker) Catholic Convent where, despite the efforts of field surgeons, he died that afternoon. During his last moments he received spiritual comfort by the 36th (Ulster) Division Chaplain, the Reverend John Redmond (no relation).

At his funeral, a guard of honour was made up of men from the 16th (Irish) Division and the 36th (Ulster) Division. He was buried in the grounds of the Hospice, and three months later a special service at the graveside was attended by Irish leaders along with members of both the 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) Divisions. Later the ground was fought over again and after the War the ruined Hospice was rebuilt on a new site nearer to the village of Locré.

After the war when the War Graves Commission started to concentrate burials from smaller graves to larger cemeteries they wrote to Mrs Eleanor Redmond for permission to relocate her husband's grave. She requested that his body be left where it lay in the care of the nuns in Locré. When Eleanor visited the grave in 1919, she was pleased with how the nuns had kept the grave.

As a footnote to this history, Private John Meeke from the Montgomery Estate in Benvarden near Ballmoney, Co Antrim was awarded the Military Medal for his remarkable act of bravery in tending the wounds of Major William Redmond under heavy fire. Meeke died in 1923 of tuberculosis and was buried in an unmarked grave near his brother Samuel who died in 1919 just weeks after returning home from incarceration in a German prisoner of war camp.

John Meeke's grave remained unmarked and forgotten until 2004 when a memorial stone was erected by public subscription next to his brother's grave at the Derrykeighan Old Graveyard, co Antrim.

(Editor: The text above is taken from an account which is marked as copyright (© to the Wexford Branch of the Royal British Legion. Despite concerted attempts to make contact with this Branch, we have not been successful. I have visited Willie Redmond's grave and take the view that this excellent account of his life and death deserves this exposure and the salute of the descendants of soldiers of the Leinster Regiment, and of other members of our Association. Having acted in this way I wish to offer my thanks to Wexford RBL and to add that I hope they will kindly overlook this high handed use of their material.)

**Peter Walton, Colonel retired
Chairman, The Leinster Regiment Association**



The Battle of Messines Ridge – Commemoration 7th June 2017



Several of us travelled to Belgium to represent both the Association and the descendants of all those Irish soldiers who took part in this epic battle, but especially those who gave their lives. Prominent among the attackers were both the 16th (Irish) Division and the 36th (Ulster) Division. And prominent among individual officers and men was Major Willie Redmond (a Reserve Officer of The Royal Irish Regiment and the well-known Nationalist MP) who was to be wounded in the battle. Aged 57 he had been attached to Divisional HQ but had determined that he was going into action with the men of his Battalion. On 2nd June 1917, the eve of the Battle, Redmond dined with the 2nd Battalion The Leinsters and used the occasion to embellish his speech of thanks for the officers' hospitality by repeating his 1914 exhortation to Irishmen from all parts of Ireland to forget their differences and come forward to fight in the common cause. In this he was at one with the famous Tom Kettle, intellectual, scholar, lawyer and poet, who declared that Germany had thrown down a challenge to civilisation. Ireland, he said, had a duty to take the path of honour: to fight on England's side. Although by virtue of his Staff appointment Willie Redmond was not required to go into action, he did so nonetheless. Unfortunately he was wounded and soon after died of his wounds. Almost uniquely (but not by his own wishes) he was purposely buried on his own in a special plot away from the principal scene of action.

For an effective account of how operations were planned, commanded and successfully executed, one can do no better than check out Volume 2 of the Regimental History. The 2nd Battalion was tasked in a supporting role to Canadians whose objective was the capture of Vimy Ridge. After that great success the Irish task was to capture and secure the Messines-Wytschaete ridge which dominated Ypres and was the place from

which the final offensive in Flanders could begin. Orders were issued on 3rd June, and the attack began at dawn on the 7th. A new and dramatically effective feature of trench warfare was now used when nineteen huge mines were detonated under the German lines. The sound, it was said, was heard in London. The ensuing attack was entirely successful and achieved with (for warfare at this time, the modest) losses of only 17 killed and 84 wounded – but with the Leinsters heartened by news received just then of the award of the VC to Corporal Cunningham for his gallantry in the action of 12th April 1917. In command of the Battalion throughout was Lt Colonel A D Murphy. Very sadly he was killed on 6th November 1917 by a chance shell which landed in the middle of a small group attending to some wounded. He was only 27 years of age and had won promotion from Lieutenant on his arrival in the theatre in September 1914 to Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer in 1917: or within 3 years! He was an outstanding officer who was sorely missed by all ranks.



Lt A D Murphy DSO, MC c1915

The 2017 Ceremony of Commemoration was planned and delivered jointly by the Governments of the United Kingdom and of Ireland in cooperation with the Government of Flanders. Attendance was ticketed for everyone; the dominating factor was understandably security. Transport was arranged to the Peace Park location where refreshments were available for everyone. Things could not have been planned nor delivered better. The wind blew and it was none too warm but in every material consideration this was how to do it! The location and focus for the event was the Island of Ireland Peace Park on the summit of the Messines Ridge. Wreaths were laid by The Duke of Cambridge, the Taoiseach and the Princess of Belgium.

I was accompanied (and guided) by Richard O'Sullivan of the Combined Irish Regiments Association. The ceremony: it included music, the customary bugle calls and the Silence. When that was over we were able to visit other areas relevant to the Battle. In particular we drove and walked to the grave of Major Willie Redmond. This is remarkable in its location and also for the numbers visiting. For more information on this and guidance to its location I can recommend a new book ("Wherever the Firing Line Extends" by Ronan McGreevy, published 2017 by The History Press Ireland (ISBN 978 0 7509 8358 7).

