



The 40-10



LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

E D I T O R I A L

I'd like to welcome all our readers to the latest edition of our Association journal 40/10. I appreciate that there has been a gap in publication during the past year or so that reflects the changes in the leadership of the Association that have been taking place. One of the tasks of an editor is to set the tone and style of whatever publication is being produced. As I take up this new role I am very conscious of the debt I owe to my predecessors, Don Dickson and Col. Peter Walton for establishing a distinct style and standard for our journal which I think stands favourable comparison with any of our brother associations. During my tenure I will endeavour to maintain and build on the foundations laid by my predecessors.

In this edition we are welcoming fresh faces and saying goodbye to some old friends. Almost a year ago our Chairman, Col. Peter Walton decided to stand down from that position which he had filled with distinction for a number of years. During his term Peter steered the Association through some difficult times as we adapted to reflect a changing membership profile as well as being the public face of the Association through a number of high profile commemorative events. Peter led the re-establishment of the connection with Premesques in France and led a number of highly successful visits to the town. I'm sure you join me in thanking Peter for his service to the Association both as Chairman and editor of 40-10 and wish him well in the future.

While saying goodbye to Peter we welcome our new Chairman Lt-Col. Mark Weldon. I will leave Mark to introduce himself in more detail to you later in this journal however I would like to add a few words of my own. Mark is descended from a distinguished Co Kildare family who had a long association with the Leinster Regiment and coincidentally we will hear more of this family later in this edition. Those of you who were on the 2018 visit to Ledegem will have got to know Mark and his wife Cathie and will recognise the qualities of leadership that Mark brings to the Association. We welcome Mark as our Chairman and wish him well in his new appointment.

Finally it is my sad duty to record the passing of our President Major-General The O'Morchoe CB, CBE. We pay tribute to this amazing man later in this edition but I would like to add a few additional comments. As most of us know, "The General" as he was usually referred to, was a hands-on President and was particularly active in the Irish based activities of the Association. What is perhaps less well known is the role he played

behind the scenes in helping some of the high-profile projects that the Association has engaged in to happen, notably the events in Ledegem in 2008 and the erection of the Regimental memorial in Crinkill. Without his intervention at critical times both these ventures might have failed or at least taken place on a much reduced scale. We extend our sympathies to Margaret and his family in their loss. We will not see his like again.

Ian Lowe

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HM The Queen and President Mary McAleese being shown around the War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge, Dublin by Maj-Gen The O'Morchoe during the State Visit, May 2011.

Back cover

Plaque commemorating Lt J V Holland VC, part of the new Great War Memorial in St Michael's Old Cemetery, Athy, Co Kildare.

Chairman's Address



This is a bittersweet edition. November 2019 saw the sad passing of our distinguished President, Major General David The O'Morchoe. A comprehensive obituary is appropriately featured at the beginning of this publication. In contrast, I am delighted that the 40-10 is starting again and we should all be grateful to Ian Lowe for taking on the editorship.

Let me continue with a huge 'Thank you' to the Committee and Members for accepting me as your Chairman. I feel very proud to be given this honour and humbled by the responsibility. I was reluctant to accept when first approached, but that was mainly for two reasons. Firstly, having retired I have a myriad of voluntary appointments as my wife, Cathie, will testify. Secondly, I was daunted by the potential workload because I had seen how much effort Peter Walton had applied. Maybe we asked too much of Peter and his health suffered as a result. He has earned the rest that now follows, and he is currently travelling around the world visiting his relatives: this is good news as 'family comes first'.

Talking of gratitude, were it not for the drive and determination of David Ball, we would probably not have an association now, and certainly not in the shape it is. David and his mother have had a tough time recently, but I am delighted that his enthusiasm endures and he remains proactive.

Our mission is to perpetuate the memory of The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). As descendants of those men that served, we can best achieve this mission by telling their stories, meeting together and commemorating their achievements. I should like to add a unifying purpose - to enhance comradeship. This is a thoroughly worthwhile and rewarding endeavour. In the process, we can honour their memory whether they survived conflict or paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We have a particularly busy period ahead of us as we approach the centenary of the 1922 events. We have not been idle over the last six months as this edition of the 40-10 will show. In August, very shortly after my appointment, I attended the Irish Regional Committee's Ordinary General Meeting at Birr. If you haven't been there, I urge you to go. Notwithstanding the exemplary Irish hospitality, you will find numerous memorials to the Leinsters and there is a growing exhibition in the library, courtesy of County Offaly Library Services. Birr is the 'Home of the Leinsters'. It is where the depot was based and coincidentally it is where my grandfather was Adjutant 1908-12. During this period, he got married, lived at 26.15 Barrack Street, my father was born. I knew so little of this, before I got actively involved with the Association: the learning process has been both fascinating and rewarding. Ultimately, I will be able to pass on this knowledge to my family and descendants. This is an important point - safeguarding our future.

It is not unfair to point out that our Association has suffered from too few individuals taking on too much and suffering as a result. To grow and prosper in the future, we need more volunteers to step up and offer their services. Ian Lowe has kindly taken on the 40-10, but he has already done a dozen years as Treasurer. We need a new Treasurer to take over the going concern that Ian has developed. This is not a big task, but it is a vital one. At the Irish OGM, three Birr individuals joined the Irish Committee. I was delighted as there is much to be done. I hope the additions will accelerate the momentum but ensure that no-one gets over-loaded. I would like to build and extend on their example by every member of the General Committee having a 'deputy'. Therefore, should a member of the Committee become indisposed for any reason, there is someone to 'take up' the reins. This is a big ask, but in accordance with our motto "Ich Dien", it remains true that we must 'serve to lead', and I guarantee that you will get out of the Association, far more than you put in.

The role of the Committees is to serve the membership. There is some great work being done both in the Ireland and the United Kingdom. As your new Chairman, I will do my absolute best, but we need your active involvement, plus your news and views. I very much look forward to meeting more of you and being part of a united Association fit for the long term future. Enjoy the 40-10, where you find out much more on what has been happening, will happen and where you can contribute and benefit.

Ich Dien
Mark Weldon

Major-General David Nial Creagh, The O'Morchoe, CB, CBE



The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) Association was deeply saddened by the death last November of our esteemed President, David, The O'Morchoe.

David, who was in his 92nd year, died at his home outside Gorey surrounded by his family, after a short illness.

He was born in Dublin in 1928, but as an infant he moved to India where his father was commanding a regiment of the pre-independence India Army. His father, Col. Nial Creagh O'Morchoe was commissioned into the Leinster Regiment in 1914 and later transferred to the Indian Army where he commanded 4th/15th Punjab Regiment. While living in India David and his younger brother Charles survived the catastrophic Quetta earthquake of 1935 being rescued from the rubble of their house.

David returned to Ireland in 1941 as a teenager to attend St Columba's College, Rathfarnham, Dublin, where he completed his education in 1946. Down through the years he remained closely associated with St. Columba's, most significantly as a long-serving Fellow and Chairman of the board and of the Executive Committee. He was also a Vice-President of the Old Columban Society.

After his time in St. Columba's David joined the British Army and attended the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. From there he was commissioned into the Royal Irish Fusiliers. During his military career he

commanded the 1st Bn, Royal Irish Fusiliers and the 3rd Bn, Royal Irish Rangers. He also served as an instructor at the Staff College, Camberley and at the Royal College of Defence Studies. Between the years 1973 - 1975 he commanded the Army's elite 16th Parachute Brigade and his final military appointment was as Commander of The Sultan of Oman's army.

