



The 40-10



LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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From the Chairman



As I write, we are five months into this significant year and less than one month short of the 12 June, a hundred years on from the 1922 Entrustment of our Colours to His Majesty King George V in St George's Hall. A commemorative event at Windsor should be the highlight of our year in the United Kingdom, but sadly I still have nothing more to share with you on this subject. The situation remains that the Combined Irish Regiments' Old Comrades Association (CIROCA), the proper umbrella body organising the event on behalf of the six disbanded Southern Irish Regiments, remain confident that an event will be held, but neither the date nor the format have been confirmed.

A series of events in Ireland have been running, as organised by the five extant regimental associations of the disbanded regiments (the South Irish Horse now being part of the Royal Irish Regiment Association). These events, to which the other associations are invited, began in February. On the 12 June, a Service of Evensong was held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin: Sir Anthony Weldon attended, together with a strong contingent of Leinster members living throughout Ireland. Our Leinster hosted event will be in Birr on Sunday 7 August: details can be found later in this publication on Page 21.

It is a significant year in many ways, including nationally for both countries. A hundred years ago the Anglo-Irish Treaty was ratified and the Irish Free State was formed, later to be renamed in the 1937 Constitution. Militarily, 2022 also marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War. Currently, most eyes in the United Kingdom are focused on the unique achievement of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As the current Commander-in-Chief of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces, a message of Loyal Greetings was sent:

Front Cover Photo

A Victorian (post 1881) Officer's forage cap. The badge is silver and gilt.

Back Cover

Letter received by the Chairman from HM The Queen.

On behalf of all members of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) both in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, the President, Sir Anthony Weldon Bt, sends loyal greetings to Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of Her Platinum Jubilee and respectful gratitude for her unfailing example of dedication and leadership.

You will appreciate that in the wider sphere of bilateral commemorations, events and issues this year, the centenary of the Entrustment of our Colours and subsequent disbandment on 31 July 1922 are up against some pretty tough competition. We trust there will be a

Windsor event, even if the presence of Her Majesty is looking increasingly unlikely. I hope that our Centenary will earn additional public recognition, certainly efforts to achieve this end are ongoing.

Wherever you are, I do hope you will do your absolute best to attend commemorative events this year, especially those organised by the Leinsters. Thanks to David Ball and others for reforming the Association in 2003, we are going from strength to strength 100 years after the disbandment of the Regiment - no mean achievement! Let's look forward to future generations and the next centennial.

Ich Dien
Mark Weldon

Centenary Lunch

To mark the Centenary of the laying up of the Colours of the disbanded regiments a special lunch was held in the Civil Service Club, Whitehall, on Saturday 11th June. It was the first event of a busy weekend that also saw the Association taking part in the annual CIROCA Parade in London and a special service of commemoration in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. Over 50 members and guests enjoyed the lunch and socialising together. The numbers were swelled by the attendance of a party from the Irish Defence Forces who were in London for the CIROCA parade the following day.

Among the principal guests welcomed by our Chairman Lt-Col Mark Weldon, were, Lt-Col Michel Tousignant, Assistant Army Advisor at the Canadian High Commission, Major Mac McGowan and his wife Florence representing The North Irish Horse, RSM Neil Matthews, Irish Defence Forces and Mr Ray Collister, Liaisons Gallery. Pipe-Major Mike Shanahan



Pipe-Major Mike Shanahan entertains 'the troops'.

called us to the table and later entertained us with a lively set of Irish tunes.

The occasion was an enjoyable mixture of the formal and the informal. Toasts were drunk to Her Majesty The Queen, the President of Ireland, the Regiment and finally to Absent Friends. In his address Mark Weldon outlined the service and achievements of the Regiment and pointed out the common bonds that bind us together.

A highlight of the afternoon was the unveiling of a specially commissioned picture depicting a soldier from each of the five disbanded regiments and a mounted trooper of the South Irish Horse. The picture was executed by artist Jon Starr and a limited edition of 100 signed copies are being made available to purchase through Liaisons Gallery on a first come first served basis. Further details appear later in this journal. There was also a lively and well supported raffle and as previously mentioned a much appreciated set by the piper.

A special thanks must go to Secretary David Ball who organised the very successful event. The sound of fifty or so happy people enjoying a lunch and a social occasion gives little indication off the hard work and responsibility that goes on behind the scenes to make it all happen. Thank you David.



David Ball and Mr Ray Collister, (Liaisons Gallery) reveal the Centenary Picture. David's 'halo', though thoroughly deserved, was unintentional.



Pte. Martin O'Meara VC.

Introduction

What follows is the result of Leinster Regiment Association (LRA) member Gerry O'Meara's research into the life and exploits of Martin O'Meara VC who was born in Co Tipperary and emigrated to Australia in 1911. His story is an example of the fact that many of the men who joined the Empire forces during the Great War were actually born in these islands (estimates can be as high as 30%). He was the youngest son of a farming family and probably had limited prospects staying at home and decided to try his luck in Australia. It is worth noting that his award was for a sustained display of courage over a four day period rather than a single episode. Our thanks to Gerry, who is not related to Martin, for sharing his story with us. Editor.

Martin O'Meara was born at Lissernane, Lorrha, Co Tipperary close to the border with Co Laois on the 3rd November 1885, the son of Michael O'Meara and his wife Margaret (née Connors). The Census of 1901 tells us that his father was a farmer and that Martin was the youngest of six siblings. By 1911 he is 26 years of

age and living in Co Kilkenny and was employed as a 'wood worker'. He left Ireland later that year for Australia. He got work shortly after arriving in Perth, Western Australia as a sleeper-layer, perhaps drawing on his previous experience as a wood worker, on a new line of railway through the bush at Collie, east of Perth.

He enlisted in the Army at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 19th August, 1915 with the rank of Private in the 16th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force (AIF). On his application form he stated that he was Catholic and single.

Martin O'Meara's 16th Battalion was part of the 4th Division AIF and sailed first to Alexandria in Egypt and then on to Marseilles where he landed on 9th June, 1916. Following disembarkation, they immediately boarded trains to travel to the front. On arrival they began to prepare for combat as preparations were already in hand for the Somme offensive. The intent behind this campaign was to break through the German lines and help the French army then under heavy pressure at Verdun.

By 6th August 1916 the 2nd Australian Division had taken Pozieres Heights and was then relieved by the 4th Australian Division which was to continue the attack northwards towards Mouquet Farm. The purpose of the operations, the Battle of Mouquet Farm, was to drive a line behind the German strongholds at Thiépval. At 1am on the 11th the advance began again but at daylight the enemy commenced a heavy bombardment and kept up the shelling until noon.

During these four days of heavy fighting, O'Meara, a stretcher bearer, repeatedly went out and brought in wounded from no-man's land despite intense artillery and machine-gun fire. He was busy during the whole series of operations, especially in the critical barrage and counter-attack period. Four times he carried water and supplies forward under bursting shells and then returned carrying wounded. On one occasion, he volunteered to carry ammunition and bombs to a portion of trench which was receiving heavy shelling.

As a result of his heroic actions Martin O'Meara was recommended for the Victoria Cross on 16th August 1916. The citation stated:

'For most conspicuous bravery. During four days of very heavy fighting he repeatedly went out and brought in wounded officers and men from 'No Man's Land' under intense artillery and machine gun fire. He also volunteered and carried up ammunition and bombs through a heavy barrage to a portion of the trenches, which was being heavily shelled at the time. He showed throughout an utter contempt of danger, and undoubtedly saved many lives.'