P S W



Commemorative stones to the three Divisions

Who Was Victor Haddick? Lieutenant Colonel Victor Anderson Haddick MBE (1886-1950)



Haddick at a window in Belfast (probably taken shortly before his retirement in 1950). Crown copyright - *Soldier* magazine

Quite a few members of the Association will be aware that Victor Haddick was a Captain in The Leinster Regiment who retired in 1922¹ but was re-employed in the British Army on the outbreak of war in 1939. Such wartime re-employment was not unusual but it was unusual that Haddick served on after the war until retiring in April 1950 at the age of 64. What was even more unusual was that he wore the uniform of The Leinster Regiment throughout this period of re-employment on the basis that he had no claim to wear any other uniform.²

Soldier magazine published a short article on Haddick at the time of his 1950 retirement. This article - 'The Last of the Leinsters' - was reproduced verbatim (with permission) within the November 2007 edition of *The 40-10*.³

Haddick's retirement was brief; he died at Donaghadee on 31 May 1950. A very short obituary was published in *The Irish Times* the next day.

There is an expectation that the details in the *Soldier* article and the obituary are reasonably accurate. Drawing on these and on other available sources (particularly entries in *The Army List* and *The London Gazette*), it is possible to identify a few milestones in Haddick's military career.

He was born at Donaghadee on 30 April 1886 and enlisted in the ranks of The Leinster Regiment before the Great War.⁴ Sergeant Haddick was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in The Leinster Regiment on 15 December 1914. He was wounded early the following year while serving with the 1st Battalion near St Eloi. Later in 1915 he served at Gallipoli and was again wounded. He joined the 2nd Battalion in September 1916 but was 'invalided to the base' after four days. It seems that he then spent the rest of the war in India where he achieved modest fame by inventing a cooker that could be installed in a train to turn out hot meals while the train was in motion. He served on the north-west frontier of India during the Third Afghan War of 1919.

Haddick had been promoted to Captain on 3 February 1917 and it was in this rank that he retired on retired pay effective 21 November 1922.⁵ He was a member of the Regular Army Reserve of Officers until reaching the upper age limit for recall on 30 April 1936. He volunteered for re-employment on the outbreak of war in 1939 and by December of that year was a war substantive Captain with the temporary rank of Major⁶ serving as a member of the Special List of the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers.⁷ By June 1948 - when Haddick was appointed MBE in the Birthday honours list - he was a local Lieutenant Colonel 'now General List, Infantry'. The entry in *The London Gazette* recording his retirement in April 1950 cannot be traced.⁸

So much for the milestones in Haddick's military career. What is missing is any meaningful detail on what

he actually did. It would be of great interest to discover more about his service in the ranks before the Great War, the capacities in which he served at Gallipoli and in India and the nature of his duties over the period 1939-50.⁹

In contrast to the lack of detail on his military career, extensive detail on Haddick's activities during the period 1923-39 can be found within the *Dictionary of Irish Biography*.¹⁰ In 1924 he explored Turkey, Iraq, the Andaman Islands and Burma and then took part in the ill-fated Mallory and Irvine expedition to Mount Everest. He lectured, broadcast and wrote about his travels and helped to promote the film *The Epic of Everest*. This experience led him to become increasingly involved in the making and promotion of films. For example, he was the producer and author of the 1932 film *Voice of Ireland* that reflected pragmatic and close collaboration between the tourist authorities north and south of the border. He represented the Empire Marketing Board in the Irish Free State and helped to raise funds for the British Legion Southern Ireland.

The Editor would be delighted to hear from anyone who can provide further information on Victor Haddick's life, particularly anything relating to his two periods of military service in the uniform of The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians).

The Editor wishes to thank Soldier magazine for permission to use the two illustrations that accompany



Embroidered shoulder designation worn on Haddick's battle dress blouse. The letters 'R.C.' stand for 'Royal Canadians'.
Crown copyright – *Soldier* magazine

this article. The third illustration that appeared with the 1950 article has not been used; it was simply a photograph of Haddick's regimental capbadge.

Endnotes:

1. It is believed that he had been selected for compulsory redundancy and thus was not invited to apply to transfer to another regiment.
2. It is not known if Haddick wore the blue caubeen ('bonnet, Irish infantry, blue') authorised after the Second World War.
3. The original article was at page 25 of the June 1950 edition of *Soldier* magazine; it included three illustrations. For reasons unknown, the 2007 reproduction of the article in *The 40-10* included only one illustration and changed the title to 'The Last Leinster'.
4. Both the *Soldier* magazine article and the obituary in *The Irish Times* assert that Haddick enlisted in The Leinster Regiment in 1908. However, an entry in *The Army List* records that Haddick had served in the ranks for 9 years and 25 days when he was commissioned on 15 December 1914; this would mean that he enlisted in November 1905 at the age of 19.
5. Haddick had been serving with the 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment at Colchester in 1922 but was detached for special employment in Ireland on 1 July 1922.
6. Haddick was promoted to the brevet rank of Major on 13 March 1944.
7. There is no evidence that Haddick ever served in the Territorial Army; the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers may have had a more flexible upper age limit than the Regular Army Reserve of Officers (which Haddick had left in 1936 at the age of 50).
8. It is known that Haddick's personal number was 5937. This should make it simple to find all relevant entries in *The London Gazette*. A possible explanation could be that he was on terminal leave when he died and thus was still in service; deaths in service are not gazetted.
9. The obituary in *The Irish Times* implies that Haddick commanded an Army Mobile Information Unit over the period 1939-50 but provides nothing on the Unit's area of operations and role.
10. The entry for Haddick (compiled in 2013) can be accessed online – with no requirement for registration or subscription – by the simple expedient of inserting 'dictionary irish biography haddick' into a Google search engine and then opening the hit that is headed 'Haddick, Victor Anderson – Dictionary of Irish Biography – Cambridge ...'. Although the details covering the period 1923-39 seem to be generally credible, there are some errors. Haddick did not retire 'as lieutenant-colonel in 1923 before his commission was transferred' nor has any official documentation been found to corroborate the claim that he then became a Captain in the Indian Army. A more serious error at the beginning of the entry seems to be the assertion that Haddick was born on 14 June 1887 at Crinkill; *The Army List* is quite clear that he was born on 30 April 1886. The obituary in *The Irish Times* also gives the year of birth as 1886 and the place of birth and death as Donaghadee.

The Royal Hibernian Military School – “A Little World on its Own” an Exhibition at the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre, 15 September – 9 October 2017



(With thanks to Mary Kennedy who visited the Exhibition and has written this for us.)