As The O'Morchoe, David was the hereditary chieftain of the Murphy, (O'Murchada, O' Murchu, and MacMurchadha) Clan having succeeded to the title on the death of his father in 1970. Murphy is the anglicised version of two Irish surnames, O Murchadha (in modern Irish O Murchu) and Mac Murchadha, both derived from the popular early Irish personal name Murchadh, meaning "sea-warrior". The origins of the title go back as far as 1461, if not further, and the O'Morchoe version of the name was adopted by deed poll by his grandfather in 1895.

David was a prominent figure passionately devoted to representing the Royal British Legion in the Ireland as its president achieving much by his style of quiet diplomacy. He dedicated his later life to the care of British ex-Servicemen personnel and their dependents. He was also active in the affairs of the Church of Ireland and served on the General Synod.

He was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1979, the same year that he retired from the army. In the 2007 New Year's honours list he was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Diplomatic and Overseas List "for services to British ex-Servicemen and women in Ireland."

During the state visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Ireland in 2011, David took her on a guided tour of the Irish War Memorial Garden at Islandbridge, Dublin.

When the Leinster Regiment Association was re-formed in 2003, he was delighted to have been appointed its first President. Over the years since then he worked actively to expand the Association across Britain and in Ireland. One of his most fervent desires in recent years was that the rift which occurred in late 2014, could be finally resolved in the interests of the memory of those who served in the Leinster Regiment.

He is survived by his wife Margaret and his sons Dermot, who succeeds to the title, Kevin and daughter Maureen.

Denis Kirby

On the Trail of the Silver



On the trail of the silver.

It was traditional in the British Army for regiments to accumulate a large collection of silver trophies, candelabra and other silver items throughout the years. These were usually maintained in the Officer's Mess and produced on formal occasions.

The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) was no different. Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions has large collections, many of the items collected before the creation of the regiment in 1881, when they operated as the 100th Regiment of Foot and the 109th Regiment of Foot.

When the regiment was disbanded in 1922, the question was what to do with the silver. The 1st Battalion handed over its Mess Plate, as the collections were called, to the London Representatives of the Government of Canada, as a mark of affection for the country which gave birth to 100th Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian Regiment prior to 1881. That silver collection was passed to the Canadian Government is now held in the museum of the Canadian Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario, not far from Toronto, where some of it is on display.

The Mess Plate of the 2nd Battalion was "deposited with the Mayor of Colchester with the intention of presenting it to The National Museum, Dublin, when conditions permit". That collection is now with the National Army Museum in Chelsea, where some of it is on display and the rest in storage. The mystery was: How did it end up in Chelsea?

A few years ago Lt-Col. Nick Weekes unearthed a 1954 document in the National Army Museum which listed the silver collection and included a Charities Commission paper approving the setting up The Leinster Regiment Memorial Fund, later to become The Leinster Regiment Museum Fund, by the remaining members of the then Leinster Regiment Old Comrades Association. But none of that told us how the silver came to be in London and not in Dublin.

Contact was made with Colchester Borough Council to see what they knew about the silver collection. As there was nothing in their archives, they referred the matter on to Sir Bob Russell, former Liberal Democrat MP for Colchester, in view of his connections with the National Army Museum, but he too was unable to trace the Colchester movements.

At the suggestion of David Ball and Ian Lowe, contact was made with Lar Joye, the former curator of National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History Collection in Collins Barracks Dublin. He recommended a course of action which ended up solving the whole mystery.

Contact was made with the current Curator of the Military History Department of the National Museum of Ireland, Brenda Malone, and was back within days with details of the silver's journey down through the years.

The Commanding Officers of the 2nd Battalion, Lt. Col Reginald Arthur Herbert Orpen-Palmer, the

late Colonel commanding the battalion, and Lt. Col. Henry Walter Weldon, the late Second in Command, approached the National Museum of Ireland in 1922 and offered the battalion's silver plate for exhibition and to be held in trust. The museum accepted the loan and the silver was on display in Kildare Street, Dublin from 1924.

So the collection DID end up in Dublin as was originally intended.

In 1951 Col. Raynesford, the Senior Trustee of the Leinster Regiment Memorial Fund requested the return of the collection to England, as a museum in The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst had recently dedicated a section to the Irish Regiments.

The Museum in Dublin agreed to the request, with the approval of the Irish Department of Industry and

Commerce, and the collection was transported to Major V.W.H. Venour in London in 1952, c/o Cox & Kings Bank Ltd., Broadwick Place, London W.1. The collection consisted of at least 15 boxes.

In 1960 the National Army Museum was granted a Royal Charter and opened in purpose built premises in Chelsea in 1971. Following that over the coming years a number of items from the collection were put on display in Chelsea while some of it remains in storage.

Having tracked down both silver collections, the next challenge will be to start negotiations in Toronto and Chelsea to see if a few small items from both collections (perhaps some items at present in storage) could be made available on long-term loan to the Exhibition in Birr Library.

Denis Kirby, with thanks to Lt-Col. Nick Weekes February 2019.

New Great War Memorial in Athy

A chance search on Facebook alerted me to the fact that they were planning to unveil a new memorial to the townspeople who died in the Great War on the 17th November 2019. As I was already in Ireland that weekend for the joint Western Front Association and LRA meeting held the previous day and as I know Athy well having spent part of my childhood there I decided to go and see what was happening.

Athy is an old Pale town in South Kildare sited on the River Barrow about 40 miles south of Dublin. These days it has a population of about 9,500 and is within commuting distance of Dublin. It is also quite close to the Curragh, today best known for horse racing and breeding but also one of the most important military centres in Ireland. Historically the Army was an important source of employment for local men with Co Kildare being within the recruiting area of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers whose depot was at Naas some 20 miles away towards Dublin. Athy is also home to the Weldon family whose home and estate was at Kilmoroney a few miles south of the town. These days Athy is a designated "Heritage Town" and has an excellent small museum that makes much of the town's association with the polar explorer Sir Earnest Shackleton who was born nearby but also devotes about a third of its space to Athy in the Great War including a short film. If you are in the area it is well worth a visit.

I had previously researched the names of men from Athy who had died in the Great War and had arrived at a total of 158 which is a pretty remarkable number for a town with a population in 1911 of about 3,500.

It becomes even more significant when you consider the proportion of the young population that this figure represents, literally the future of the community. To jump ahead a little the memorial includes the names of 130 men and one woman, 27 short of my total. The difference is largely explained by how wide you set your search parameters and which of the outlying town lands you include. When I compared some of the names on my list to those on the memorial it became apparent that I had included individuals whose families had previously lived in Athy but no longer did so. My research had mainly relied on local press reports of the period and illustrates some of the limitations of these sources. One of the omissions in my research was the single woman who died, Miss Eleanor Frances Orford, Voluntary Aid Detachment, who died on the 3rd September 1917 at the age of 32. Trying to investigate her death led me into some remote corners of the CWGC records. The Voluntary Aid Detachment comprised of mainly "well born" young ladies who volunteered their services as nurses and nursing auxiliaries. There were various organisations sometimes based on the UK regions who operated on similar lines as well as mainstream Christian bodies like The Salvation Army and the YMCA. They were outside the formal military structure but worked in field and base hospitals and sought to support the military services. To date I have found no record of where or how Eleanor Orford died, she does not appear to have a recorded grave or to be remembered anywhere except in the "United Kingdom Book of Remembrance" which is kept at CWGC HQ at Maidenhead and "may



