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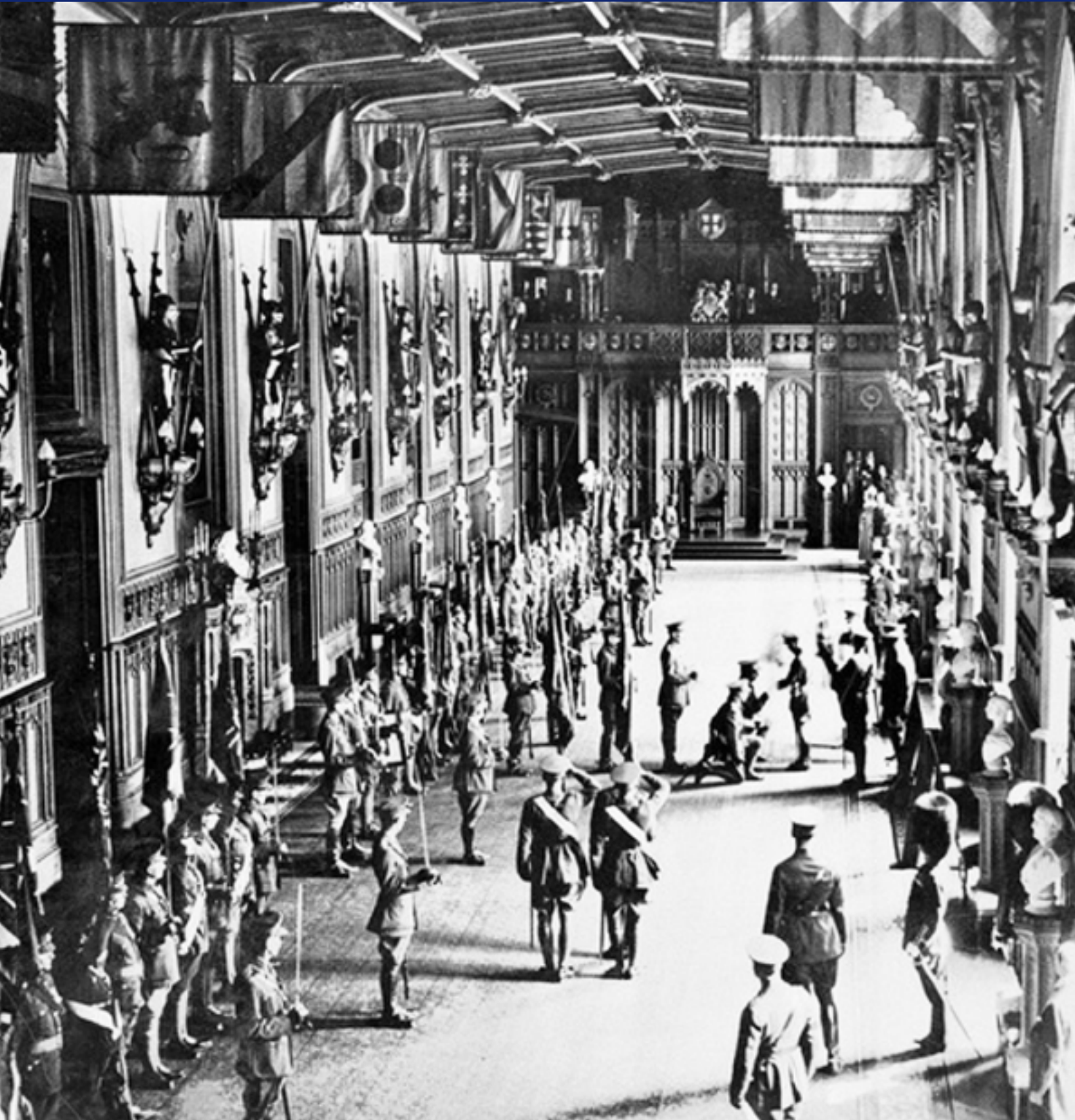


LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

From the Chairman

Welcome to 2022 which should be a momentous year for the Association. For almost two years now, our lives have been dominated by Covid: some have lost loved ones, all of us have been affected, if only by a deprivation of social contact. It was only towards the latter end of 2021 that the restrictions eased sufficiently for the Association to resume one of its primary functions: namely, to meet and mingle.