The Office of Public Works presented this Exhibition from 15 September to 9 October 2017. It recalled the story of 13,000 boys and girls who were educated at the Royal Hibernian Military School from 1769 to 1922.

The School was founded by the Hibernian Society to educate orphaned children of members of the British armed forces in Ireland including 400 orphan children living in the Parish of St Paul on the north side of Dublin. The present day St Mary's Hospital incorporates the original Georgian school buildings, including the Protestant and Catholic Chapels, and the school graveyard; it also contains a war memorial. Today, 95 years since its closure, the fine façade of the principal school building has an elevated location looking southward over the Chapelizod Gate of the Phoenix Park.

The Royal Hibernian pupils were provided with training in suitable trades such as shoemaking, carpentry and gardening. Former pupils distinguished themselves in all the major conflicts involving the British Army where in the mid-19th Century children as young as 12 could enlist in the Army (but generally enlistment began at 14). By the 1900s 50% of pupils were going

straight into the Army. By this stage the school was more than an orphanage; for instance the Army Non-Commissioned Officer father of Liam Mellows entered him there to get a good basic military training which he hoped would lead to an Army career – instead it was used during the Easter Rising and the War of Independence, both in fighting and in training the flying columns in guerrilla warfare.

For me, the most poignant illustration at the Exhibition was a copy of the evocative painting by Darius Joseph MacEgan (The MacEgan) known as “Soldiers Three – a Visit to the Royal Hospital”, first exhibited in the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1899. The central figure is a pupil of the Royal Hibernian School being taken by his father, a soldier in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, to visit the boy's grandfather who was a pensioner in the Royal Hospital at Kilmainham.

In its day, the School band was very popular at public events in Dublin, akin to the popularity of the Artane Boys Band with present day Dubliners. The boys of the band and their instruments left Dublin in September 1922 with the entire School following the founding of the Irish Free State. Two years later the School was merged into the Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover.

Dead, But Not War Dead: An Update

Readers will recall an item within the Autumn 2015 edition of *The 40-10* concerning the unmarked graves of 30 British soldiers (including Lance-Corporal Emons, Private Barry and Private Light of The Leinster Regiment) in a neglected cemetery in Opole, Poland. These men died in 1921 and 1922 while serving in the British Upper Silesian Force. The Force – working alongside a larger Franco-Italian contingent – sought to maintain order in Upper Silesia in the aftermath of a plebiscite that had been held on 20 March 1921 but that had failed to generate an obvious demarcation line between Poland and Germany.

A decision was made in the early 1920s that the IWGC would be responsible for the graves of all those who had died while serving in the armed forces of the British Empire from the outbreak of the Great War until 31 August 1921. Such persons would be regarded as ‘war dead’ whereas deaths in service after 31 August 1921 were peacetime deaths and not the responsibility of the IWGC.² On this basis, the IWGC in February 1925 exhumed the remains of the eleven British soldiers in the Oppeln cemetery who had died before 31 August 1921. These were re-interred in the IWGC’s Berlin South-Western (Stahnsdorf) Cemetery with



Wooden crosses marking the graves of British soldiers in the municipal cemetery in Oppeln, Germany in the 1920s¹

A total of 41 British soldiers died while serving with the Force. All these men were buried with full military honours in a discrete area within the municipal cemetery in Oppeln (which was in that part of Upper Silesia that remained part of Germany in 1922). The graves were marked with British Army wooden crosses of a type that had been used in France and Flanders and elsewhere before the establishment of permanent war cemeteries by the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC).

proper headstones and remain there to this day.

This left in the Oppeln cemetery the remains of 30 British soldiers (and of two British civilians) that were not the responsibility of the IWGC as the deaths had occurred after 31 August 1921. GHQ British Army of the Rhine at Wiesbaden started making payments to the Oppeln municipal authority for the maintenance of these graves from the beginning of 1927. When British troops left the Rhineland in December 1929, annual payments for maintenance were made by the War

Office via the Foreign Office and the British Consulate in Berlin.

By this time the condition of the wooden crosses marking the graves had deteriorated significantly. In August 1929 the Oppeln municipal authority wrote to GHQ British Army of the Rhine suggesting that

replacements should be erected. In 1930, having had no response to this request, the authority offered to pay for replacement cast-iron crosses; the War Office quickly accepted. The War Office also funded periodic inspections (not more frequently than once a year) by the IWGC to ensure that satisfactory standards of



Cast-iron crosses marking the graves of British soldiers in the municipal cemetery in Oppeln, Germany in the 1930s



The British area of the municipal cemetery in Opole, Poland in 2017

maintenance were being achieved.

Thus the situation in the 1930s was that the British graves in Oppeln were properly marked and the War Office was authorizing modest expenditure on maintenance and the associated IWGC inspections. Adequate arrangements were also in place for the larger number of graves of British soldiers who had died while serving in the Rhineland during the period from 1 September 1921 until December 1929. Such graves in the IWGC's Cologne Southern Cemetery were in the direct care of the IWGC on a repayment basis. The graves in a discrete British sub-cemetery within the Südfriedhof at Wiesbaden were cared for by the German local authority but under IWGC supervision.

The pre-war arrangements at Cologne and Wiesbaden resumed in 1945 and remain in place today. Sadly, nothing was put in place for the continuing care of the British graves in the town that had been Oppeln but became Opole in 1945 when all of Upper Silesia passed under Polish administration. Most of the German population fled, records were lost, the German graves in the cemetery may have been deliberately vandalized and no one in the War Office seems to have been aware of the need to institute new

arrangements for the care of the British graves. The IWGC was not at fault, as it had never been responsible for the graves. The IWGC did alert the War Office to the existence of the graves in 1959 but received no response.³

There is now no visible trace of these graves in the cemetery (which was closed for new burials in 1968 and suffered serious flooding in 1997). Very few people – in the United Kingdom, in Ireland⁴ or even in Opole itself – know that this neglected cemetery is the last resting place of 30 British soldiers and two British civilians who died while on active duty in the area in 1921 and 1922.