Martin O'Meara received his Victoria Cross in London on 21st July, 1917. It was the most important investiture of the war at which thirty-two V.C.s were awarded by King George V.

In addition to the action at Mouquet Farm, Martin O'Meara was involved in some of the major battles that took place during the remainder of the war and was wounded three times. The first occasion was on the 18th August when he was wounded in the abdomen. He was wounded in the face during the fighting at Bullecourt, near Arras in April 1917 and was further wounded in the thigh and back at Ypres in August 1917. Each injury resulted in a period in hospital but he was back in the front line in early 1918 in time for the actions at Hébuterne and Villers-Brettonneux. He left France in September 1918 and returned to Australia in early 1919. After disembarking and following a medical examination he was admitted to hospital. He remained in hospital for the remainder of his life due to the trauma and wounds he suffered during the war.



Martin O'Meara died in Perth, on 20th December, 1935. He was buried in the Roman Catholic section of Karrakatta cemetery, Perth with full military honours. The priest who officiated at Martin O'Meara's funeral was another Tipperary man, Father John Fahey from Glenough, Clonoulty, who had also shown extraordinary bravery in the Great War at Gallipoli and who was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry under fire.

His funeral received prominence in the Australian newspapers. According to one account:

'Old comrades, representatives of various military units and members of the Federal and State Parliaments gathered at Karrakatta cemetery on Saturday morning to pay tribute to the late Sergeant Martin O'Meara, V.C., whose remains were buried with military honours...' The report also adds that three V.C. Winners, Messrs Clifford Sadleir, James Park Woods and Thomas Leslie Axford, who were the chief mourners, marched directly behind the gun carriage, which brought the remains for burial in the Roman Catholic part of the cemetery.'

The coffin was draped with an Australian flag, and on top of it was placed the dead soldier's hat.

In his will he requested his moneys be expended towards the restoration of the Old Abbey of Lorrha now in ruins. His medals are on on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.



Lieutenant H F Broad.

During the summer of 2021 the Association was approached via our Facebook page by a gentleman who said that he had an album of photos and memorabilia that had belonged to a relative who had served in the Leinsters. He explained that the album was no longer wanted by the family and that he was looking for a suitable home for it. Our Secretary David Ball followed up the approach and in due course took delivery of the album.

It turned out to be a collection of over 300 photos and assorted memorabilia collected by Lt Hubert Fredrick Broad who served with the 1st Battalion between 1916 and 1918. The album covers his service in Macedonia, Egypt and Palestine. The majority of the photos are of life and individuals taken in or near the front line. Most are quite small and are in the nature of contact prints. Taking private photos and the keeping of diaries was for security reasons against regulations although there seems to have been many breaches of these rules and the contents of this album certainly are an example of that. The album has suffered some water damage during its life and shows signs of being over 100 years old. It has been assembled in chronological order and the photos carefully mounted and in most cases

captioned. The intention of Hubert Broad was to produce what we might now call a 'memory book' of his experiences in that part of the war. In addition to the photos there are a number of documents, two colourised field sketches and some botanical specimens. Separate to the main collection is a packet of photos that seem to have been taken in Greece by Hubert's brother Gordon who was a Captain in the 2nd Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry. This packet also includes some family photos taken in a suburban garden.

Who was Hubert Fredrick Broad? There is much that we still don't know about his early life but we do know that he was born in Wandsworth, West London in 1882 and was educated at St Paul's School, a famous independent school. He was a member of the 2nd South Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, later a Territorial Army unit, for three years and at some point he was married and had a son. His marriage seems to have ended by either the death of his wife or possibly divorce, the available records are a bit ambiguous on this point. Whatever happened in London he ended up working as a 'fruit farmer' or 'rancher' in British Colombia, Canada, during the years preceding the Great War. At the outbreak of war he joined the 30th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) and by December 1914 was a Sergeant in this unit. He arrived in France on the 3rd May 1915 with the 15th Battalion and was wounded in the hand on the 7th May 1915 at La Bassee which is near Armentieres. However the War Diary of the 15/CEF places the Battalion in camp at Bailleul on that day a considerable distance from La Bassee. 15/CEF had suffered many casualties helping to stem the German attack on Ypres on the 25th/26th April, best remembered for the German's first use of poison gas. It is possible that Hubert Broad was one of the replacements for those casualties. The question remains as to how he was injured 25 miles from where the rest of his battalion was situated. Whatever the reason the fact remains that his front line service seems to have lasted all of four days before he was injured. Thanks to the excellent Canadian records we have detailed information regarding the various hospitals and convalescent facilities in which he was treated in. These stretched from Rouen in France to Stoke-on-Trent in England. One medical report is especially revealing as in addition to his physical injuries and condition he is described as being 'of a somewhat nervous disposition' and a period of rest is recommended. He seems to have been able to take at his old home address in Wandsworth.

He was finally discharged from medical care in October 1915 and is sent to Liverpool on a course prior to being commissioned. Hubert Broad's commission into what is described as the 'Imperial Army' is dated from 1st November 1915 when he was Gazetted as a 2/Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion The Leinster Regiment. This appointment illustrates the shortage of junior leaders within the Army at the time and poaching men with previous military experience from Dominion units was one way of addressing the problem. It is unknown whether Hubert ever actually joined 3/Leinsters, then in Cork, or not but by early 1916 we know that he was with the 1st Battalion in Macedonia.

The album is titled 'The War 1914 - 19 Snap Shots & Souvenirs of the Struma' followed by his name, rank and regiment. The fact that the end date for the war is left blank indicates that this was left as work in progress. The inside cover has a map of northern Greece and Macedonia. It is actually very useful today as it shows the place names then in use, many of which have now changed. The following 11 pages are of photos taken when the 1st and 6th Leinsters were engaged in operations in the Struma valley north of Salonica. The majority are of other Officers, the huts and dugouts that they lived in together with general views of villages and the countryside. There are a few pictures of the front line and pieces of artillery. This section includes two watercolour sketches that are meant to form a

panorama of the view of the Struma valley as seen from his hut. These were painted in July 1917 shortly before the Leinsters left Macedonia for Egypt and Palestine. The 10th (Irish) Division including the Leinsters left Salonica in September 1917 and the album includes photos of the convoy taking the Division to Egypt. The souvenirs include a piece of Greek Orthodox liturgy together with an English translation and a document written in what appears to be Ottoman Turkish with two excise stamps attached.

The most puzzling souvenir is a small Greek flag or pennant made of silk and measuring about 10"x 8" that is included loose in the album. It is unknown whether this was added by Hubert or possibly by his brother Gordon who was also in Greece at the same time. Someone has written on the flag: "This flag decorated Venizelos car on his entry into Salonica December 20 1916" and in bottom right-hand corner "Salonique 20.11.16". Eleftherios Venizelos (1864-1936) is one of the major figures of modern Greek history. You may regard him as a hero or villain, he was both, and Greeks still live with his legacy today. Born in Crete he was involved in the Cretan struggle for independence from the Ottomans and the subsequent unification with Greece. As Prime Minister of Greece he steered his country through the Balkan Wars of 1912/13 that helped establish the Greek state as we know it today. During the Great War he supported the Allied cause



The mystery Greek flag.

and in consequence came into conflict with the pro-German King Constantine who was married to the Kaiser's sister. Matters came to a head in the late summer of 1916 when Venizelos led what was in all but name a *coup d'état* setting up an alternative government in Salonica with a significant portion of the Greek army rallying to his cause and subsequently entering the war on the Allied side. This flag dates from the time of these pivotal events but neither of the two dates match by a few weeks the actual arrival of Venizelos in Salonica. The significance of the dates on the flag remains unexplained. Also unexplained is how the flag came into the possession of one of two junior officers whose units were at the front miles away from Salonica at the time. Whatever the story is, it is a surprising object to turn up in a London attic 100+ years on.