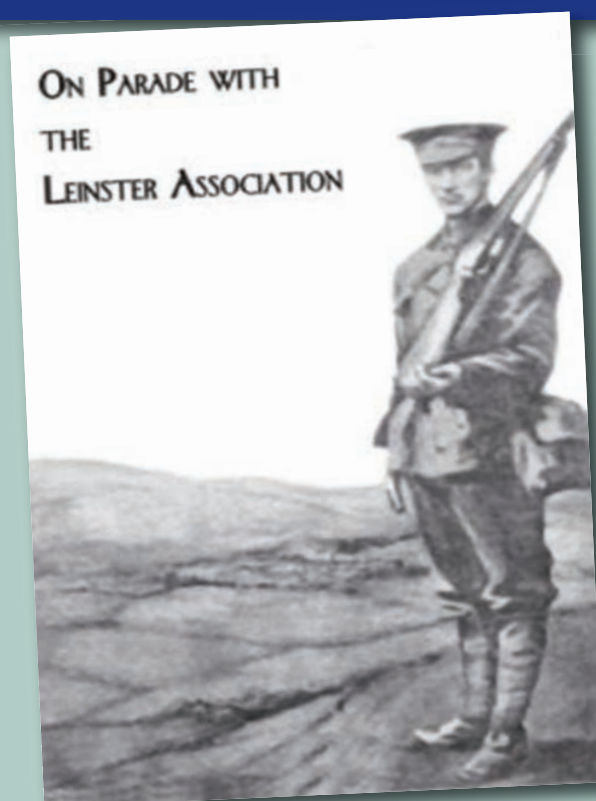
be viewed by appointment". The book comprises of 281 names covering both world wars and appears to be a compilation of names of men and women who it is believed died as a result of the war but about whom little or nothing else is known. It includes a sprinkling of other young women of the VAD but most of the names are members of line regiments and army corps. It would be an interesting topic to follow up with further research.

The memorial is located in St Michael's Old Cemetery and cleverly makes use of a disused archway in one of the perimeter walls to create a three-sided recess. There is a silhouette of a grieving soldier with reversed rifle etched on black marble which is slightly raised from ground level while around the walls are inscribed the 131 names together with their units. There is a separate plaque commemorating Lt. John Vincent Holland VC, 7th Leinsters whose family lived and farmed nearby but who survived the war. The initiative for the memorial came from a group within a voluntary committee formed to renovate the now closed St Michael's Old Cemetery and the other burial grounds in the town. The funding for the venture seems to have been raised from the local authority and local business sources and it is greatly to the credit of all concerned that such a fine memorial was conceived and executed in these economically difficult times. It is also a powerful indication of the new willingness in Ireland to acknowledge the part that Irishmen and women of all traditions have played in the military history of these islands.

The unveiling ceremony took place on a cold and windy November Sunday afternoon. The most commonly heard comment about the day was "at least

its not raining"! The ceremony was attended by a small number of people but representing a good cross section of the community, young/old, male/female etc. There was a colour party provided by the local O N E branch (the Irish Defence Forces OCA) There was also a piper and a bugler present who played a lament and the usual bugle calls. The chairman of the organising committee welcomed us all, explained what was going to happen and thanked the sponsors before handing over to a local historian who gave the historical context. This was followed by prayers and a blessing given jointly by the Parish Priest and the Church of Ireland Minister. There was a reading of all 131 names on the memorial including that of Col. Sir Anthony Weldon Bt DSO, Leinster Regiment. During the course of the ceremony floral tributes were laid on the 7 CWGC graves that are scattered around the cemetery including at least one Leinster grave. The ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths including one on behalf of the Leinster Regiment Association, this was the only poppy wreath laid on the day and we were the only regimental or commemorative association represented at the event. It was by good fortune that I learnt of and was able to attend the event and that I had arranged to meet our own Denis Kirby the previous day who happened to have a spare wreath. I must say that I was made most welcome by the organisers when I turned up unannounced and asked if I could take part on behalf of the Association. For the record the majority of men named served with the RDF followed by 20 who served with the Leinsters so it was totally appropriate that we were represented. In which ever regiment or corps they served they all deserve our lasting honour and respect.

Secretary's Report



Welcome to the latest edition of the regimental journal, a little delayed but by hook or crook and a lot of time and dedication it is here! Thank you to those who have made it happen.

Well, what has happened since my last report, which was admittedly a time ago?

I must start with the very sad loss of the Association's President, Maj-Gen. David The O'Morchoe, a man with an exemplary military service and firm family links to the regiment who served the Association well.

Some members of the committee, myself included, were hit by unforeseen events including severe health and personal problems that persisted and have affected the day to day running of the Association including the production of this journal. The Association's Chairman and Journal editor, Col. Peter Walton has decided to step down from his positions and I'm sure you will join me in thanking him for his service and dedication and wish him well in the future.

Personally and thankfully I am now very much better and although recovering well, I still have a little bit of a way to go until I can say I'm back up to where I was. I must take this opportunity to thank those of you who sent messages and best wishes over the last three or four years it was very much appreciated.

We as an association were very much involved

in the recent commemorative centenary events of The Great War 1914-1918. The events which were organised by the Association and those events to which we were invited to attend, were a great success and I hope that you found them worthwhile and a fitting way to commemorate your Leinster ancestor.

The last few years have been challenging as we adapt to reflect a changing membership profile. Your Committee continues to try to accommodate the wishes of a membership that is geographically dispersed and while sharing a common interest in the Leinster Regiment may have differing expectations and priorities. We do not always get the balance right but we are committed to continuing to trying to provide the sort of Association the majority of members want as we move through the so called decade of Centenaries.

We have a busy programme of events planned for the remainder of this year, a full list of them appears later in this Journal.

Enjoy your edition of 40-10 and I wish you all the very best for the forthcoming year and I look forward to meeting you at the many events being held throughout this year. March on the Leinsters.

Ich Dien!

David Ball

Private Martin Moffatt, VC



In September 2018 a group of members of the Leinster Regiment Association visited the town of Ledegem, Belgium as guests of the local municipal council to celebrate the centenary of the liberation of the town in October 1918 by the 2nd Battalion of the Leinster Regiment.

On that occasion, three grandchildren of soldiers who took part in that event were present, Lt-Col. Mark Weldon whose grandfather commanded the battalion, Richard Davis and Anne Farmer, the granddaughter of Martin Moffatt.

Victoria Crosses were awarded to two members of the Leinster Regiment that day, Corporal John O'Neill and Private Martin Moffatt.

This is Private Moffatt's story.

Martin was born in 24 Knappagh Road, Sligo on 15 April 1882, to Martin & Bridget Moffatt, one of a typically large family of the period. After attending St. Vincent's National School, Sligo he worked as a seaman on the steamship *SS Sligo*. In March 1913, Moffatt was involved in the Sligo Dock Strike. The dispute began on March 8th, 1913, when seamen on the *SS Sligo* demanded more help or higher wages for

handling cattle. Five workers who stopped work were arrested, prosecuted for disobeying a "lawful order" and received seven days' hard labour. The strike then spread to other yards and businesses handling goods in the port, and involved carters and other labourers. The dispute lasted 56 days from March 8 to May 6 of 1913. During the strike there were numerous clashes on the docks and riots in the town, resulting in one fatality. An agreement was reached on May 6 that 'free labour' would not be employed on the docks, only Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU) members.

Shortly after the outbreak of war Moffatt joined the 6th (Service) Battalion of the Connaught Rangers. The 6th (Service) Battalion, was formed at Kilworth Camp, outside Fermoy, County Cork in September 1914 and became part of the 47th Brigade in the 16th (Irish) Division.

Moffatt commenced his training at Kilworth Camp between Fermoy and Mitchelstown, before moving to Fermoy Barracks. His Battalion was part of the 16th (Irish) Division and it moved to Aldershot for further training in September 1915. On 10 December the Division moved to France and took up station on the Loos Salient in 18th December 1915.

In April 1916 the Division came under severe gas attack at Hulluch and suffered 1260 casualties, of whom 338 died. In September 1916 the Battalion was involved in the capture of the villages of Guillemont and Ginchy suffering heavy losses. The Battle of Ginchy took place on 9 September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, when the 16th Division captured the German-held village.