One man who is aware of the existence of the British graves in Opole is Jim Powrie. Jim is a relative of one of the men buried there and has conducted extensive research⁵ into this subject. He has visited Opole and found that there is significant local interest in this aspect of the town's history, particularly as the centenary of the 1921 plebiscite approaches.

Jim presented the results of his research to the Defence People Secretariat within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in 2015 with the suggestion that MOD (as the successor to the War Office) should re-assert British

responsibility for the graves and erect some form of memorial. The suggestion of a memorial was made because Jim's research had not identified the precise locations of the British graves within the cemetery. His suggestion was rebuffed with an assertion that MOD never gets involved in the funding of memorials and advice that the relevant corps and regimental HQs might be interested in raising the necessary funds.

Jim has subsequently discovered photographic and documentary evidence that makes it possible to identify the precise locations of these graves within the cemetery. This means that the reinstatement of individual markers has become a realistic option provided that funding can be found. Defence People Secretariat seems not to share Jim's enthusiasm over this development and has failed to respond to his recent e-mails. This may be because his discoveries over what actually happened in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s undermine the Secretariat's perception of what should have happened worldwide (ie that the parent regiments or corps should have been responsible for the graves of soldiers who

died in service after 31 August 1921 and the use of public funds should have been inadmissible).

A soldier of the British Army of the Rhine who died while serving in Cologne in January 1922 has a proper grave (with headstone and Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintenance in perpetuity on a repayment basis) within Cologne Southern Cemetery. A soldier of the same Army who had the misfortune to die on the same date while serving in Upper Silesia lies today in an unmarked grave in Opole and there has been no official interest in his grave – and the other British graves nearby – since the outbreak of the Second World War. This cannot be right.

Jim's campaign has received recent publicity in *The Daily Telegraph*.⁶

Our Chairman has promised our continuing support to Jim. In view of the intransigence of Defence People Secretariat, it seems likely that the way ahead will involve close collaboration with the eleven corps and regimental HQs with a potential interest in achieving a satisfactory outcome.

Endnotes:

1. The large stone cross marks the grave of Private Murdagh of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and was funded by his family.
2. Although the IWGC could not allocate its funds for headstones, maintenance etc in respect of the graves of service personnel who died in peacetime, it was on occasion amenable to providing such services on a repayment basis.
3. It seems likely that an old IWGC file being reviewed for final disposal in 1959 included details of the pre-war periodic inspections and it was considered appropriate to alert the War Office to the existence of the graves.
4. Nine of the dead were members of Irish infantry regiments of the British Army that were disbanded in July 1922.
5. The archive of what is now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (the designation changed in 1960) was particularly useful.
6. See <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/31/fight-get-recognition-soldiers-unmarked-polish-graves/>.

Editorial Notes:

1. The first part of the article on this matter, published in our issue of Autumn 2015 included a map to show where Oppeln (now Opole) is located in reference to Upper Silesia. If you would like a copy of this please email peter@scarletgunner.com.
2. The Association intends to take up with the authorities the restoration of the system of maintenance of the graves which was understandably discontinued by the War Office in 1939. (It has been suggested that this role should be taken over by the Regimental HQs of the corps to which the dead had belonged: in the light of their present funding situation this is not considered practicable. (Editor)

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 Weekes¹

Part 2: 1922-1946

Part 1 of this article was published in the last edition of *The 40-10*. It concluded with the transfer of Lieutenant A E Nye MC from The Leinster Regiment to The Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1922.

Promotion in the inter-war army was slow and involved a bewildering mix of local, brevet and substantive ranks. Nye made steady progress, attending key courses and obtaining the necessary regimental and extra-regimental postings for a career officer. He received substantive promotion to Captain in 1923 and attended the Staff College at Camberley from 1924 until 1925. He then filled staff appointments at Aldershot and Shorncliffe,² served briefly with the 1st Battalion of his regiment at Knaphill and had his first posting to the War Office in London. He also found time to study law, being called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1932.³

Nye was now a substantive Captain and – since 1930 – a brevet Major. 1932 saw him return to the Staff College as an instructor; he was granted the local rank of Lieutenant Colonel on arrival and this was upgraded to brevet rank in 1934. Nye left Camberley in 1935; he then received substantive promotion to Major and transferred to The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire).⁴ He served at regimental duty until the end of 1936 when he returned to the War Office to work in the Directorate of Military Training. Nye transferred back to The Royal Warwickshire Regiment a year later when he was selected to command its 2nd Battalion (then at Tidworth but relocating to Aldershot in 1938). He assumed command and was promoted to the substantive rank of Lieutenant Colonel in November 1937.⁵

Nye's tour in command of the 2nd Battalion lasted until early 1939. It was then decided that his qualities and achievements were such that he should progress immediately to command of a brigade. Thus in May 1939 Nye set sail for India to assume command of the Nowshera Brigade. He was accompanied by his wife – Colleen – whom he had married on 2 May 1939.⁶

The despatch of Nye to India in May 1939 made good sense at the time. Following the outbreak of war in September 1939, it made equally good sense to bring him back to London where his proven capabilities as a staff officer would make a more valuable contribution to the war effort. Accordingly, Nye found himself in the War Office in February 1940 as a Deputy Director of Staff Duties. In November 1940 he stepped up to become the Director of Staff Duties with the acting rank



A portrait of Lieutenant-General A E Nye CB MC in 1942
by William Dring

The medal ribbons represent Companion of the Military Division of the Order of the Bath (1942), Military Cross (1918), 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-18 and Victory Medal.

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<http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/8011>

of Major General.⁷ In this capacity, Nye reported directly to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS) – General Sir John Dill.⁸ Nye extracted from Dill a promise that he would be released from the War Office in December 1941 to assume command of an infantry division.

It was not to be. As December 1941 approached, Churchill was making up his mind that he needed a new CIGS in place of Dill. Churchill himself believed that Nye was the right man for the job despite his lack of seniority.⁹ Dill persuaded Churchill that General Sir Alan Brooke would be a better choice. The outcome was that in December 1941 Brooke became CIGS and Nye remained in the War Office to support him as the Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff (VCIGS) in the rank of Lieutenant-General.¹⁰

Nye's appointment as VCIGS prompted some publicity in the press. He received some 2,000 letters of congratulation. Many of these were from strangers but Nye was particularly touched to receive over 200 letters from officers and men who had served with him in The Leinster Regiment.