The interlude in Egypt must have come as a pleasant relief for the Leinsters and the rest of the 10th Division after their time in Gallipoli and then Macedonia. Hubert's photos from this period show scenes from Alexandria including what seems to be a stay in hospital, the overall health of the 10th Division at this time was not good with many men suffering from malaria. However there are photos of street life and buildings in Alexandria, trips to the races and mixed bathing parties in the Nile. Pictures of Alexandria Harbour show Japanese naval vessels (Japan was an ally and provided a naval flotilla in the Mediterranean) and what appears to be a badly damaged merchant vessel.

Soon the Leinsters and the rest of the division were on the move again this time towards Palestine and the climatic Third Battle of Gaza. Many of the Leinster's early days in Palestine were spent in reserve carrying out laborious but necessary tasks like road building and operating water points, obviously very important in desert conditions. While you get the impression that life is still fairly relaxed, there are pictures of boxing matches and bathing parties, you also sense that the real war is getting closer as photos of captured Turkish artillery pieces begin to appear together with a wrecked British tank. There are some photos labeled 'Beersheba 31.10.17'. These show distant parties of horsemen and may be connected to the famous cavalry charge on that day by the Australian Light Horse and British Yeomanry who captured the wells at Beersheba. Included in this section of the album are a couple of pages of pressed flowers, evidently examples of native species, these are in remarkably good condition and retain some of their original colour. As the front moves forward some of the pictures become more graphic, there are images of crashed aircraft (British), Turkish prisoners and guns, dead horses and men (Turkish) There are pictures of Vickers and Lewis guns engaging

aircraft and one photo of a 18lb field gun in action. There are also photos of local life including groups of young children and old men, camels and women carrying pitchers of water on their heads. A couple of images show columns of civilian refugees fleeing the combat zone, chillingly familiar today in that part of the world. One photo shows 'Dr Mallum washing lady's hair', the doctor is seen doing just that to a local woman accompanied by a man also dressed in local garb who looks directly at the camera. It is a surprising image to find and is an example of how the army medical services provided care to all comers in addition to their official duties. We can only guess as to the reason for the hair wash but it is surprising to see such a personal service being carried out in such a conservative society. There are a total of 18 pages in this section of the album each with 6 or more photos.

The Allies occupied Jerusalem without a fight on the 8th December 1917 with General Allenby famously entering the city on foot in studied contrast to the Kaiser's flamboyant 1898 arrival on a white horse. The 1/Leinsters arrived a day or so later and were to remain in the vicinity for a couple of weeks. Christmas Day 1917 brought a freak storm to the area around Jerusalem, there was torrential rain accompanied by high winds and even some snow and hail. Whole camps were flattened and you see men plodding around in conditions reminiscent of the Western Front. The effects of this storm are well recorded in several war diaries and now by Hubert Broad's camera. Arrival in the Holy City clearly made an impact on Hubert as he diligently visits and records the holy places, the final nine pages of the album are devoted to views of the city and its inhabitants. It gives us a glimpse of the last days of the old Ottoman city, a world that would soon disappear. There are multiple pictures of the Mount of Olives and in between the pages of these photos there is a collection of dried olive leaves, now brown with age but otherwise perfectly preserved. It is difficult not to think that these must have come from the eponymous mount.

The final pictures in the album are of Jerusalem, its surroundings and people. The latter pages of the album have not been assembled with the same attention to detail as the earlier parts, captions are briefer or absent altogether. The final chapter in the life of Hubert Broad can be pieced together from the obituary that appeared in 'The Pauline' of March 1919 - the old boys journal of his school. This tells us that he was struck down with malaria while at the front and was hospitalised in Alexandria. He was sent home to London to recuperate arriving in mid-September 1918. While in London he contracted influenza (the "Spanish Flu"),

developed complications and died on the 20th October 1918. He was laid to rest in Putney Vale Cemetery with military honours. We are told that the funeral service was conducted by the Rev R A Dobson who had known him for 'nearly thirty years', Hubert Broad was 36 when he died.

There are many photos of these lesser known theatres of war and there are certainly better quality ones to be found in various collections. However these are unusual in that they seek to tell the story of one man's war at a

personal level. They show his colleagues in his battalion, their living accommodation, the landscapes and people that surrounded them, their leisure activities and the sights of war. There are quite intimate touches like the pressed flowers, olive leaves and other ephemera that Hubert collected. The challenge we now have is how and where to preserve this legacy while making it available for future study. As a first step the intention is to scan the album and make it available on the LRA website. The actual album will be put in the care of a suitable museum.



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AND EASTERN COUNTIES' ADVERTISER,
PUBLISHED AT
NAAS, ATHY, BALTINGLASS, BLESSINGTON, DUNLAVIN, KILCULLEN, NEWBRIDGE, KILDARE:&c

Introduction

What follows is reproduced from 'The Kildare Observer' of the 3rd July 1915 and describes a fairly typical public fund raising event of the Great War period. We may smile at the idea of being entertained by 'tip-top variety turns' and 'amusing farmyard imitations' but we should remember that this was before most of the popular forms of entertainment that we now take for granted were available. You do wonder how many of the donated eggs made it safely from Athy to Boulogne each week. The verse that was part of the published story may be more William McGonagall than WB Yeats but it does not flinch from describing something of the carnage that occurred on V Beach at Cape Helles when 1/Royal Dublin Fusiliers and 1/Royal Munster Fusiliers landed from the SS River Clyde on the 25th April 1915. Editor.

COMFORTS FOR ATHY SOLDIERS LADY WELDON'S APPEAL FOR THE MEN AT THE FRONT

There was a crowded house in the Town Hall, Athy, on night week, when Mr. George Mallin, the well-known entertainer, and his company gave a splendid benefit performance in aid of the funds to provide comforts for the men of the Leinster Regt. prisoners in Germany and wounded in France. Thanks to the kindly interest of Lady Weldon, wife of Sir A.A. Weldon, Bart., H.M.L., of the 4th Leinsters, and many other local ladies, parcels have been dispatched regularly to the men in the trenches, and to the wounded and prisoners of war. A capital programme of pictures was provided, and one film, entitled "The Looters of Liege", for which Mr. Mallin holds exclusive rights, depicting the sacking and burning of the well known Belgian city by the German soldiery was most realistic. It brought home vividly to those at home the suffering of the civil population of Belgium, and portrayed realistically the reports in the newspapers of the unhappy fate of the women and children of the invaded territory. The entertainment was enlivened by some tip-top variety turns. The Mallins appeared in a most amusing extravaganza "The Postmaid and the Maid", in which

they enhanced the high reputation they hold with the local audiences. Mile Lottie Ormond, a violinist of exceptional skill, played sweet selections, which were greatly appreciated. Mr. Roberts, of Athlone, proved a most versatile artiste both as a singer of humorous songs, in recitations, and amusing farmyard imitations. All the items were warmly encored. Miss G. Murphy and Mrs. Large kindly played the accompaniments. Lady Weldon, who received a great reception, addressed the audience during the interval. She said she could not let the opportunity pass without thanking Mr. and Mrs. Mallin and the artistes who assisted in the evening's programme for their kindness. They had all spent a most enjoyable time, and as a result they would have additional funds to help the brave men at the front. (applause). Mr. Mallin had set them all a splendid example in remembering the men at the front, and every place he went he gave a benefit in their aid (applause). Good work was being done for the soldiers in Athy since the war started. Now they intended sending a box of eggs every week to the Base Hospitals at Boulogne, and Lady Weldon appealed to every class to send in eggs to the Town Hall, from which they would be despatched. They should never forget the men at the front, as it was them, all at home could thank for living in peace and security. The picture of the trials of the people of Liege brought it home forcibly to all in Ireland of what they had escaped at the hands of the invaders. Money to provide the soldiers and the prisoners of war with comforts would be required during the dreary winter that was before them and Lady Weldon appealed to the public to continue the help they were giving so that the men would want for nothing. Lady Weldon concluded by again thanking Mr. and Mrs. Mallin, the artistes, Miss Murphy, Mrs. Large, Dr. O'Neill and others who kindly interested themselves in the performance.