In June 1917 Moffatt's Battalion, as part of the 16th Irish Division, took part in the Battle of Messines, alongside the 36th Ulster Division. Today Messines is the location of the Island of Ireland Peace Park opened on 11th November 1998 by President Mary McAleese, Queen Elizabeth II and Albert, King of the Belgians. In the Spring of 1918 the Germans launched a massive offensive from March through to June all along the Western Front. Although the Allies eventually halted the German advance, they took heavy casualties. On 21 March 1918, the 6th Battalion of the Connaught Rangers was "practically annihilated" during the German breakthrough. In one week the battalion lost "22 Officers and 618 Other Ranks".

As a result of these heavy losses, the survivors were transferred into the 2nd Battalion, the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians).

In the Autumn of 1918, the ever-advancing allies, pushing the enemy back, stretched their own supply lines. Thus arrived a most important part of the advance by the allies toward Germany; the task of liberating the many towns and villages that had been subject to occupational rule for over four long years.

Such villages were fiercely defended by the Germans, but fall they must if the allied advance was to continue; any failure to capture a village could adversely impact the time to victory, but more importantly for the local inhabitants, prolong the misery of occupation. This period is known as the Battle of Courtrai and it took place between 14 - 19 October 1918 along the Flanders Front.

For the small village of Ledegem, occupied by the Germany army since 1914, the advance of the 29th Division of the 2nd Army would be a momentous period. On October 1st the inhabitants of the community thought that their day had come when the 12th Battalion Royal Scots had briefly entered Ledegem but their exhilaration turned to disappointment as the Germans fiercely defended their positions beating the Royal Scots back to the line of the railway.

But as we now know, the allies were determined to advance at all costs and as the "last big push" commenced in the early hours of the 14 October 1918, it was the 2 Bn Leinster Regiment that fought its way into and through the village, pushing the German front line backward once more and setting the people of Ledegem free from occupation.

On 13 October 1918 the 2nd Battalion of the Leinsters moved up to their assembly positions, about 9 miles east of Ypres. They were to lead the attack on very strong German positions, where the enemy were aware of the coming attack and had made strong preparations with artillery and trench mortars for support. In the early morning of 14th the Leinsters advanced through the early morning fog and reached Ledegem at about 9.00am.

Moffatt's section was held up by severe fire from a fortified farmhouse, when he decided to take matters into his own hands and attack the farmhouse alone tossing grenades and ran to the back of the farmhouse.

His Victoria Cross citation reads:
"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on

14 October 1918 near Ledegem, Belgium, Private Moffatt was advancing with five others across the open when they suddenly came under heavy rifle fire at close range from a strongly held house. Rushing towards the house through a hail of bullets, Private Moffatt threw bombs and then, working to the back of the house, rushed the door, killing two and capturing 30 of the enemy. He displayed the greatest valour and initiative throughout".

Directly after his capture of the farmhouse and the 30 prisoners, Moffatt insisted on marching back by himself a squad of 120 prisoners, getting a receipt for them from the Assistant Provost-Marshal and then re-joining his unit later that morning.

This event was featured on the front cover of the Victor comic on the 12 May 1973 and again on 25 February 1984.

Moffatt remained in the front line for the next four weeks until the Armistice. He was demobilised in 1919 and returned to Sligo after receiving his VC. In June 1919 Moffatt returned to Sligo to a deserved Hero's Welcome. A reception committee had been put together some time earlier to plan for his return reception. A huge crowd had gathered at the Railway Station for his arrival from Dublin. Outside the station



he was greeted by a military Guard of Honour and escorted to the Courthouse by a brass band. Along the way the streets were decorated with flags and banners.

A presentation was made to Moffatt on the steps of the Courthouse. Amongst financial and other gifts, he received a gold watch inscribed "Ledegem 14th October 1918 - Presented to Private Moffatt by Lt-Col. H W Weldon and Officers of the 2nd Battalion Leinster Regiment."

After the war, Moffatt worked as a Harbour Constable until shortly before his death. He married in 1921 and he and his wife Annie had four girls and one boy. Sadly the boy died in 1933 aged 3. Martin Moffatt died in a drowning accident off Rosses Point, Co. Sligo on 7 January 1946.

Denis Kirby

Acknowledgements:

- Gerald Gliddon: *VCs of the First World War: The Final Days 1918*
- Col. F.E. Whitton: *The History of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)*
- Capt. F.C Hitchcock: *"Stand To" A Diary of the Trenches 1915-1918*
- Sligo County Library Service
- Sligo Museum
- Sligo Champion
- Connaught Rangers Association
- www.thevictorbookforboys.com
- Francis O'N Rodgers

Annual joint meeting of The Leinster Regiment Association and The Western Front Association



A quartet of former Irish Guards officers at the LRA/WFA meeting, Brian Bellew, Michael Bevan, Anthony Weldon, Ian Robertson.

In what has now become an annual event we held a joint meeting with the Dublin branch of the Western Front Association on the 16th November 2019 in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks. The usual format of these occasions is that the LRA provide the speaker and the topic may be but not necessarily Leinster Regiment related. This year our Vice-President Anthony Weldon was the guest speaker and the basis of his talk was his recently published book "The Drumhorse in the Fountain" jointly written with

Christopher Joll, a former Life Guards officer. The rather enigmatic title is partly explained by the sub-title: "& Other Tales of Heroes and Rogues in the Guards". While the book is a compilation of stories about the rich and varied cast of characters who have made up the Horse and Foot Guards down the years Anthony tried to concentrate his talk on those with an Irish connection however tenuous that might be. The result was a thoroughly entertaining talk that explored all manner of human foibles as well as feats of gallantry and the occasions where these two characteristics intersect. It was perhaps surprising to learn how many people who went on to achieve later fame and fortune had early experience in one or other of the Guards regiments, footballer of legend, Jack Charlton and comedian Spike Milligan to name but two. As well as the hilarious, the downright immoral and the illegal the book also chronicles many tales of daring do and devotion to duty in the best traditions of the Household Division.

It was good to see various members of the Association who had travelled from far and wide to support this occasion. On account of the dispersed nature of our membership it is not always easy to get people together for meetings so an occasion such as this is a welcome opportunity and we thank Ian Chambers, Chairman of the Dublin Branch of the WFA, and his colleagues for making us welcome.

Presentation of Decorations & Medals to 2nd Battalion The Prince of Wales's Leinst by Lieutenant Colonel Mark Weldon

On the 6 February 1920, Colonel His Royal Highness Edward The Prince of Wales KG, GCMG, GBE, MC paid his first and only visit to the 2nd Battalion The Leinster Regiment in his capacity as Colonel-in-Chief. HRH was later to become King Edward VIII, abdicate and marry Wallis Simpson. The purpose of his visit to Sobraon Barracks, Colchester, was to present decorations and medals to the 2nd Battalion following the 1st World War. Over 90 Officers and men received awards.

David Ball has already put several excellent photos of this highly significant occasion on Facebook, including the programme. It is worth looking at his post of 25 December as an attempt has been made to avoid duplication here. This pictorial record follows the sequence of the day. All the pictures come from a family album which, in part, explains their varying quality.



HRH The Prince of Wales accepts a leather bound copy of the day's programme.



Inspecting the Ranks.



The Battalion in Hollow Square formation and RSM C H Smith receives the MC, DCM, 1914 Star and Belgian Croix de Guerre.



As reported by *The Daily Sketch*, Sgt J O'Neill VC MM receives the Military Medal. Sgt O'Neill, dressed in the saffron kilt and green stockings, had earlier met the Prince of Wales on the outskirts of Colchester and ridden with the Prince in his car to the parade. Following these duties, he received a match box from the Prince of Wales, as a memento of the personal services he had rendered.