Nye and Brooke worked as an effective team for over four years; the two men complemented and had absolute confidence in each other. Essentially Brooke (who from March 1942 had the additional responsibility of Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee) ran the war and left Nye to run the Army. Nye also had to represent Brooke on various committees during the latter's frequent absences from London.¹¹

In popular culture, Nye is probably best known through the 1953 book *The Man Who Never Was* and the film of the same name that was screened in 1956. These revealed details of an operation mounted in 1943 within a wider plan to deceive the German High Command over the future intentions of the Allied forces in North Africa. While the intention was to invade Sicily, the plan sought to generate convincing evidence that Corsica, Sardinia and Greece would be the primary objectives. Operation Mincemeat involved ejecting a corpse from a British submarine at a location that would result in it drifting ashore on the coast of south-west Spain. The corpse had a briefcase attached; it was intended that the Spanish authorities would believe that the man had been a courier travelling by air from England to the Allied HQ in Algiers and had drowned when his aircraft had crashed into the sea. It was anticipated that the Spanish would invite representatives of the German Secret Service in Spain to inspect the contents of the briefcase. Nye's role in this was to craft one of the documents in the briefcase – a letter from him to General Sir Harold Alexander in Algiers that included various references to future objectives. Similar documentation in the briefcase purported to come from Mountbatten.

Operation Mincemeat was a complete success. The Spanish did show the contents of the briefcase to the Germans and the Germans believed that the documents were authentic. The German High

Command in Berlin (drawing on the contents of the briefcase and on falsified evidence acquired from other sources) arrived at a flawed estimate of Allied future intentions and deployed forces to meet the imagined threats. Even after the Allies landed in Sicily in the early hours of 10 July 1943, the Germans were concerned that this might be a diversion and held back forces that could have reinforced the island's defences.

When the war came to an end in 1945 Nye was aged only 50, was in good health and had established a formidable reputation as an operator within the corridors of power in Whitehall. He seemed an ideal choice to succeed Brooke as CIGS but this appointment was coveted by Montgomery. Brooke was not prepared to advise against the appointment of Montgomery so it seemed that Nye would have to content himself with some other senior appointment (possibly being earmarked to become CIGS after Montgomery). The new Prime Minister – Attlee – then intervened with the suggestion that someone of Nye's calibre should be able to render valuable service in facilitating the impending transfer of power in India. It was announced in November 1945 that Nye would retire from the Army in 1946 in order to assume the appointment of Governor of Madras.

Nye stood down as VCIGS on 12 February 1946 and formally retired on 29 March 1946.¹² The following month he and Colleen set off for India, taking with them their young daughter – Harriet – who had been born on 14 April 1945.

Nye's wartime services had been recognised by his appointment as CB in 1942 and a knighthood (KBE) in 1944.¹³ He was advanced to KCB in January 1946 and the following month was appointed GCIE in anticipation of his forthcoming employment in India.¹⁴ The day after Nye left the War Office for the last time, Brooke (by now Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke) sent him a letter thanking him for his wonderful selflessness and loyalty and describing him as 'the most perfect VCIGS I could imagine'.

It is intended to publish the third (and final) part of this article in the next edition of The 40-10.

Endnotes:

1. Steven Saunderson is the Vice-Principal (Recruitment and Military) at The Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover. He is also the School's lay Chaplain and commands the Combined Cadet Force contingent. Nick Weekes has been a member of the Leinster Regiment Association since 2009.
2. Nye's Shorncliffe appointment (May 1928 to April 1930) was Brigade Major in HQ 10th Infantry Brigade.
3. Nye found this qualification particularly useful during his time as Governor of Madras (1946-48).
4. This transfer may have been prompted by officer manning levels in the two regiments and by the need to give Nye more experience at regimental duty.
5. It could well be a peacetime record that Nye was promoted to the substantive rank of Major on 8 September 1935 and became a substantive Lieutenant Colonel on 23 November 1937.
6. Colleen was the daughter of General Sir Harry Knox. She had married Noel Stevenson – an officer in The Black Watch – in 1924. The marriage (which produced two children – Terence and Sheila) had been dissolved earlier in 1939.

It is likely that Nye first met Colleen when serving at Shorncliffe 1928-30; Captain Stevenson was the Garrison Adjutant at Shorncliffe 1928-32.

7. The Directorate of Staff Duties within the War Office was responsible for military organisations and deployments. Its major challenge in the last half of 1940 was the reconstitution of the British Army following the fall of France. Churchill took a keen interest in the responses to this challenge and established close links with Nye.

8. Dill – like Nye – was a former member of The Leinster Regiment.

9. Nye's seniority as a substantive Major General dated from 18 November 1941.

10. Nye assumed the appointment of VCIGS on 5 December 1941 as an acting Lieutenant-General. This rank became temporary on 5 December 1942 and substantive on 14 September 1944.

11. Nye did undertake a few overseas assignments. For example, he accompanied the Foreign Secretary (Anthony Eden) to Moscow in December 1941.

12. Nye was placed on the Reserve of Officers until he reached the age of 62 on 23 April 1957.

13. CB = Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; KBE = Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

14. KCB = Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; GCIE = Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.



Old Comrades, Hyde Park 1930s

The King & Queen's review of 80,000 ex-servicemen in Hyde Park in the 1930s, which included the following the following members of the 100 – 109 Old Comrades Association of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment, the predecessor of the current Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) Association.

(L – R) Mr. James Dignam (Hon Sec.), Capt. F.C. Hitchcock, M.C. (From Barr), Col. G.L.P. O'Shee, Mr. H. Jennings, Lt. Col. N.P. Brooke, Mr. G. Mercer, (Hon Treas.), Capt. P. McEnroy, D.S.O., (Chairman), Capt. H. Ashdown, Mr. J. Young, and Mr. P. Killoran



This group includes several officers who were prominent in Regimental history: 2nd Left Captain F C Hitchcock – his Platoon Sergeant in 2nd Battalion was Sgt Ginn – see page 17 of this issue of 40-10; Fourth from right Captain P McEnroy, the former Irish Guardsman who led the action taken against the Moplah Rebellion in 1921 – see the Autumn 2016 issue of 40-10, page 9. It is also interesting to note the Regimental Old Comrades Banner which identifies the old pre-1881 constituent Regiments – the 100th (or Prince of Wales's Royal Canadians) and the 109th (Bombay Infantry).