Mrs. M. Doran, Coroban's Lane, whose husband, Private John Doran, Dublin Fusiliers, is a prisoner in Germany, has asked us to publish the following written by her brother-in-law, Private Thomas Doran, 1st Battn. R.D.F. (formally of the Harbour, Naas), who is now in Exeter recovering from wounds received in the Dardanelles:-

STORMING OF THE DARDANELLES

The Turks they were prepared for us, as one and all could tell,

We talk of Irish regiments, no wonder why we do,

*For about one thousand yards form land we were met with
shot and shell;*

The Dublins and the Musters, you've heard about these two;

*There were bodies floating through the sea and
hundreds on the sand,*

You can see by many papers how Irish blood it tells

*The way those famous regiments fought at the
Dardanelles.*

*But the Turks they suffered terribly when we fought them
on the land.*

On the 25th April, when we did make a start

The wounded moaning "mercy", it was an awful sight;

*We were singing "Tipperary", a song that reached
our hearts;*

*Those who got badly wounded were wishing for the night,
And when night came our stretcher boys had lots of work to start,*

*The ships were packed with khaki lads, such spirits they
did show*

Collecting bodies, legs and arms, the sight near broke their heart.

*To the cry "Are we downhearted?" we quickly
answered "No"*

The Turks were then retreating, their numbers lost were large;

We got then into our small boats, this way we were to land,

Our officers say "Dublins! we'll have a bayonet charge".

*Then every "Tommy" could be seen with a
"woodbine" in his hand,*

The charge was done, the Turks they run, our lads in ringing

There were boys form Tipperary, from Cork and County Clare,

cheers, I can't forget those Irish boys – the Dublin Fusiliers.

*And the boys from County Dublin and the "Short Grass",
that's Kildare.*

Before I go, I tell you, be proud and give three cheers

For those brave fighting Irishmen – the Dublin Fusiliers.

Quartermaster's Stores

The following are available to purchase by mail order. Please email or post your order to Ian Lowe at: marfordms@icloud.com or at 42 Woodridge Avenue, Marford, Wrexham, LL12 8SS. Prices include 2nd class postage to UK & Irish addresses. Payment can be made by cheque drawn on a UK or Irish bank and made payable to 'The Leinster Regiment Association' and sent to the address shown above. All items are subject to availability.

	£	€
Cap Badge. (Reproduction)	5	6
Lapel Pin Badge. (Suitable as a tie pin or Ladies brooch)	10	12
Ladies Scarf in Regimental colours. (Square 30" x 30", Polyester)	12	15
Regimental Tie. (Silk)	15	18
*Poppy Lapel Badge with Regimental Crest. (Poppy is approx 1.5" high)	15	18
Feather Hackle in Leinster Regiment colours. (Hackle is approx 5" high)	10	12



	£	€
New! Lapel Badge with Colours and the dates 1881-1922 .	10	12

This badge has been specially produced to commemorate the centenary of the laying up of the Colours in 1922. The size is approx 1.5" x 0.5".

The Story of Private George Hickman's Spoon

This story begins with a Sunday evening call from our good friend and Ledegem based Association member, Nick Soen. It was good to have a catch up with Nick as we have been unable to visit Ledegem for the past couple of years and contact has been limited. Having exchanged news and views Nick explained the main purpose of his call. A friend of his son Jasper was involved in a battlefield archaeology group and they had turned up an artefact that appeared to have belonged to a soldier in the Leinster Regiment and asked if we could help by identifying the man and possibly tracing descendants. Naturally we agreed and arrangements were made to send on the available information.

The amateur group consists of three friends, Chris, Ronny and Marcel, who are all 'passionate about the Great War' and are members of the Belgian branch of The Western Front Association. Chris is described as 'our collector' and runs a small private museum that can be visited by arrangement. He has also contributed artefacts to the museums at Tyne Cot and Lijssenthoek Cemetery. Ronny is 'our munitions expert' and knows how to deal with the ammunition and other material that is found during their digs, a reminder how dangerous this sort of archaeology can be. Marcel is the researcher and fixer of the group using trench maps, war diaries and other sources to find locations and obtain the necessary permissions and licences to dig. Marcel is also a volunteer member of the Flanders Fields Museum's Research Centre.

A recent project was to excavate on the site of Quebec Camp, a rest camp located near Reningelst, a small village about six miles south-west of Ypres and a similar distance behind the old front lines. Quebec Camp was one of numerous such facilities that were established behind the front to provide accommodation for troops who were out of the line for rest, refitting and training. In this context "rest" was often a relative term as there would be frequent calls to provide parties for carrying, trench digging, road building, maintenance and similar duties. Even if it was not a complete rest at least it was out of the firing line. That said, air raids were always a possibility and the camps were well within the sounds of the front line. The camps tended to be given homely names, often inspired by the origins of the units that first set them up. Other examples in the same general area were Glasgow Camp, Curragh Camp and the near-by Baldoyle Camp. They would have been semi-permanent, a mixture of tents and Nissan huts with mess halls, cooking, washing and bathing facilities, supply points and basic workshops. Each would have

had a small permanent staff to administer them. The length of time a battalion spent in them could vary from a few days to several weeks depending on the operational status of the unit. There would have been plenty of opportunity for the residents of these places to drop, lose and otherwise mis-lay property leaving rich pickings for future archaeologists to uncover. So it was with Private Hickman's spoon.



Among the items that Chris and his friends found on this dig was the curious object shown above. It is open to question whether the item was deliberately formed into a U shape for utility or if it was casually or accidentally bent. It is assumed that it started life as an army issue spoon and was refashioned into a tool for scraping, probably mud from clothing and equipment. The underside of the handle shows the soldier's number "4301", "L" for The Leinsters, the Ordnance Mark and the makers name. Amongst other finds at the site was at least one other intact spoon which shows what it would have originally looked like.



The spoon on the left is from the Reningelst dig.

It was fairly common for soldiers to adapt everyday objects to fulfil needs other than what they were intended for. The example from an earlier war shows a similar spoon with its tip removed to form an edge with which to cut food thereby using one implement to carry out the functions of knife, fork and spoon.

It was a relatively straightforward matter to discover that the number 4301 referred to a Private George Hickman who served in the 2nd Battalion, The Leinster Regiment. Pte. Hickman died on the 16th March 1916 and is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, not very far from Quebec Camp. According to the War Diary the Battalion went into the line at Hooze on the 12th March 1916. Its positions were shelled on the 13th and again on the afternoon of the 15th shortly before it was relieved. During this period the battalion did not undertake any offensive action but still incurred casualties of 17 dead and 24 wounded. From newspaper reports we learn that Pte. Hickman suffered a head wound on the 15th, probably during the afternoon shelling, and was admitted unconscious to No. 17 Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) at Poperinge where he died the following day without regaining consciousness.