Brigadier-General J G Dill CMG, DSO receives the 1914 Star. Brigadier Dill was born in Lurgan, County Armagh, son of a bank manager. He rose to be Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS), the professional head of the British Army, and subsequently went to Washington D.C., as Chief of the British Joint Staff Mission and then Senior British Representative on the Combined Chiefs of Staff (CCS). He played a significant role during the 2nd World War in the formation of the "Special Relationship" between the United Kingdom and the United States. He was posthumously awarded an American Distinguished Service Medal in 1944 as well as receiving an unprecedented joint resolution of the United States Congress appreciating his services. Field Marshal Dill was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, USA, where his grave is one of only two that are marked by an equestrian statue.



LCpl J Collins receives the DCM and Russian Order of St George.



Pte D Cummins receives the MSM, GC medal and 1914 Star.



Sgt J Condon receives the MSM and 1914 Star.



Lt-Col F E Whitton, to whom we are indebted for authoring the Regimental history, received the CMG and 1914 Star.

Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) at Sobraon Barracks, Colchester – 6 February 1920



LCpl G Regan receives the DCM, 1914 Star and the Russian Order of St George.



Lt A A Burns DCM, receives the Portuguese Ordre de Avis and 1914 Star.



Lt J E Duffield receives the MC.



Maj B C Riall looks on.



The Commanding Officer, Lt-Col H W Weldon DSO, receives the French Croix de Guerre de l'Ordre de Corps, an honour also bestowed on his son (during the 2nd World War).



Capt T H Poole receives the MM and 1914 Star.



Major-General Boyd with Lord Claud Hamilton, Equerry to HRH. Maj Gen Sir Gerald Farrell Boyd KCB, CMG, DSO, DCM started his military service as a Private in the Devonshire Regiment. He rose to be Military Secretary on the Army Board.



The Battalion marches past with Maj-Gen Boyd leading, followed by the CO and 2IC (Maj R G T Currey). The known company commanders were as follows: B Coy - Capt T H Poole MM, C Coy - Capt G F Greville DSO, D Coy - Capt H F Otway MC. The Adjutant was Capt A E Nye MC, whose biography concludes elsewhere in this edition of the 40-10.

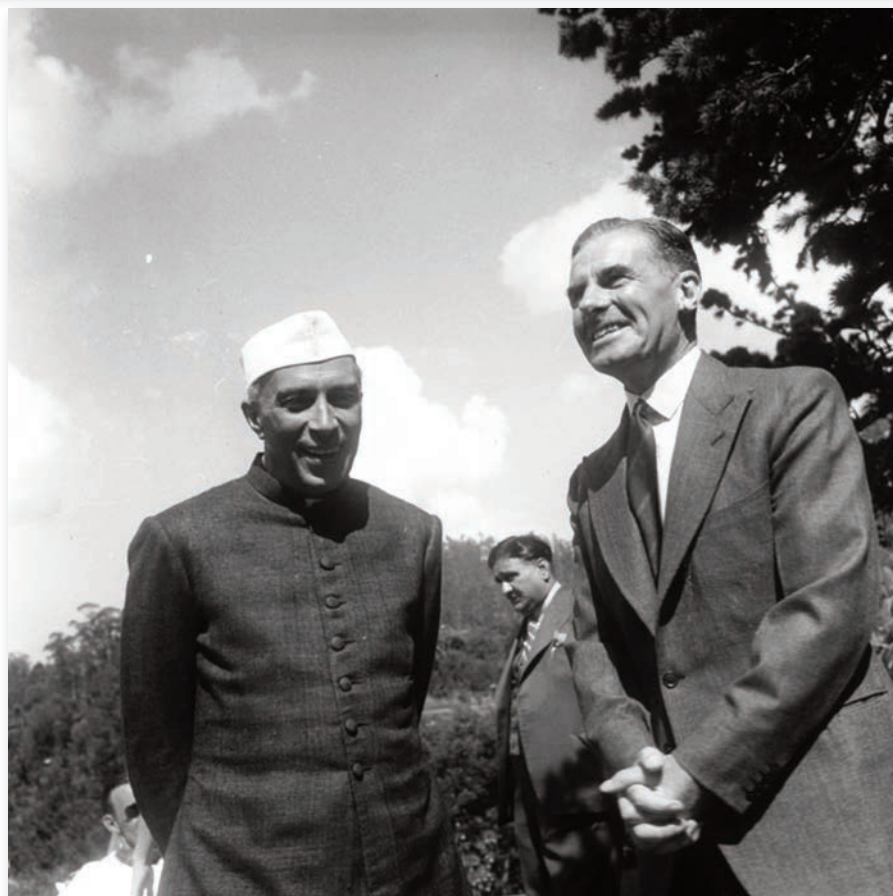
This unique event was the most significant for the Leinsters in 1920. Many of the Association, like myself, will feel that we should be commemorating its centenary with something more than an article. It has not been for the want of trying. Very shortly after I assumed the Chairmanship, we have been attempting to arrange a suitable event with Royal attendance. We did not publicise our aspirations because we didn't want to raise expectations when there was a high chance of failure. It has not worked out: the diaries of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge were already full for February this year. We then approached various organisations to see if we could meet on their premises and view the 2nd Bn Silver. Not surprisingly, museums

had organised their display programmes months before we started this line of investigation. I have been conscious throughout these consultations that there would be costs both to the Association and to individuals. I was equally determined that those costs should be proportionate. I remain hopeful that the 2nd Bn Silver can be viewed this year. The occasion will be lower profile than originally desired and not everyone will be able to attend, but we will ensure it is well documented so everyone can benefit.

Abbreviations (in alphabetical order): Bn - Battalion, Brig - Brigadier General, Capt - Captain, CMG - Companion The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, CO - Commanding Officer, Coy - Company, DCM - Distinguished Conduct Medal, DSO - Distinguished Service Order, GBE - Knight Grand Cross The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, HRH - His Royal Highness, GCMG - Knight The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, KG - Knight The Most Noble Order of the Garter, Lt - Lieutenant, Lt Col - Lieutenant Colonel, LCpl - Lance Corporal, Maj - Major, Maj-Gen - Major General, MC - Military Cross, MM - Military Medal, Pte - Private, RSM - Regimental Sergeant Major, VC - Victoria Cross, Sgt - Sergeant, St - Saint. 2IC - Second in Command.

The Life of Archie Nye

(Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Edward Nye GCSI GCMG GCIE KCB KBE MC)
by *Lieutenant Colonel Nick Weekes*¹



Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye. Ootacamund – June 1948.
With acknowledgements to: <http://photodivision.gov.in/IntroPhotodetails.asp?thisPage=1345> Image No 4158.

Part 3: 1946-1967

Part 2 of this article was published in the last edition of The 40-10. It concluded with Nye's departure for India in April 1946 to assume the appointment of Governor of Madras.

Nye took his seat as Governor on 6 May 1946. The Province of Madras covered an area somewhat larger than that of the United Kingdom; the population at the time was about 50 million (much the same as the population of the United Kingdom in 1946). The Province was ruled from the city of Madras (now Chennai) which hosted Government House (Nye's residence), the Government Secretariat in Fort St George and other governmental, legislative and judicial institutions. However, some key functions relocated to Ootacamund in the Nilgiri Hills (some 275 miles south-west of the city of Madras) during the hot summer months; there was a second Government House at 'Ooty'.

The new Governor quickly gained the confidence of the Indians and he was invited to remain in post after India achieved independence on 15 August 1947.² His services in the period before independence were acknowledged by his appointment as GCSI³ in the 1948 New Year's honours list. The award of the Kaisar-i-hind Medal (Gold) to Lady Nye was notified in the same list.