Murder at Birr (Contributed by Peter Walton)

To me, a retired soldier, it is interesting and still instructive to read an account from the past of what happened when soldiers, while under training, were treated unreasonably, even criminally so, by their officer. The incident related below was noticed in the course of recent research by Tony Burgess. Tony is a retired Civil Servant living near London and his hobby over many years has been finding, recording and often investigating military burials in England and Ireland. Most do not relate to the Leinster Regiment, nor its predecessors. But the story which follows is thought worth airing in 40-10 because of the location of the seminal event. Drawing on a report in the *Naval and Military Gazette* for Saturday 5 August 1843, we learn that “on Wednesday last (2nd August 1843, or (another account) 19th July 1843) a soldier of the 5th Fusiliers (later the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, and more recently the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers) quartered here (ie at Birr Barracks) dropped dead from excessive drills and parades on the back square of Birr Barracks. Private 661 Patrick McManus, dressed in “heavy marching order” fell forward on to his face at the parade’s dismissal.” It had been the Commanding Officer’s Parade. The *Gazette* went on to say that “the men were generally kept two hours on parade, or at least one hour more than had been known over the last eleven years. Daily there were three parades and 3 drills. The Inquest Jury concluded that McManus “had died by visitation of God” but added by 15 to 3 that these “drills and parades are carried to an extreme degree of severity in the 5th Fusiliers, particularly at this season of the year”. The *Gazette* went on to report (August 19th) that the Adjutant said he cared not for the “public report” on these matters and continued to hold three parades in heavy marching order each day. But on Friday 11th August, this officer, (probably Lieutenant Robertson MacKay (commissioned 1840, appointed Adjutant February 1843)) was shot dead while on



Image of an officer of 5th Fusiliers c 1840s

parade in Birr Barracks by Private George Jubee (or Juby). Jubee, a soldier of good character, stated that “drill was the cause”. Nonetheless he was handed over to the Police for transmission to Tullamore Gaol to be tried at the next Assizes (and presumably, though no record could be found, to be hanged).

The following day, August 12th, Major General Sir Guy Campbell arrived from Athlone. On the 13th the funeral of the late Adjutant took place while the Battalion was removed to Dublin (Royal Barracks) on 21st-22nd August.

(Comment: On the face of it, the Adjutant was quite unfit to take charge of a parade and the Commanding Officer was clearly incompetent. The abuses which contributed to these crimes if at all common in the 1840s would not have survived for much longer. If Fusilier Juby did suffer capital punishment, it is worth noting that a plea in mitigation might these days have achieved a lengthy prison sentence instead.

PSW

Research at Premesques

Members will be interested in the research being conducted by the Association into the locations and condition today of burials near the village of Premesques after the battle in the village in October 1914. Andrew Overton has been searching various records, including German sources, for information about burials. We know that the Germans interred their own casualties in one or more mass graves just to the south west of the battlefield. We have always believed that they would have similarly interred

the approximately 116 officers and soldiers of the 2nd Battalion who died on 20th October 1914. The research must now concentrate on locating the one or more mass graves where they are assumed to lie. For this we need to engage an expert Battlefield Archaeologist: we are now investigating this course of action. In pursuing this course we have the agreement in principle of the Mayor of Premesques.

PSW

Sergeant Stephen Ginn, 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment

Stephen Ginn came to our notice through the good offices of The Reverend Father Christopher Tuckwell, Canon of Westminster Cathedral in whose journal "Oremus" for January 2017 there appeared photographs of Sergeant Ginn and his brother in uniform around 1914. The accompanying article reported on research by Father Nicholas Schofield and Michael Kent, a family historian. It gives the brothers' family background and the circumstances in which Stephen Ginn died. The story is one of social history featuring two young men's lives in the first years of the Great War. The Ginn brothers were born in London of Irish parents who ran a fruit and flower business in Victoria, not far from Westminster Cathedral. The family was Roman Catholic, plainly well behaved and both sons seem to have volunteered for the Army. It is not known when, but Stephen's brother, Daniel, had joined the 9th Battalion The Rifle Brigade and in 1916 was a Lance Corporal. Serving that year with his unit on the Somme he was wounded on 27th August. He was evacuated to Rouen where he died on 15th September and is buried in St Sever Cemetery.

How Stephen, a cockney, came to be in the Leinsters is not known but our sources make it plain that he was a regular soldier who probably enlisted around 1910. By 1915 he was already a Sergeant; in fact he was Lieutenant Hitchcock's Platoon Sergeant in C Company and was already noted as "a fine soldier, and the youngest sergeant in the Battalion". But such were casualties that it seems inevitable that Stephen was severely wounded in March 1916, in the St Eloi sector. Comforted by Padre Doyle he died on the 5th March and is buried in the Menin Road South Military Cemetery.

In addition to the two brothers, the family also had a daughter, Florence, who commissioned memorial plaques to them. They were placed in the church of St Peter and St Edward in Palace Street where they probably remained until the church was closed in 1975. They are now in the Diocesan Archive - which seems safe and right.

I found this story rather moving: I hope you do too.

The reference to ‘Lieutenant Hitchcock’ above is to his diary (titled “Stand To”) of the Trenches 1915-18 containing a large number of notes about individual officers and soldiers of the 2nd Leinsters. This book is available in paper back and hardback from The Naval and Military Press (Tel 01825 749494) price £9.95 in paperback.

I can also recommend a book which is an excellent walking guide to the battlefields and cemeteries of the



Western Front. Written by the remarkable Rose Coombs originally in the 1970s, and since revised, it is “Before Endeavours Fade” and the latest edition is (Paperback) ISBN 1 870067 62 2 (and Hardback) ISBN 1 870067 63 0. Note however that the hardback is quite heavy and not easy to lug around if you are walking!