Within this edition are reports on the events we did manage to hold from September onwards: our Annual General Meeting and the Annual Commemorative Lunch. Our Christmas card heralded the centenary events to come. The year ended on an incredibly sad note with the passing of Lt Col Nick Weekes - our infallible researcher, historian, and author. Nick had faced his illness with characteristic pragmatism, always offering the best-case scenario. In reality, he knew his fate and with typical unselfishness, made a significant donation to our Association in the last six months of his life. A full obituary of Nick appears on Page 23. Nick, and his wife Frances, will be greatly missed as evidenced by all the moving tributes to him on social media. When restrictions permit, it is hoped that there will be a thanksgiving service for them both.



Lt N Weekes, Royal Irish Fusiliers.

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Front Cover Photo

The scene in St George's Hall, Windsor Castle, as the Colours of the disbanded Irish regiments are handed over to the safekeeping of H M King George V on the 12th June 1922.

So to 2022, and the centenary of the entrustment of Colours to His Majesty King George V and the disbandment of the Regiment. There is a detailed and insightful perspective on Pages 19-21. It is planned that each of the five disbanded Southern Irish Regiments will organise an event in Ireland to which the others can attend. To take just one example, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers are hosting a Service of Remembrance at St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. It will be held on the most significant day - Sunday 12 June, precisely 100 years following the handing over of the Colours. Not surprisingly, the Combined Irish Regiments Old Comrades Association (CIROCA) will hold their annual parade and march past at Whitehall on the same significant day. Details of our own commemoration in Ireland have yet to be finalised. It is our intention is that it should be focused on Birr.

The highlight of the Association's year should be an event at Windsor. The request made by CIROCA has been met with considerable favour in Royal circles, but their diaries have yet to be finalised. All we know now, is that the numbers attending will be restricted and it will be a ticket only affair. It is my intention to find a format that best suits our host and that the event should be open to the maximum possible attendance from the associations. Once the date is known, we will attempt to arrange other events so that those who have incurred significant travel and subsistence costs, get maximum value for their expenditure. More information will be

promulgated as soon as it is available.

It is also my aspiration that this coming year should not only be a celebration of the deeds of the disbanded regiments, but also the outstanding contribution that Irish soldiers of all ranks have made to the British Army. However, 2022 encompasses other significant anniversaries. There is the centenary of the establishment of the Irish Free State, the 40th anniversary of the Falklands' conflict and, it is Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. In this 'look forward', there are many details to be confirmed. I therefore conclude by encouraging you all to look at our social media sites which provide a much more flexible means of disseminating timely information. Just as we must learn to live with Covid/Omicron: we must all remain flexible in the knowledge that arrangements may change at short notice.

Finally, I would like to thank those who administer our Facebook and Twitter sites, members of our committees for their contributions, those who undertake representative duties on behalf of our Association, and Ray Hayden for ability to secure publicity. A special note of thanks is due to Ian Lowe, not only for being our Treasurer, but also the Editor of this biannual publication.

Ich Dien
Mark Weldon

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. (New)	15	18



(Poppy is
approx
1.5" high)



	£	€
New! Feather Hackle in Leinster Regiment colours. (Approx 5" high)	10	12

These are a special one off purchase and cannot be repeated so there is a strictly limited number available.

A Leinster Family Part II



Captain and Quartermaster William Howes 1914.