Having identified the onetime owner of the spoon our Belgian friends wanted to see if they could find any



The spoon above has been adapted to provide a cutting edge and dates from the South African War. It belonged to a soldier in the Worcesters.

descendants of George Hickman. Reference to “Soldiers Died in the Great War”, Part 71 told us that George Hickman was born in Athlone and enlisted in the same town. As Hickman is a very unusual name to find in Athlone or indeed any Irish town it was a simple matter to find his family in the 1911 and 1901 Census. In 1911 George was 17, working as a “Factory Hand”, and living with his parents, two younger sisters and a brother in Patrick Street, Athlone. His father John was a 56 year old blacksmith, his mother Mary was 53 and they had been married for 29 years. There were 8 children born to the marriage of whom 7 survived. The 1901 Census shows the family living at the same address and lists 3 sons older than George who had presumably left home by 1911. It also tells us that John Hickman was born in England. The house in Patrick Street was scored as a 2nd Class house (out of 4 grades) indicating relative prosperity.

In an attempt to find descendants of the family I posted an appeal on an Athlone community Facebook page and was gratified to have a positive response within a couple of hours. Like it or loath it social media can be useful. I was contacted by a gentleman called John Dowling who is related to the Hickman family through marriage. He was able to tell me that some of the family had moved to Canada while others were in England. He was also able to provide me with cuttings from local newspapers recording the death of George Hickman and providing details missing from the official record. I am grateful to Mr Dowling for sharing these with us.

Two contemporary newspaper cuttings reporting George Hickman’s death. There are several things that strike you about these reports. The first is the reference to the recent death of his mother and the apparently

successful attempts by Messers Lennon and Handcock[sic] (presumably councillors) to get her sons home leave, albeit too late, to visit her. This is not the sort story that you normally associate with the Great War period. Secondly you see the Council passing a motion of sympathy on the death of an ordinary young man at a time when such deaths were all too common. There is evident pride in the fact that a local family has four sons 'with the colours'. All this was taking place less than a month before the seismic events of Easter 1916. Finally we have letters from the Padre and the Sister in Charge of the CCS. Both must have been very busy people, neither will have had any previous dealings with George Hickman yet each takes time to pen thoughtful letters of sympathy to his sister, someone they did not know and will never meet. Again it shows a level of compassion that we do not necessarily associate with the Great War. How many similar letters did they write each day?

THE LATE PRIVATE HICKMAN.
 Mr. Lennon—Before you proceed with the contracts—just before I came to the meeting I learned that a son of Mr. Jack Hickman has been killed at the front. It is a very sad case. He has four sons serving. Two of them got wounded in France before Christmas and now the third son, who is only 21 and who answered the call at the outbreak of war, has been killed. The reason the case is so sad is that Mr. Handcock and myself interested ourselves in getting George and John home when the mother was seriously ill, and they only arrived a couple of days after the mother died. Therefore I beg to propose that the sympathy of the Council be conveyed to Mr. Hickman.
 Chairman—Gentlemen, I wish to second Mr Lennon's motion. I think there are very few in Athlone who can say they have four sons all serving their country at the same time.
 The motion was passed in silence.
LATE TENDERS.
 The Clerk said he had received two tenders late. They were sent by express post

We cannot know if George Hickman converted the spoon himself or if someone else did so after his death. Another detail revealed by the press cuttings is that George was an apprentice blacksmith. Looking at the spoon/scrapper you get the impression that the conversion has been carried out by someone who knew how to work metal making it tempting to think that it is the work of apprentice blacksmith George Hickman. At some point in the future, when circumstances permit, it is hoped to re-unite the spoon/scrapper with the descendants of George Hickman. This is an ongoing story and we will no doubt report on it again.

Gallant Young Leinster
KILLED IN ACTION.

At the meeting of the Urban Council on Wednesday, on the motion of Mr. M. J. Lennon, seconded by the chairman, Mr. J. J. Coen, J.P., it was resolved that the sympathy of the Council be conveyed to Mr. John Hickman on the death of his son at the front. Four of Mr. Hickman's sons were with the colours. Two were wounded and one has now been killed.

Miss Hickman, sister of the deceased, has received the following letters announcing the death of her gallant brother—

10th March, 1916.

Dear Miss Hickman,—It is with the deepest sorrow I must tell you that your brother, Private G. Hickman, 4301 2nd Leinster, died about 12.45 a.m. on the 10th of March, immediately after admission into hospital from wounds in the head. I did not see him to administer the last Sacraments, but most likely he received them at the field ambulance. I buried him in our little cemetery, and said Mass for him and his comrades yesterday. May he rest in peace, and may God give you the grace to bear your trial.

Yours, Father Francis Newton, C.F.,
 17 C.C. Station, B.E.F.

F. Newton.
 No. 17 Casualty Clearing Station,
 B.E.F.
 16th March, 1916.

Dear Miss Hickman,—I am afraid I have some very sad news to break to you.

Your brother, Private G. Hickman, 4301, 2nd Leinster Regiment, was brought to this hospital last night unconscious, with very severe head wounds, and he died shortly after, without regaining consciousness.

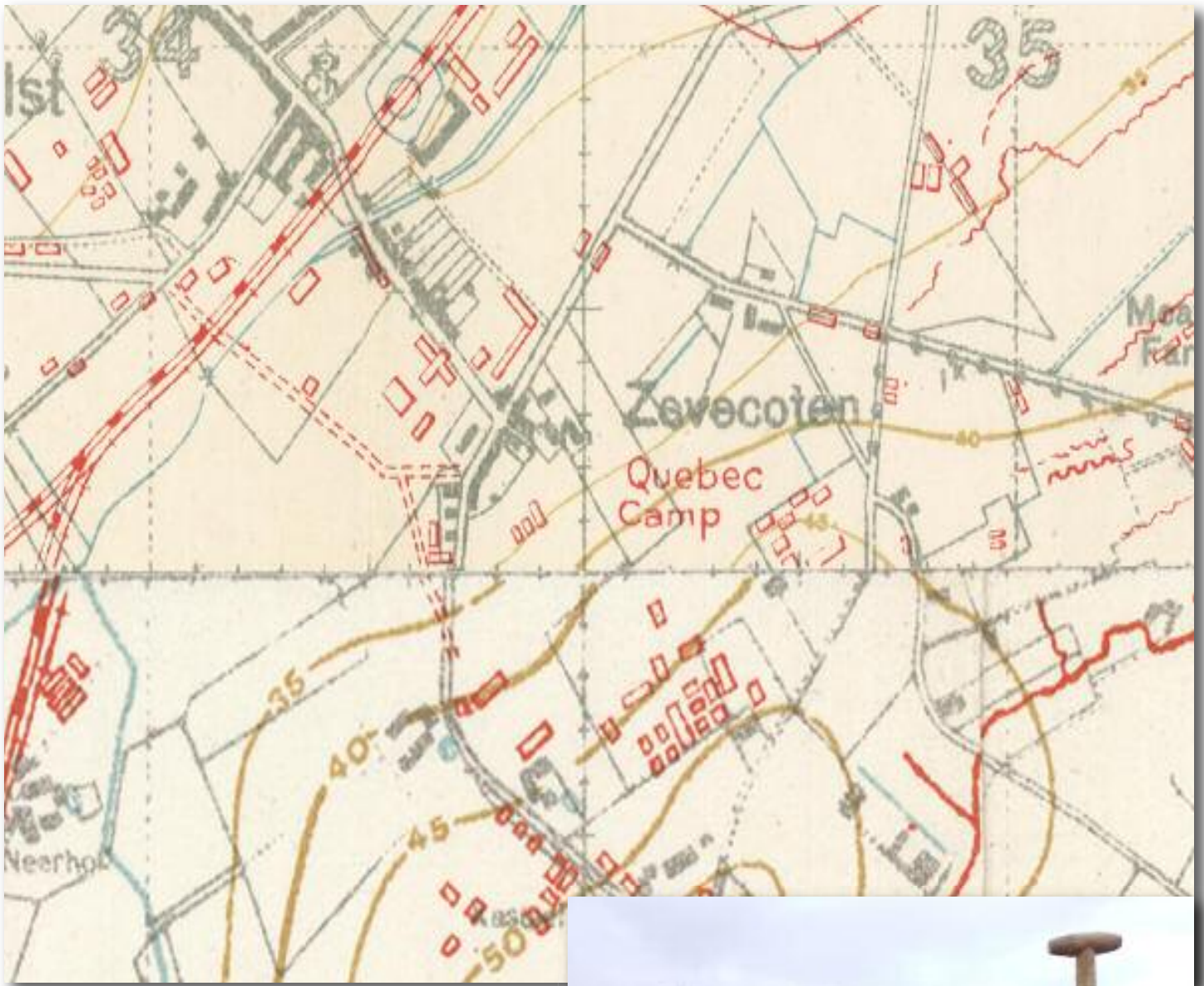
We found your address, and I thought you would break it to his mother, if she is still alive.