PSW

Piper Terry Goodman

Terry Goodman served the Association as occasional piper for several years until his sudden death in October 2017.

Terry learned to play the pipes comparatively late in life. But by dint of good teaching, much practice and sheer determination, he became admirably proficient. Playing with the London Irish for the most part he was in regular demand and much valued. He also of course found time to play for us: the Leinster Regiment Association knew very well that this was an extra but we valued Terry's first rate efforts more than I can describe. On one occasion we took him to Ireland – a memorable trip driving via Holyhead which he did not enjoy – not that I heard any comment from him on that! For other events we took him to Belgium and France, on at least one occasion accompanied by his wonderfully supportive wife, Lorraine. On his last trip with us to France, he found himself a hit with the staff and many of the young pupils of the local junior school in Premesques. This is the location of the 2nd Battalion's disastrous battle on 20 October 1914 and we visit regularly to lay a wreath at the prominent commemorative stone which is very close to the centre of the Battlefield. This commemorative piece was generously provided in October 2014 by the Mayor of Premesques and the French Regional authorities.

Terry was the quiet man who, however, could make his view very plain when he thought it important. But long before that he was quiet and amenable, as well as devoted to his music. Always asked to play for us salutes and an Irish Lament – not to mention



assorted voluntaries – he always did just that and did it really well. Terry was admirably supported by his devoted wife Lorraine. We send her and their daughter our most sincere condolences and our enduring appreciation of all that Terry did for us.

PSW



Birr Vintage Week 2017 and the Museum



August 2017 saw not only the Birr Vintage Week customary activities but also – and of great significance for the Association, the culmination of much hard work by Ireland Committee Chairman Denis Kirby and his team. If the effort was great the relatively small size of the result was completely over-shadowed by its significance. I refer of course to the establishment and opening of a Museum dedicated to the Leinster Regiment. As our early News Release of August 2016 forecast, the Museum was made possible by the generous intervention of Offaly County Council and the County Library Service. The purpose of the Museum is to interest and educate the public on the existence of the Regiment, how it came, with several others, to be recruited very largely in Ireland and yet was part of the British Army. Its history went back to 1881, and further under different titles. The Association hopes that the display of relics kindly provided by families of those who served will broaden knowledge of the great example set by the men of, overwhelmingly, Leinster. In 1914, one of its two Regular Army (that is, full time) Battalions

went to War. Like so many others they suffered immense casualties, and in 1922, like others they were disbanded (or abolished). As the War developed they were joined by the part-timers of the Militia who were the real locals. They too suffered and were disbanded at the end. It is important to everyone that our generation and later ones all understand what happened and why Ireland sent great numbers of men to the War. This movement was inspired by no-one more effectively than Willie Redmond whose principles and his life and death are described on pages 3-4. The Association is this year grateful indeed to all those people, led perhaps by the stalwart Sean Cooke of Crinkill, who have contributed objects to the Museum exhibition. Small as it is, its significance is great and we hope that others will continue to deposit items to enrich the story. What has been achieved so far is due to the skill and dedication of the Curator, Joe Killane whom we thank. We hope that eventually it will be possible for the Museum to expand in tune with the importance of the project.



Elsewhere in the County Offices, the Chairman gave a talk on the Battle of Premesques in October 1914. It was the first engagement between soldiers of the Regiment and the invading German Army. Sad to say the 2nd Battalion were badly positioned in relation to the ground. In fact the opposing German forces had chosen to attack at that point, and quickly exploited its weakness. In this case the lie of the ground was crucial and the Leinsters took heavy punishment though they inflicted great loss on their opponents before withdrawing.

On this occasion the Association was very pleased to be able to welcome a rare visitor, the Canadian Military



L-R Tony Hayden, Member Ireland Committee / PSW / Denis Kirby, Chairman Ireland Committee
Ray Hayden, Member Ireland Committee

Attache, Colonel Rory Radford. A welcoming supper was arranged at which he could meet Committee members and all could learn a little more about our guest's significance. As many will know the origins of the 1st Battalion of the Regiment lie in Canada (for detail of what is a complex story, recourse to the "History of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment" by Lt Col Whitton is recommended.) Suffice it to say that the story is complex but the Canadian origin is a structural fact. Up until 1881, the proper title of the 1st Battalion was the 100th Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian Regiment. This is the origin of the Maple Leaf on the cover of this journal and of the "Royal Canadians" part of the Regimental title. The link with Canada was given weight by the presentation in 1922 of the 1st Battalion's Mess silver to the Canadian Government. It is housed and displayed in The Royal

Military College of Canada. Colonel Radford was with us for long enough to attend the supper, to visit the Museum which officially he opened, and to lay a wreath at the Regimental Memorial in Crinkill.

PSW



Association Visit to Ledegem 28-29-30 September 2018

The Association has been invited to Ledegem in commemoration of the action by 2nd Battalion of the Regiment in 1918 to liberate the town from the occupying German forces. It is also in reply to the recent invitation from the town authorities to exercise the Freedom of Ledegem granted to the Association in 2008. We are therefore very keen to see on this visit any members of the Leinsters group who paraded in Ledegem in 2008. We are also keen to see any descendants of officers and soldiers of the 2nd Battalion who fought through Ledegem in 1918. Our invitation offers accommodation and meals for the period of the visit so that personal expense will be limited to travel to and from Belgium. For more information and to book

Photos pages 18-20 by Gilly Walton

a place please contact our Hon Treasurer Ian Lowe by email as soon as possible.

PSW





Noel Cullen, late of the Irish Guards, and a well known figure in his native Dublin and in all parts of Ireland, died after a long battle with cancer on 24th August this year. Noel was the straight man who could and would talk to everyone; there was no side to him and invariably he did what he promised. I met him first very soon after I was appointed Chairman of the Leinster Regiment Association, and was in Dublin for the annual summer commemoration events of 2010. Although I know parts of Ireland very well, Dublin was not among them. On this occasion therefore I had been told where to come to meet a guide – and there he was, right place, right time, and in his car. He began at once by whisking me off to a nearby hotel for a drink before we had to make a move – and prepared for parade I had my medals on! I thought – how does this work?! I had never met him before! Needless to say we soon got over that one.