In the first part of this story we recounted the life of William Robert Howes who joined the old 100th Foot as a young man in 1872 and rose through the ranks eventually retiring in 1909 with the rank of Captain. At the time of his retirement he was serving as Quartermaster of the 5th Battalion, The Leinster Regiment, otherwise known as The Royal Meath Militia, based in Drogheda, Co Louth. Two years later the 1911 Census finds him living in Quay Street, Skerries, Co Dublin, a pleasant seaside village a few miles down the coast from Drogheda and just north of Dublin. The Census records who was actually in the house on the given date and on this occasion he was accompanied by his daughters Elsie, Doris and Millicent. William's wife Lucy, accompanied by her daughter Marjory, was visiting her sister Annie in "Maryborough" - now Portlaoise. Annie was married to Captain James Duffield of The Leinster Regiment, an indication of how the regimental "family" could become entwined with actual families. It is easy to think that William Howes might have felt content with life as he completed his census form, retired after a creditable Army career, with a large family around him, probably relatively

comfortably off and living in a quiet seaside village. Even if he was an avid follower of international developments he probably would not have guessed that within 3 years or so he would be back in uniform alongside his elder sons and involved in the most brutal war the world had experienced to date.

William wasted no time rejoining the colours on the outbreak of war. Records show that he was back in uniform on the 5th August 1914 as Quartermaster of the 5th Battalion of the Leinsters based in Crinkill Barracks. The 5th Leinsters never served overseas and spent the war on garrison duties in various stations around Ireland and England. William Howes would have been part of the permanent cadre retained at the regimental depot to look after recruitment, training, supply and other administrative details. Such duties were often carried out by what were somewhat disparagingly called "dug outs" i.e. old soldiers recalled from retirement. In 1914 William Howes would have been 57 and too old for active service. None the less his experience would have been a valuable resource and his value to the army recognised in the course of the war by promotion to the rank of Major. William left the army for a second time in November 1918 and went on to have a long retirement before his death in Dublin in 1945 at the grand old age of 88, Lucy, his wife of 65 years, died a year later.

William and Lucy had a typically large Victorian family of 11 children 3 boys and 8 girls born variously in India and Ireland depending on where the Regiment was stationed at the time. By the outbreak of war the three boys were old enough to join up and did so no doubt encouraged by a combination of patriotism and the example set by their father. Thomas, the youngest son, joined the Canadian army in July 1915 during a visit to that country where his sister Elsie was already living. He was posted to the 60th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force otherwise known as the Victoria Rifles of Canada. By February 1916 he was with the rest of his battalion in France. The 60th Bn CEF was part of the famous 3rd Canadian Division, commanded by another Irishman Maj-Gen Louis Lipsett. In September 1916 Thomas was wounded in the hand during the Battle of Flers - Corcelette, a part of the Battle of the Somme, best remembered for the first use of tanks. Although a hand wound sounds relatively innocuous this turned out to be a severe injury, Thomas was repatriated to England and he was to spend the next 14 months in and out of hospitals and convalescent facilities. Eventually he was discharged but deemed unfit for "general duties" i.e. frontline service but capable of

being employed at base and was transferred to the Canadian Army Medical Corps. It is possible that he was employed as a clerk which was his calling in civilian life. Thomas had a further stay in hospital in late 1918 as a result of contracting Spanish Flu which was then raging throughout the world. He was discharged from the army in 1919 and remained in England having previously married a girl called Grace from Epsom in Surrey. In 1921 Grace and Thomas had a daughter but unfortunately Thomas died less than a year later

had taught at schools in Ireland and England. The Irish Census of 1911 shows him as a live-in schoolmaster at The Royal School, Cavan where his younger brother Thomas was a pupil at the same time. During this period he signed the Ulster Covenant pledging support for the Unionist cause thereby making his political allegiances clear. On the outbreak of war he seems to have wasted no time in joining his father's old regiment the Leinsters. However as a man of maturity and education he was soon commissioned and found



Captain William Howes and two of his sons. Sgt. H A Howes and 2/Lt C W Howes.



2/Lt H A Howes MM with his wife Mary.

seemingly during a visit to Ireland. His death was attributed to his war service. Thomas Howes's story illustrates the fact that a significant proportion of members of the Dominion forces that were raised to fight in the Great War were actually born in the British Isles and retained close ties to their homeland.