Nye developed a close working relationship with Jawaharlal Nehru – the first Prime Minister of independent India. As the time approached for an Indian to become Governor of Madras, Nehru took the unusual step of suggesting to the British Government that Nye should become the next British High Commissioner⁴ to India. This accordingly happened, Nye relinquishing the appointment of Governor of Madras on 7 September 1948 and taking over from Sir Terence Shone as British High Commissioner in New Delhi the following month. He served for nearly four years in this capacity. Nye would have been closely involved in the negotiations that resulted in India adopting a republican constitution on 26 January 1950



His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye and Lady Nye at the Madras studio of All India Radio in September 1948. They were broadcasting a farewell message before Sir Archibald relinquished the appointment of Governor of Madras. With acknowledgements to All India Radio and the archive of The Hindu.

but remaining a member of the Commonwealth. His efforts in New Delhi were rewarded with his appointment as GCMG⁵ in 1951.

August 1952 saw Nye move to Ottawa to become the British High Commissioner to Canada. His activities in Canada concentrated on the promotion of trade between Canada and the United Kingdom but unexpected challenges arose during his last few months in post when he had to explain British policies and intentions during the early stages of the 1956 Suez crisis. Before he left Canada, Nye was made a Freeman of the city of Ottawa and received four honorary academic awards.

Nye and his family returned to England in September 1956 and set up home at Alderstone House, Whiteparish, Wiltshire. Although Nye had now retired from full-time employment, he found plenty to occupy his time. He was a Director of Rio Tinto, a Director of the Royal Bank of Canada and a Rhodes Trustee. He toured the United States in 1957 and again in 1964 on behalf of the English-Speaking Union. He chaired the Pig Industry Development Authority from 1957 to 1962

and served on a Commonwealth Immigration Advisory Council from 1962 to 1965.

In December 1962 Nye accepted an invitation to chair a committee tasked with examining the functions of the War Office, its organization and the distribution of duties within it. As Nye had served in the War Office for six years during and immediately after the Second World War (February 1940 to February 1946), he seemed to be an excellent choice for this task. The Committee on War Office Organization issued its report in August 1963. Although the War Office was merged into the Ministry of Defence in 1964, most of the Committee's recommendations concerning the top-level management of the Army were implemented and endured for many years.

Nye took a keen interest in the affairs of his old School – The Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover. He had become a specially appointed member of the governing body (the Board of Commissioners) towards the end of 1944 at his own request and had played a major role in drawing up a package of post-war reforms and securing War Office approval for implementation.⁶ Nye stood down from the governing body when he left for India in 1946, at which time the School had just returned to Dover from its wartime evacuation location in Devon and the implementation of the reforms was about to begin. He resumed his place on the governing body after his return from Canada in 1956 and became President of the Old Boys' Association in 1962, serving in both capacities until his death. He was one of the most distinguished 'Sons of the Brave' and it is fitting that his portrait in the School's Nye Hall serves as a permanent reminder of his achievements.

Nye became a member of the Committee of the Automobile Association in 1959 and later served as Vice-Chairman. He was chairing a meeting of the Association's Finance and General Purposes Committee in London on 13 November 1967 when he suffered a heart attack. He was rushed to the nearby Charing Cross Hospital but died there that evening aged 72.

A lengthy obituary was published in *The Times* on 15 November 1967 and a shorter supplementary tribute appeared two days later. The latter included this assessment:

He combined a penetrating and incisive intelligence with unfailing kindness and a lovely sense of humour. If ever there was a balanced and wise man it was Archie.



A portrait of Sir Archibald Nye by Major A C Davidson-Houston (unveiled in the foyer of Nye Hall at The Duke of York's Royal Military School by Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 28 July 1962).

In conclusion, it seems appropriate to draw attention to the closing words of Nye's entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (contributed by General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley):

Nye made an important contribution to the high political and military policies of his country, and often played a crucial part in their execution over more than twenty years. His reputation is, happily, unsullied by any manifestation of jealousy,

bitterness, or disregard towards those with whom he served. It is remarkable that he caught the attention of three prime ministers – Churchill, Attlee, and Nehru – each of whom wanted to place him in a significant position.

Endnotes:

1. Nick Weekes has been a member of the Leinster Regiment Association since 2009.
2. He additionally served as Colonel of The Madras Regiment from 10 August 1946 until 31 March 1949.
3. GCSI = Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.
4. The functions of a High Commissioner are broadly the same as those of an Ambassador. High Commissioners (not Ambassadors) are exchanged between member nations of the Commonwealth.
5. GCMG = Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George. This meant that Nye held five knighthoods – GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, KCB and KBE.
6. The reforms aimed to improve the quality of the education that was provided while still maintaining the historic military atmosphere and traditions. The teaching staff became a mix of Royal Army Educational Corps officers and civilian teachers. Selected members of the teaching staff took charge of the boarding houses, replacing the retired Company Sergeant-Majors who had traditionally performed this role.

W E B S I T E N E W S

Nowadays the public face of every company and organisation is best reflected by its website. The LRA is no exception. For some years now, there has been a justifiable feeling amongst our members that the Association's website needs a makeover.

I have taken on the mantle of this task. But this is not just a case of giving the pages a lick of paint, nor is it a "make do and mend" situation.

The purpose of our site is to act as a hub for our members, encourage new members, and be the main source of Leinster information.

The key factors (amongst many others) to a successful website are:

- Availability (easy to find via search engines)
- Looks fresh and approachable – easy to navigate
- Reflects the values of the organisation it represents
- Delivers information clearly
- Is easy to operate and update with information,

activities, and anniversaries by key members of the Association

- Links in to the Association's social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) activities

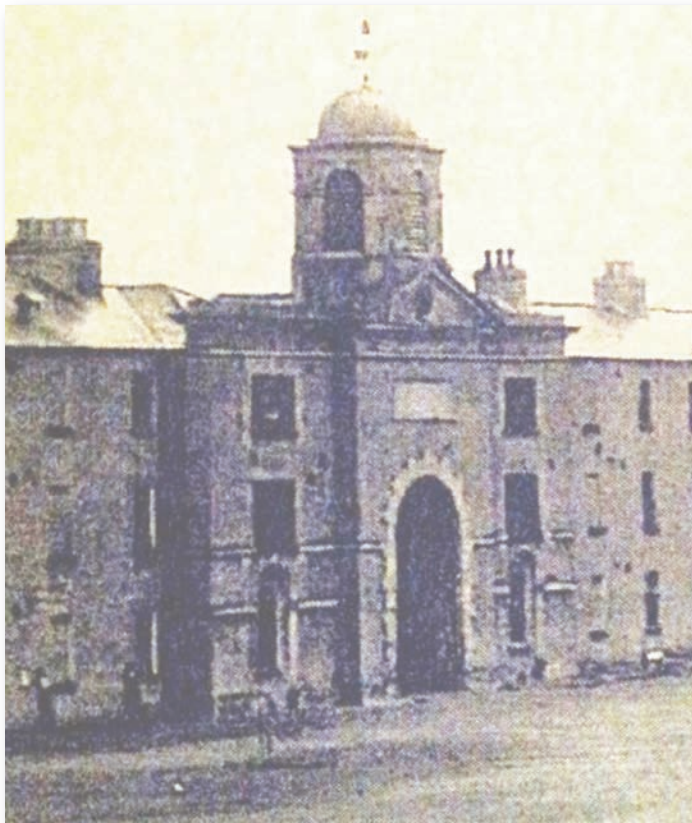
It's not just the look of the user pages that is important. We now have a revitalised website in draft format with a more user-friendly system.

Over the last couple of months we have installed all the original pages and historical information on this draft. This still needs some fine tuning before we go public. I shall be working with key members before we unveil the new site sometime over the next couple of months.