Everything was done for him that could be done, and he had every care and attention. I am so sorry for you all in your great sorrow.

Yours, with much sympathy,
 SISTER M. HOPTON
 Sister in Charge No. 17 C.C.S.
 Private Hickman, before volunteering for the war, was very popular in Athlone. He was an apprentice to the blacksmith trade in the engineering shop of Mr. Sloane, St. Mary's Square.

In the meantime it is remarkable to think that such a mundane item lost for over 100 years ago and found in a Belgian field could tell such a story.

Our thanks to Marcel Demarré and his colleagues and to Nick Soen and John Dowling for making the telling of this story possible.



An extract from a 1:10,000 trench map showing Quebec Camp close to the village of Reningelst. The modern road layout remains the same and it is possible to plot the location on a modern map.

The Iron Harvest

Chris with munitions recovered during the Reningelst dig. A job that must be left to the experts, no one knows what sort of condition these shells are in after 100 years in the ground and casualties still occur today. The Belgian Army regularly collects these finds and disposes of them safely. You must not touch or tamper with any battlefield find.



The Other Irish Division. Part I

When we think of Ireland's contribution to the Great War we tend to concentrate on the Western Front and the exploits of two divisions, the 16th (Irish) and the 36th (Ulster). However, there was a third, the 10th (Irish) Division, which despite being the original Irish New Army Division is less remembered having been raised in different circumstances and served exclusively away from the Western Front. In Part I of this article we will give the origins of the Division, its composition that included two battalions of Leinsters and its experiences up to the point where it sailed for the Mediterranean in the summer of 1915.

At the outbreak of war Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, had the foresight to realise that it was going to be a long war and that the army would require massive expansion to see it through. In 1914 there was two main components to the army, the regular force of around 250,000 men, many scattered in garrisons across the empire, and the territorial force of part-time 'weekend' soldiers who were supposed to provide the nucleus for the reinforcement and expansion of the army in time of war. This force, based on the regional and county regimental model, including the militia battalions of the Irish regiments, had only come into existence in its current form in 1908 and was considerably under strength and of varying quality. Kitchener and many professional soldiers doubted the effectiveness of the territorial force regarding it as little more than a weekend drinking club. Furthermore, the territorials were not obliged to serve overseas and were intended primarily for home defence duties. Kitchener's early decisions regarding the size and shape of the army needed for a long war proved to be both timely and correct. To avoid becoming entangled with the myriad of local interests and prejudices that characterised the territorial force he decided to create new armies of volunteers each of 100,000 men based on the existing regimental structure of the regular army. In common parlance these came to be known as K1, K2 and K3. The new armies were divided into regionally based divisions numbered from 9 onwards; thus the first new army or K1 consisted of the 9th (Scottish), 10th (Irish), 11th (Northern) and so on to the 14th (Light). The numbering sequence was picked up again in K2 with the 15th (Scottish) followed by the 16th (Irish) etc, although the regional affiliations tended to become diluted with the later divisions.

The early rush of volunteers was such that within a few weeks the ranks of K1 were filled, although there were



The divisional flash of 10th (Irish) Division. Deliberately non-political.

regional differences in the rates of recruitment with rural areas tending to be slower than the urban. The other two Irish divisions followed close behind the 10th but differed in that the origins of the 16th and 36th Divisions were rooted in the politics of Home Rule and drew a large proportion of their recruits from the para-military volunteer forces led by John Redmond and Sir Edward Carson. This is not the place to start dissecting the details of how the 16th and 36th Divisions came into existence or the details of their composition except to draw a clear distinction between the original ethos of the 10th Division and that of those that followed it. Unlike the other two Irish divisions the 10th carried no institutional political baggage and those who joined it, while they would undoubtedly have had a variety of individual political opinions, were motivated by a sense of duty, patriotism, the search for adventure or a dozen other motives rather than the pros and cons of home rule, the recruits left their political opinions at the barrack gate. The volunteers that made up the K1 divisions and battalions tended to be the most motivated, healthiest and often the best educated of their communities. Their ranks were stiffened by former soldiers rejoining either from the reserve or from earlier service, in either case providing a cadre of knowledge and experience. The battalions that made up the new divisions were numbered after the territorial and militia battalions of the established regiments. Thus in the case of the Leinsters, the New Army or as they came to be known "Service" battalions were numbered 6th and 7th following the two regular and three militia battalions. In the case of regiments who recruited in the major urban areas there would be many more, there were five service battalions raised by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

The original line up of the 10th Division was intended to compose battalions of all the regular Irish infantry regiments. The order of battle was as follows:-

- 29th Brigade 5th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment
6th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles
5th Battalion, The Connaught Rangers
6th Battalion, The Leinster Regiment

- 30th Brigade 6th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers
7th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers
6th Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers
7th Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers

- 31st Brigade 5th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
6th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
5th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers
6th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers

In addition there were the usual artillery, engineer, ambulance and supply units. The composition of a division was designed to be a complete, balanced fighting unit capable of sustaining itself in the field. In 1914 a fully equipped British infantry division contained around 18,000 men, 5,500 horses plus some motor transport and on the march occupied about 18 miles of road.