The eldest son of William and Lucy was Charles William who was already 27 in 1914 and had established a career as a schoolmaster. He was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and prior to the war

himself serving in the 19th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry. 19/DLI was referred to as a Bantam Battalion made up of men who were not tall enough to qualify for the army in normal circumstances; the minimum height at the time was 5'3". A large proportion of the recruits would have been miners from the Durham coalfield and a number would have been of Irish extraction. As the war progressed the Bantam Battalions gradually lost their original identity and became normal Service Battalions. Charles Howes ascent through the ranks was relatively rapid, a testament to his abilities as an officer,

by early 1918 he was a substantive Captain and acting Major. Having previously seen action at the Somme and Ypres Charles Howes was killed on the 22nd April 1918 during one of the last spasms of the German offensive that began on the 21st March. He was buried in Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension not far from Albert in the Somme region. To compound the tragedy his wife Mable had given birth to a daughter a few weeks before, father and daughter would never meet in this life. Charles is remembered on memorial plaques in St Brendan's Church, Birr and in Holmpatrick Church, Skerries, Co Dublin. He is also remembered on the family tombstone in Skerries that include his parents and some of his siblings. The tombstone carries the badge of the Durham Light Infantry rather than that of The Leinsters that you might expect.

Henry Austin Howes was the 4th child and 2nd son of William and Lucy, he was born in 1892 while the family were in Agra, India. There is no sign of him in the Irish Census of 1911 which suggests that either he was already in the Army or in some other employment outside Ireland. People who were living in institutions including army and police barracks were usually only enumerated using their initials and therefore are difficult to trace in the census records. From the available information we do know that by 1914 he was an acting Corporal in the 1st Battalion, The Leinster Regiment and that he went to France with his battalion in December 1914. Like many others the appalling conditions that 1/Leinsters endured around St Eloi during the winter of 1914/15 took their toll on Henry Howes and in February 1915 he was hospitalised with "Influenza and Rheumatism". He was wounded on the 15th May 1915 during the 2nd Battle of Ypres. According to the Regimental history the Battalion was supposed to be out of the line resting at this time. However they had been recalled to dig a new trench system, work that had to be done at night and under machine gun fire. An added difficulty was that they were digging in a wooded area which involved much hacking through tree roots. It seems likely that Henry Howes, by now a full Sergeant, received his wound during this process. For some reason he did not accompany his battalion when it moved to Salonika in December 1915. It is possible that he was still convalescing from his injuries as he seems to have joined the 3rd Battalion which was based in Ireland. In August 1916 he married Mary Cooke, daughter of John Cooke sometime Band Master of the Leinsters and living in Crinkill. (*There is no traceable connection of this family to that of the late Sean Cooke also of Crinkill, well known to many LRA members. Ed.*)

Sergeant Henry Howes returned to active service with

the 2nd Battalion in time to take part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres that commenced on the 31st July 1917. The Battalion took part in the initial attack and suffered heavily with a particularly high proportion of Officer casualties, 8 were killed and 9 wounded (out of a total of around 30). Other Ranks casualties were 28 killed, 149 wounded and 53 missing. This was to be the only significant part that 2/Leinsters played in 3rd Ypres. During that August they were in the front line for a couple of brief periods that were relatively quiet. The War Diary for August 1917 of the 2/Leinsters includes a list of "Honours and Rewards awarded during the month of August 1917". It lists 1 DSO (to Lt-Col A D Murphy MC), 3 DCM's and 12 Military Medals including one to Sgt. H A Howes. There is no indication as to what the award was for but the balance of probability is that it was for gallant conduct during the attack on the 31st July/1st August. The entry in the London Gazette appeared on the 28th September 1917. He was reported wounded again on the 28th August when according to the War Diary the Battalion was undergoing "Training & general clean up" following a 3 day stint between the 23rd and 26th in the front line during which 4 Other Ranks had been wounded, it is possible that Henry was one of these.