Finally, on behalf of the LRA I must express our collective indebtedness (as well as my personal thanks) to Don Dickson who set up the original website and for many years managed it. He has been immensely helpful during the hand-over.

Anthony Weldon

Birr News



Crinkill Barracks, Birr

Coloured plans of the barracks have been drawn up by committee member, Derek Coulter. They are in the process of being framed and, when completed, will be given to the Leinster Regiment Exhibition in Birr Library where they will be put on display.

Birr Men Killed in Action

A plaque containing the names of 76 men from Birr, killed in action with the Leinster Regiment during World War 1, has been drawn up by Brendan Mooney. It will be put on display in the Leinster Regiment Exhibition shortly.

Schools Project

Principals and Transition Year Teachers in secondary schools across Offaly and also in Roscrea are being written to, in order to gauge interest in a Transition Year project. The project would involve students working in small groups on issues related to the Leinster Regiment such as:-

Crinkill Barracks
The Leinsters & Birr
Individual Leinster soldiers
Leinster VCs
Leinster casualties
Leinsters who returned from the war
Leinster memorabilia
Leinster medals

If there is support for the project from the schools, we will seek further support from Offaly County Council, local press & radio media and local businesses to cover the costs of the project and its prizes.

The Leinster Regiment Boer War Memorial

The memorial in Crinkill Military Cemetery is badly in need of cleaning. It is under a number of trees and is subject to moss and other discolouration. In the Spring, contact will be made with the Crinkill Tidy Village committee about some sort of joint project to clean up the memorial.

Leinster Regiment memorabilia

Members of our association in the Birr area are aware of families with old connections to the Leinster Regiment, who may have memorabilia in the attic or elsewhere about the regiment and may not know what to do with it. Armed with copies of the donation/gift forms used by Birr Library, such families continue to be approached by LRA members to gift or loan some items to the Leinster Regiment Exhibition. It is a slow process but one well worth continuing.

Birr Vintage Week

On Saturday the 8th August Stephen Callaghan will give a talk on the story of Capt. L.J.M. Studholme and the Studholme Cross. This will start at 11.00hrs in Birr Library. The lecture will be followed by a wreath laying at the Leinster Regiment Memorial in Crinkill at around 13.30hrs.

Junior O'Callaghan

Leinster Regiment Soldiers buried in Ireland

The Commonwealth War graves Commission records that there are 112 Leinster soldiers buried in Ireland between the years 1914 to 1920, 104 in the Republic and 8 in Northern Ireland.

It is quite likely that there are many other Leinsters, who survived the war and who died in Ireland in the years that followed, but we have no easy way of identifying those graves.

Some years ago, the association members commenced a programme of visiting the graves and placing small memorial crosses on them, on or about the 100th Anniversary of their deaths.

We only commenced the visits in 2016, but we were able to cover those who died in 1914 & 1915 as well.

This will be the last official year of this particular programme as there were no Leinsters buried in Ireland from the end of 1920 up to the time that the British Army left the country in 1922.



Grave of Pte. C Moore, in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, who died during the 1916 Easter Rising.

The vast majority of them were Privates, with only nine Officers involved.

Two of those were Colonels: Col. Robert T. Carew who died in February 1917 and Col. Sir Anthony Weldon who died in June 1917.

Many of the Leinsters are buried either in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin or in Glasnevin Cemetery, also in Dublin. There are six Leinsters buried in Miltown Catholic Cemetery in Belfast. The others are dispersed around the country, some in location not being tended by the CWGC or its agents.

We want to put on record our sincere thanks to the members of our Association who visited the graves over the years, sometimes experiencing difficulty in searching for the locations or finding the correct graves.

Denis Kirby



The grave of Col Carew in Waterford.

Saving Captain Studholme's Cross by Stephen Callaghan



Capt. L.J.M. Studholme.

Who was Lancelot Studholme?

Lancelot Joseph Moore Studholme was born on 21 September 1884 at Ballyegan, Birr, King's County (Offaly). He was the only son of Joseph Studholme and Mary Hastings Studholme (née Davis). He educated at Banstead Hall, Surrey, and Uppingham, then at Christ Church, Oxford the latter being where he obtained his degree. Since a child he had a life long interest in gardening and won many prizes. He was especially interested in daffodils.

After the death of his father in 1904, Lancelot took over his estate and became a Justice of the Peace for King's County. He later filled the office of High Sheriff in 1909.

On outbreak of the War in August 1914, Lancelot joined the newly formed 7th (Service) Battalion, Leinster Regiment. The battalion was raised in Fermoy, Cork in October 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Armies. It was part of the 47th Brigade of the 16th (Irish) Division. Initially joining as a Private, Lancelot was soon commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Further promotions quickly followed.

A poem appeared in the *King's County Chronicle* in December 1914 about Lancelot, written by a Miss Mary Brown of 10 Newbridge Street, Birr.

'All honour your hero heart
Young soldier of the line;
A man alone couldn't act your part;
Then bear the grand ensign.

A Man! A Man! The noblest work,
E'en God himself that made-
Not yours one duty path to shirk
On life's sublime parade.

In this dark hour of havoc dread,
'Tis but a hero soul,
Could'st march where fate's red wings are spread
O'er death or glory's roll.

Then go young scion of your race,
If God so wills it go;
His love shall fill your vacant place,
To hearts now steeped in woe.

While blood of Thomas Davis flows,
From your maternal side;
Tis meet your hearts high courage shows,
Twas fed from that rich side

The same undying, undauntless nerve,
Long live such noble deed,
Who left your rose strewn home to serve
Your country in her need.

A private in the Leinster corps,
There proudly take your stand,
No truer heart nor had e'er born,
A sword for native land.

Oh! we shall watch with prayerful eyes,
To heaven, your young career,
No doubt that honour's sacred prize
Shall crown you year by year.

Then go! - God's speed you on your way;
The shield of strength divine,
May nerve and guard you day by day,
Young soldier of the line'

In letters written by Captain Max Stainforth, 7th Battalion, Leinster Regiment, he described the other Officers of his company, Lancelot being mentioned 'Then we come to the platoon commanders. No. 9 is run by Studholme, 2nd Lt. I think probably you'd like him almost best. He's an old house man, aged 29, dark,

and very quiet – almost timid. Very shy, but very-thoroughbred and very fine-natured. I believe he owns half the town of Birr, and his hobbies are daffodils and kittens. Yes, certainly you'd like him.'

The battalion was based in Kilworth Camp, Cork in January 1915. It was at this time that Lancelot was able to return home for a brief period where he visited the school at Ballyegan giving the children sweets and gifts. He was noted for his kindness and generosity. In December 1915 the battalion was sent to France and would spend the duration of the war on the Western Front.

The 7th Leinsters took part in a latter phase of the Battle of the Somme in September 1916, taking part in the assault on the German held towns of Gulliemont (3-6 September) and Ginchy (9 September). During the assault on Ginchy, Captain Studholme was leading his men over open ground when his batman, a man named Joseph Harte of Swag Street, Crinkill, and whom had previously worked for Captain Studholme on his Balyegan estate was wounded by a bullet. Captain Studholme stopped to assist him, but in doing so was killed himself by machine gun fire.

The *King's County Chronicle* mentions this brave act 'The manner of his death too, was one that should never be forgotten, revealing as it did a self-sacrificing devotion to a fellow human being'. A private in the battalion remarked 'He was a grand officer, and a brave man; we cried when we buried him'.

Captain Studholme's will saw a significant amount of money left to charity with the following donations being made:

To the Select Vestry of the United Parishes of Ettagh and Kilcolman.....	£100
The City of Dublin Hospital.....	£200
King's County Protestant Orphan Society.....	£50
Birr Jubilee Nurse's Fund.....	£100

Lancelot has no known grave, his name is commemorated on the Thievpal Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, along with the names of 72,245 other British and South African soldiers who have no known grave, many still buried where they fell.