Much has been written about the men who volunteered for the New Armies, groups of men from the same communities, workplace or sports clubs joined, served and too often died together. The composition of one battalion of 10th Division is well documented, 7/Royal Dublin Fusiliers (RDF), particularly 'D' Company, this company was largely raised from among the Dublin rugby clubs. The ranks

of 7/RDF included bankers, barristers, medical and theology students, professionals and clerical workers of all sorts, even a couple of university professors. Many of these would later be promoted and commissioned and a substantial number did not return from the war. We can never know the effect of the loss of so many potential leaders had on Ireland during the testing years that were to come after the war. In contrast other recruits to 7/RDF were from among the Dublin dockers who given their recent record for striking and general militancy must have posed a disciplinary challenge. The Officers and Senior NCO's were drawn from a variety of sources, the HQ depots of the regular battalions, the retired and men at home on leave from the Indian Army or other overseas service to name but a few. Junior officers were recruited from university Officer Training Corps (OTC's), while the rest of the rank and file came from the traditional sources of the urban and rural manual workers. The rate of recruitment was generally slower in rural areas than in the major urban conurbations on account of the proximity of harvest time and the ongoing needs of agriculture. Recruitment in Ireland was also affected by the political situation. There were numerous examples of cross posting between the new divisions to make up numbers in undersubscribed units from the surplus of the oversubscribed. Some examples of this practice included 600 men from the Bristol area drafted into the Leinsters and a contingent of Yorkshire miners who became Munsters. In many cases these were men of Irish extraction and had no great difficulty identifying with an Irish regiment. However this cross-posting does



Volunteers for D Coy, 7th Royal Dublin Fusiliers parade at Landsdowne Road.



Head Quarters Staff 31st Infantry Brigade, Dublin, probably early 1915. Brigadier-General F F Hill CB, DSO seated centre. The 'civilian' is identified as the 'ADMS' - Assistant Director Medical Services - but not named.

complicate the debate as to how Irish were the Irish divisions. Bryan Cooper, a Staff Officer and early chronicler of the 10th, estimated that 90% of the Officers and 70% of the Other Ranks were either Irish born or of Irish extraction.

Command of the 10th Division, normally a Major-General's appointment, was given the Lt-Gen Sir Bryan Mahon DSO on account of his family background and identification with all things Irish. Sir Bryan, who had recently retired from the Army, came from a Galway family. He had started his career in the Connaught Rangers before serving in the 8th Hussars and distinguishing himself in various African campaigns. During the 2nd Boer War when he had led the column that relieved Mafeking becoming something of a popular hero. The Brigade Commanders were 29 Brigade, Brig-Gen Cooper, formerly of the Grenadier and Irish Guards, 30 Brigade, Brig-Gen Nichol, a Scot who had served in the Connaught Rangers and 31 Brigade, Brig-Gen Hill, late of the Royal Irish Fusiliers (the Faughs).

Because of a shortage of accommodation initial training was carried out in different locations around Ireland but tended to be based on the depots of the various regiments; the 6/Leinsters formed and trained in Birr. The Division finally came together at the Curragh in April 1915. During this time a change took place to the Division's order of battle, 5/Royal Irish Regiment left 29 Brigade to become the divisional pioneer battalion and was replaced by 10/Hampshires. The need for a divisional pioneer battalion, used for trench digging, road building and similar labouring duties, reflected the experience of near static warfare on the Western Front. At the beginning of May 1915 the Division left Ireland and moved to Hackwood Park near Basingstoke to complete its training prior to going on active service. By the end of June the Division was fully manned, equipped, trained and ready to go. It is worth pausing to note the remarkable achievement of producing a fully trained and equipped division from scratch in a matter of 10 months starting with raw civilians and a stiffening of experienced soldiers. Up to that point there had been a general expectation that the Division would serve in France but at the beginning of

July word was received that the Division was destined for the Dardanelles and probably to a certain amount of amusement tropical kit was issued.

The Division was destined to join IX Corps commanded by Lt-Gen Sir Frederick Stopford, a younger son of the Earl of Courtown. In turn, IX Corps was part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force under the overall command of Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton. As the personalities and background of these officers and that of Sir Bryan Mahon influences the fate of the Division in the coming months, it is appropriate to look briefly at their background. Stopford was 61 years of age in 1915. He had enjoyed a solid if unspectacular career starting in the Grenadier Guards and rising mainly through staff appointments to be General Officer Commanding (GOC) London District. At the time of his appointment to IX Corps he was not a healthy man. Stopford's superior and near contemporary was General Sir Ian Hamilton who had a distinguished career as a fighting soldier both in India and latterly Africa. He had done most of his regimental soldiering in the Gordon Highlanders and was twice recommended for the Victoria Cross. He was a well known public figure and had excellent connections to the 'great and the good' of the day, thanks in no small part to the efforts of his wife who endlessly promoted his cause around the drawing rooms of London. He regarded Irish troops with some suspicion, reckoning that they received preferential treatment from the War Office at the expense of his beloved Scots. There is also some evidence his lack of confidence in Sir Bryan

Mahon dating back to the South African War. Furthermore he did not think that Stopford was up to the job on account of his health and lack of operational experience. One thing all three men had in common was that they were in the twilight of their careers when fate threw them together in 1915. These appointments reflected the fact that there was a dire lack of suitably trained and experienced officers to fill staff and command positions in the rapidly expanding army of 1914/15.

The men of 10th (Irish) were probably blissfully unaware of these tensions as they set off from Liverpool by troopship. For many it must have been a great adventure with the promise of further excitement at the end of the journey. On their progress through the Mediterranean, they first called in at Malta and then at Alexandria where the Divisional artillery column was left behind and some other reorganisation of shipping arrangements took place. By mid-July, 29th and 30th Brigades had landed and were encamped on the island of Lemnos. They were followed by 31st Brigade who on account of the shortage of onshore accommodation remained onboard ship off the island of Mitylene. One common denominator of this period was the discomfort in which all lived, either on a primitive, sun baked, fly blown island or a stifling troopship.

In Part II of this article, which will appear in the next edition of 40 -10, we will follow the Division into action as it fights its way through the Gallipoli, Macedonian and Palestine campaigns.



5/Royal Irish Fusiliers on a route march during 10th Division's time at Hackwood Park, Basingstoke. Early Summer 1915.



Members and friends gather at St Patrick's Cathedral for the commemorative service.

The Leinsters were well represented at a Service in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, to commemorate the laying up of Colours of five Irish Regiments at Windsor Castle in June 1922.

More than thirty Association members and friends took part in a Choral Evensong in the impressive Medieval place of worship.

Association President, Sir Anthony Weldon Bt, flew in from Spain and linked up with Ireland members who travelled from all over the country for the commemoration.

Before King George V on the 12th June, 1922, the Regimental Colours of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Royal Munster Fusiliers, Connaught Rangers and the 18th Regiment of Foot Royal Irish Regiment (& South Irish Horse) passed, in the words of His Majesty, 'to be kept forever in the care of the King and his descendants.'

In St George's Hall, the King told the representatives of the disbanded Irish infantry regiments: 'You are called upon to part with them today for reasons beyond your control and resistance. By you and your predecessors these Colours have been revered and guarded as a sacred trust - which trust you now confide in me. "As your King I am proud to accept this trust. But I fully realise with what grief you relinquish these dearly-prized emblems; and I pledge my word that within these ancient and historic walls your Colours will be treasured, honoured, and protected as hallowed memorials of the glorious deeds of brave and loyal regiments.'

The Colour Party at Windsor Castle was from the 1st and 2nd Battalion and made up by Colonel of the Regiment, Major General G.F. Boyd; Colonel E. T. Humphreys; Lieutenant Colonel R.A.H. Orpen-Palmer; Captain T.B. Deane; Captain W.S. Caulfield; Captain T.E. Battersby; Lieutenant F.A. Levis; Company Sergeant Major A. Bradley; Company Sergeant Major J. Newton; company Quarter Master Sergeant A. Madden; Regimental Sergeant Major C.H. Smith; company Sergeant Major James Finn and Colour Sergeant John Cannon.