Noel was born 1 January 1944 in the Summerhill part of Dublin where he found himself one of a family of 14 – 7 boys and 7 girls. When he was old enough he joined the Irish Guards with whom he served for twelve years. He was in Aden during the Emergency there and was wounded in 1967. Six years later he left the Army and even while developing his own business he became involved with the Royal British Legion, Dublin Central Branch, where he became Secretary. He also turned his hand, and I feel sure his military experience, to organisations which worked as ‘Hands across the Border’. The aim was to bring together fractured communities and there was even a project in which Noel would meet Nationalist groups to discuss why he, a Southern Irish Catholic, had joined the British Army.

Introduced and encouraged by David Ball, Noel became a major support to the Combined Irish Regiments Association in Ireland. Not only was he always on hand to introduce people visiting, but he was also present to help events at any level to come off well and happily. Early on this included meeting and looking after Major Jim MacLeod (at that time a very successful Chairman of the Combined Irish) which magically extended from a planned five hours to a whole weekend! Noel was unstoppable! I have little doubt that there was much else that he contributed but of which we will never hear.

David Ball, who had had much to do with the reformation of the Leinster Regiment Association in 2003, received a great deal of support and help from Noel. The name was one David had grown up with, often heard mentioned when he himself was a youngster in Dun Laoghaire. There is no doubt that Noel was a very important, if publicly quiet, figure in the support of veterans and members of military families in Dublin particularly, but also across Ireland. For me and, I know, for many others, he was a generous and thoughtful support who always managed to turn up just when he was needed. Noel was taken early, leaving his widow, Lily, with Amy, Edel and Wayne to bring up without him. I believe that she knows that there is a large contingent of Noel’s friends out there who are in her support whenever she may need it. For me personally there remains in my mind the annual spectacle of Noel in Whitehall very proudly carrying the Banner of the Old Contemptibles. He was of course exactly the right person. I shall not forget him.

PSW



LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Committee and Post Holders – January 2018

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Major General The O'Morchoe |
| Vice-Presidents | Mr David Ball |
| | Commandant Michael McGoona |

The Officers and Members of the General Committee

| | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chairman | Colonel Peter Walton | peterwalton590@btinternet.com |
| Vice-Chairman (Irish domicile) | Mr Denis Kirby | denis@dpk.ie |
| Vice-Chairman (GB and overseas) | Sir Anthony Weldon | Anthony.weldon@bene-factum.co.uk |
| Association Treasurer | Mr Ian Lowe | ianlowe@marfordms1.demon.co.uk |
| Association Secretary | Mr David Ball | david.ball@wfsenate.co.uk |
| Association Membership Secretary | Robert Templeman | bob.templeman@btinternet.com |
| <i>(There are currently four unfilled vacancies on the General Committee)</i> | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Ireland Committee representative | Mr Ray Hayden** | ray.hayden@anglewise.co.uk |
| Ireland Committee representative | Mr Ken Geary** | kengeary@gmail.com |

Additional Post Holders – not members of the General Committee

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Archivist | Lt Col Nick Weekes | nickweekes@hotmail.com |
| Webmaster | (appointment pending) | |
| Researcher – Premesques Battle | Mr Andrew Overton | overton0211@aol.com |
| Publicity Officer and | | |
| Twitter account holder | Mr Ray Hayden | ray.hayden@anglewise.co.uk |
| Editor 40-10 (acting) | Colonel Peter Walton | peterwalton590@btinternet.com |
| Facebook account holder | Mr David Ball | david.ball@wfsenate.co.uk |
| Minutes Secretary | (vacant) | |

Note: The Rules adopted in 2015 provide for Regional Management. Members of the Association domiciled in Ireland may elect a Committee and have done so; members domiciled outside Ireland may similarly 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 present 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 document will be published 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

Future Events for Members – subject to confirmation: please check before planning

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday 16th June 2018 | Queen's Birthday Parade, London (and Rehearsals on two preceding Saturdays) |
| Sunday 17th June 2018 | Combined Irish Regiments Cenotaph Parade, London (Time to be confirmed) |
| Saturday 7th July 2018 | AGM of The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) Association, IUNVA Premises, Arbour House, Mountemple, Dublin (Time to be confirmed) |
| Saturday 7th July 2018 1230 pm | RBL Annual Ceremony of Commemoration and Wreath Laying, National War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin |
| Sunday 8th July 2018 1030 am | National Day of Commemoration, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin |
| Friday 28th Sept 2018 | Proposed Visit to Ledegem (to mark Centenary of liberation of Ledegem in 1918 – visit to end 1st October 2018. This will commemorate the Freedom of Ledegem presented to the Association in 2008 as the successors of the 2nd Bn Leinster Regiment who achieved the liberation in 1918. Our party will be the guests of the Town of Ledegem which will provide hotel accommodation and food at its expense. The Association is working on possible means of moving from UK to Belgium, and in country. This is an unusual and generous offer which we would like to accept. Please contact Ian Lowe our Hon Treasurer as soon as possible with any questions you may have and/or to discuss a reservation. |
| Thursday 8th Nov 2018 0900 am 1330 pm | Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Remembrance Service, Westminster Cathedral (relates particularly to Irish Regiments) |

Note:

Almost all these events are open to ticket holders only; some are the subject of a charge. As security tightens so more tickets are personal and non-transferable. If you feel you would like to attend any particular event, the suggestion is that you advise the Chairman or the Secretary by email soon. We will then send you information on how to launch your application for tickets.

I WISH THE SEA WERE NOT SO WIDE
THAT PARTS ME FROM MY LOVE;
I WISH THE THINGS MEN DO BELOW
WERE KNOWN TO GOD ABOVE

I WISH THAT I WERE BACK AGAIN
IN THE GLENS OF DONEGAL;
THEY'LL CALL ME COWARD IF I RETURN,
BUT A HERO IF I FALL.

PATRICK MacGILL
LONDON IRISH REGIMENT