In memory of Lancelot a number of memorials were erected locally by his family and friends. A brass tablet memorial was erected in Kilcolman Church of Ireland Church in 1921. A stained glass window depicting St Columcille and brass lectern were given to St Mark's Church, Ettagh. (In later years these memorials were

moved after the deconsecrating of both aforementioned churches). An impressive Irish oak cross was erected the hill behind Ballyegan House. The cross which measures about 6.6 meters, was erected sometime between 1919 and 1921, it was likely that it was made from one of the large oak trees on the estate. The cross bears a plaque which reads 'IN EVER LOVING MEMORY, OF, LANCELOT J.M. STUDHOLME, CAPTAIN 7TH LEINSTER REGIMENT, KILLED AT GUILLEMONT, SEPTEMBER 9TH 1916, IN, THE GREAT WAR'. It was said that up until recently that each Spring daffodils would sprout up around the cross.

Conserving the Cross

Captain Studholme's cross was found by the author after some years of persistence, after initially hearing about it from the late Sean Cooke of Crinkill. Upon the



Restored cross being re-erected.

author's first viewing of the cross, its condition was noted to be quite poor, with large visible cracks and rotting. Something needed to be done.

In 2019 with the generous support of Offaly County Council and cooperation of the land owners, it was decided that this important memorial would be conserved. A conservation engineer was brought in to write a report on the condition of the cross and how it would be conserved. The report indicated that resin could be used to consolidate the wood. The top of the cross was to be capped with copper to prevent further moisture getting into the wood. It was estimated that this

work would prolong the life of the cross by around 120 years. A GoFundMe campaign was launched which partially funded the conservation work.

By sheer coincidence, the initial work on the cross began on 9 September 2019, the 103rd anniversary of Lancelot's death. The cross was then re-erected, by a further coincidence, after conservation on the 11 November, Armistice Day.

While this cross commemorates an individual, it is a powerful and poignant reminder of a generation of young talented men who never came home.

Honour for Comdt. Michael McGoona



Denis Kirby, Michael McGoona and Ian Lowe.

Mick McGoona has been a long standing authority on The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) and was heavily involved, with Vice President David Ball, in setting up the Leinster Regiment Association in Ireland in 2003, following the demise of the Leinster Regiment Old Comrades Association which had ceased to exist in the 1960s.

At the Association's AGM in London on 17 July it was unanimously agreed to appoint Comdt. McGoona as a Vice President of the Association.

Mick was present at the meeting of Ireland based members in Dublin last July where he was presented with a certificate of his Vice Presidency by Association Vice Chairman Denis Kirby and Treasurer, Ian Lowe.

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Dates for your Diary 2020

There is a busy programme of events planned for the remainder of the year, here is a list of how they stand at the time of going to press. Some may be subject to confirmation so please check before committing to any travel plans.

- March** 28th 15.00hrs Memorial service for the life of our late President
Major-General David The O'Morchoe CB, CBE.
St Patrick's Cathedral (C. of I.) Armagh.
- June** 6th/7th There may be commemorative events in Dublin and Belgium to mark the opening of the Battle on Messines on the 7th June 1917. The venues and nature of these possible events are the subject on ongoing discussions between the various interested associations and authorities.
- 13th Leinster Regiment Association Lunch, The Civil Service Club, Whitehall, London,
14th Disbanded Irish Regiments' Parade to the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London.
- July** 11th Annual General Meeting, Dublin, Venue and time to be confirmed.
12.30hrs Royal British Legion (Republic of Ireland) Ceremony of Remembrance,
War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin.
- 12th 11.00hrs National Day of Commemoration, Collins Barracks. Dublin.
(Please note change of venue from previous years.)
- August** 8th 11.00hrs Leinster Regiment Association Lecture, Birr Library.
The lecture will be given by Stephen Callaghan on the story of Capt. L.J.M.
Studholme and the Studholme Cross.
13.30hrs Wreath laying at The Leinster Regiment Memorial, Crinkill.
There may be an opportunity to visit the Studholme Cross later in the day. (TBC).
- 30th 15.00hrs Wreath laying at Dungarvan, Co Waterford.
- November** 5th Opening of The Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, London.
Service of Remembrance, St Patrick's Chapel, Westminster Cathedral, London.
- 8th Royal British Legion Remembrance Parade to the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London.
- 7th. - 11th There will be various commemorative events in Dublin, Portlaoise,
Limerick, Ennis, Cork (at which the LRA will be represented) and Athy. If you wish
to attend any of these events please enquire closer to the time regarding times.
- 21st Joint Leinster Regiment Association/Western Front Association meeting in Dublin.
Venue, time and subject to be confirmed.

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Committee and Post Holders January 2020

President	Vacant
Vice-Presidents	Mr David Ball Commandant Michael McGoona

The Officers and Members of the General Committee

Chairman	Lt-Col Mark Weldon	markweldon@live.co.uk
Vice-Chairman (Ireland)	Mr Denis Kirby	denis@dpk.ie
Vice-Chairman (GB)	Sir Anthony Weldon Bt	Anthony.weldon@bene-factum.co.uk
Association Treasurer	Mr Ian Lowe	ianlowe@marfordms1.demon.co.uk
Association Secretary	Mr David Ball	theleinsters.4010@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Mr Robert Templeman	bob.templeman@btinternet.com

Officers of the Ireland Committee

Chairman	Mr Denis Kirby	denis@dpk.ie
Members	Mr Ray Hayden	ray.hayden@anglewise.co.uk
	Mr Ken Geary *	kengeary@gmail.com
	Mr Tony Hayden *	tony.hayden195@gmail.com
	Mr Larry Yourell	larryjpyourell@gmail.com
	Mr Junior O'Callaghan	juniorocallaghan@gmail.com
	Mr Derek Coulter	derekcoulter@eircom.net
	Mr Chris Brummell	chrisbrummell@gmail.com

* Also members of the General Committee.

Appeal to Members

May we remind you that all annual subscriptions become due on the 1st January, this currently stands at £20 for UK residents and €25 for Irish residents. If you have already paid your subscription, thank you, if you have not may we respectfully remind you that it is now due. Cheques in either currency may be sent to the Treasurer, Ian Lowe, 42 Woodridge Avenue, Marford, Wrexham, LL12 8SS.

Many of you pay by standing order and direct debit which is greatly appreciated and simplifies the job of the Treasurer and Membership Secretary. If you would like to switch to this sort of arrangement please contact us as above.

You will have noticed that the running of the Association falls on a very small number of people some of who are fulfilling more than one role. This is an appeal to members to come forward as volunteers to help run your association and secure the future of what we aspire to do. The tasks are not onerous and the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile is considerable! If you are interested in becoming more involved with the running of the Association please contact Mark Weldon or David Ball in the first instance.

Opinions expressed by contributors to this journal are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Association

Frances Weekes

It is with deep regret that we have learnt of the death on the 2nd January 2020 of Frances Weekes, wife of Lt-Col Nick Weekes. We extend our sincere sympathies to Nick and his family for their loss.

Thanks

The editor would like to thank all those who contributed to the production of this journal either by producing items for inclusion or providing the raw material and ideas.

A special thanks to Laetitia Barnes of Afterhours Artwork who had the unenviable task of turning a collection of articles and images into a coherent and stylish journal.

Design & artwork by Laetitia Barnes 01580 714015 art@afterhours.myzen.co.uk



JOHN VINCENT HOLLAND
LIEUTENANT,
7TH LEINSTER REGIMENT
3RD SEPTEMBER 1916