The Choral Evensong Service of Remembrance on 12th June was a moving occasion for regimental associations and their guests.

From the Association's perspective, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Margaret O'Morchoe, widow of our late President, Major General David The O'Morchoe, who was accompanied by Mrs Maureen Roberts. Members were also delighted to welcome Col. Jake Galuga, Canadian Defence Attache, who was renewing ties with the Association and heard plans to further mark the centenary of the laying up of Regimental Colours.

The first Lesson was read by Kevin Cunningham with Tom Burke, President, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers' Association, reading the Second Lesson, concluding with his emotional words: 'Welcome home lads.'

The Sermon was delivered by the Very Reverend K.R.J. Hall who recalled the Windsor Castle ceremony and the actions performed by the regiments during the First World War.

The Association members were led by Association President, Sir Anthony Weldon. Also present were Vice-President Comdt. Mick McGoona and Vice Chairperson, Denis Kirby.

After the Service, Sir Anthony said the Service was a most fitting and appropriate occasion and expressed his gratitude to the organisers.

Sir Anthony continued: "The 'Dubs' deserve great credit for the great effort that was put into organising this historic Service.

"I was delighted so many members attended to acknowledge the centenary of the laying up of Regimental Colours. Such is the level of interest that I have every confidence in saying that although we are now past the 100-year mark, the heroic deeds of our forefathers continue to resonate."

Vice-Chairperson, Denis Kirby, added his congratulations to the "Dubs", adding that the event was a fitting tribute to the thousands who served in Irish regiments and the tens of thousands who perished.

Denis added: "The Leinsters lost about 2,000 men in the war and in St Patrick's Cathedral we remembered and honoured their memory. It was a solemn occasion, one where we were able to reflect on the sacrifices they made and their immense contribution to liberate oppressed people.

"Laying up of Regimental Colours in 1922 represented the end of the Leinsters and for many soldiers, it was akin to a great personal tragedy. Our Association will keep the flame burning brightly as we look forward to commemorating and honouring the men who served."

Ray Hayden

Future Events

As the Chairman has already mentioned in his message at the time of going to press there is still no firm information about a commemorative event in Windsor. While this is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs it is one beyond the Association's control as we are dependant on other organisations to make the arrangements. As a result of this uncertainty the Committee have decided to postpone arranging a date for the AGM in the hope that an event in Windsor can be coordinated with the meeting. We will keep members informed through the usual channels as matters develop. There will be the usual round of commemorative ceremonies to mark Armistice Day and details of these will be published on our social media feeds as they become available.

As a further example of things getting back to normal we are pleased to say that the Association will again be contributing to Birr Vintage Week with a programme of events due to take place on Sunday 7th August. The day will consist of the AGM of the Ireland based section taking place in the morning. This will be followed by a talk given by member Gerry O'Meara on Martin O'Meara VC, an immigrant to Australia but originally from Lorrha, Co Tipperary. The venue for the meeting and the talk will be Birr Theatre. After lunch there will be a parade of the Disbanded Irish Regiment Association's standards and wreath laying at the 40 - 10 Memorial in Crinkill. The Templemore Pipe Band will provide music and it is hoped that Church, Government and Civic representatives will be in attendance. The day will be a high profile occasion and a fitting way to commemorate the centenary of the disbandments so please come and support what should be a memorable occasion. The programme for the day is as follows but

may be subject to some alteration so please check the Association social media feeds before making final plans. Our thanks to Denis Kirby, the team in Birr and elsewhere for making all this happen.

Sunday 7th August 2022.

10.30hrs LRA Ireland AGM. Birr Theatre.

11.30hrs Talk on the life and exploits of Martin O'Meara VC, AIF, given by Gerry O'Meara.

12.30hrs Informal lunch in The Thatch, Crinkill. (Booking through Denis Kirby - kirbydenis44@gmail.com is essential)

14.30hrs Colour parties and parade assemble.

15.00hrs Welcome Address by LRA Chairman, Lt-Col Mark Weldon followed by responses from the principal guests.

15.30hrs Addresses by Brian Kennedy on the disbandment of the Leinster Regiment and by Stephen Callaghan on the handing over of Crinkill Barracks to the Irish Army.

16.00hrs Wreath Laying, Exhortation, Past Post, Silence and Reveille.

16.15hrs. The Blessing followed by the march off.

16.30hrs Conclusion of events.

Remembering the Disbanded Regiments



Copyright Liaisons Gallery

The Association, in conjunction with Liaisons Gallery, recently took the lead in making available a commemorative picture to mark the centenary of the disbandment of the five southern Irish infantry regiments and the South Irish Horse. There is a limited edition of only 100 copies, signed by the artist for sale. The artist is Jon Starr BA who has produced military and aviation pictures as well as of other themes (music and television).

Further Details: Size. 65 x 43.5cm (the image size 57.5 x 29cm) The text is 11pt. Each print will be numbered, signed by the artist and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity.

Unframed Print	55.00
Postage & Packing	7.50
Total	<u>£62.50</u>

Framed Print	55.00
Framing	85.00 (By UK Frames)
Packing & Carriage	25.00
Total	<u>£165.00</u>

Postage and packing to Ireland and other countries is subject to individual quotation.

These prints will be sold on a first come, first served basis and you can reserve the number of your choice, subject to availability. There will never be another centenary in our lifetime and we do hope that you will take advantage of this very special offer.

All inquiries and orders should be directed to <https://frameuk.net> or www.framework.net

*** Please do NOT send orders or enquiries to the Leinster Regiment Association. ***

Committee and Post Holders July 2022

President	Sir Anthony Weldon Bt
Vice-Presidents	Mr David Ball Commandant Michael McGoona

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	marfordms@icloud.com
Association Secretary	Mr David Ball	theleinsters.4010@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Mr Robert Templeman	bob.templeman@btinternet.com

Members of the Ireland Committee

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	Mr Ken Geary *	kengeary@gmail.com
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	Mr Derek Coulter	derekcoulter@eircom.net
	Mr Chris Brummell	chrisbrummell@gmail.com

* Also members of the General Committee.

Annual Subscriptions

We'd like to remind all members that membership subscriptions become due on the 1st January. If you have already renewed yours, thank you for doing so. If you have not completed your renewal, please do so without delay. The subscription remains at £20 for UK residents and €25 for Irish residents. It would be much appreciated if you would pay by Standing Order as it greatly simplifies the administration for the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer. However, cheques in either currency may be sent to the Treasurer: Ian Lowe, 42 Woodridge Avenue, Marford, Wrexham, LL12 8SS. If you would like to switch your payment method to a standing order, please contact the Treasurer.

Help Required

The running of the Association falls on a very small number of people, some of whom are doing more than one job. We would be hugely grateful if more volunteers offered their services. Many hands make light work! The tasks are not onerous, yet the potential satisfaction is great. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the running of the Association please contact Mark Weldon, Denis Kirby or David Ball.

Thanks

The Editorial Team would like to thank all those who have contributed towards producing this journal: without your assistance it would not happen. A special thanks to Laetitia Barnes of Afterhours Artwork, for the layout and style of the journal.

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

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



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Weldon,
Chairman,
The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) Association.

Please convey my warm thanks to the Members of The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) Association for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their Annual Lunch which is being held today at the Civil Service Club to commemorate the Centenary of the disbandment of the Regiment.

I much appreciate your message and, in return, send my best wishes to all those who are present for a most memorable gathering.

ELIZABETH R.

11th June, 2022.