The next major event in Henry's career was being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant dated from the 11th October 1917. It looks as if this commission may have been in the field as there is no record of him having attended an Officer Cadet Training Unit. As a regular NCO with 6 years service there was probably not a lot an OCTU could teach him and the need for experienced junior leaders was pressing. In February 1918 he was again admitted to hospital possibly suffering from trench fever. More research is needed to discover how Henry Howes spent the final months of the war, he is not included by Frank Hitchcock in his apparently comprehensive list of 2nd Battalion Officers present on the 17th August 1918 at the start of the 4th Battle of Ypres and the final advance that appears in "Stand To".

In April 1919 Henry Howes, by now back with the 1st Battalion was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant and in October of that year the Battalion sailed for India and were stationed at Madras. There, during 1921, the Battalion took part in the suppression of the Moplah Rebellion, a short but intense episode of widespread civil disturbances. The fateful year of 1922 dawned with a red letter event; a visit by the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Prince of Wales which occurred on the 13th January 1922. It was during this visit that Henry renewed a brief acquaintance with the Prince dating from their time in the trenches. At the same time as this

important event rumours were swirling around regarding the fate of the southern Irish Regiments following the signature of the Anglo-Irish treaty. In preparation for this event the Battalion returned to England in April 1922. At about this time Henry retired from the Army having by now attained the rank of Captain and returned to Ireland and his family.

Henry Howes now faced the same problems that many other returning ex-Service men faced in Ireland at the time, in possible personal danger for being on the wrong side of history and having a wife and family to provide for in a land racked by political upheaval and economic decline. Like many others he choose to make a new start by immigration to Canada where Henry and Mary were to remain with their growing family. Henry made a career for himself in what we now call the telecommunications industry. Two of their sons William and Henry served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy respectively during the 1939 - '45 war, Henry Austin Howes died in Toronto in 1958. Although their descendants remain for the most part in Canada they retain an interest and a certain nostalgia for their family roots in these islands.

You can find examples of a tradition of service in many families but it is unusual to find an example that is quite so well documented over such an extended period and encompassing so many significant historical events. The service of the Howes family spans the life of The Leinster Regiment and beyond and as we stand on the threshold of the centenary of the disbandment of the Regiment it is appropriate that they should represent many other unrecognised examples of family service.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Bill and David Howes in the preparation of these articles.

* *Note on sources for research.* If you are researching family who served in the Canadian Armed Forces we can recommend searching them out on the Library and Archives of Canada website at [HTTPS://www.bac-lac.gc.ca](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca) Unlike British records these have survived intact and are available free to view online. As an example Thomas Howes, as above, who served in the 60th Battalion CEF has a file running to 63 pages all available to view online.



H. R. H. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment & Officers of the 1st Battalion, Madras 1922.
Back Row: Lt. The Rajah of Venkatagiri, Lt. E. Horvey, Lt. H. French, Lt. R. Johnston, Capt. A. Dobbie, Capt. D. Hayes, M.B.E., Lt. W. S. Bagnall.
Second Row: Lt. H. Howes, M.M., Lt. A. Duncan, M.C., Lt. H. Biles, Lt. R. Stirling, Lt. F. Hitchcock, M.C., Lt. J. Whitlo, Lt. P. Keating, M.C., Capt. M.R. Macnamara.
Front Row: Capt. A.G. Palin, Capt. J. Macartney, M.C., Maj. H. Gage, Col. Comdt. E. Humphreys, C.M.G., D.S.O., H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, K.G., Maj. R.N. Raynsford, D.S.O., Capt. T.B. Deane, Capt. G.D. Bailey, M.C., Capt. P. McEnroy, D.S.O., M.C.

The Great War, Battle of Ginchy: From the Perspective of Patrick Joseph Ahern



Damien with Mr John Kennedy (Principal) and Ms Fidelma Foy (Deputy Principal), St Brendan's Community School, Birr.

Birr pupil's success with Leinster Regiment themed essay.

The following essay was written by a young man called Damien Delaney, the great-great grandson of Lt Patrick Ahern of The Leinster Regiment. It was written as an entry for the Decade of Centenaries of Irish History essay competition held in 2021. The story is told in his own words and we reproduce it here in its entirety. Damien is 16 years old and is a 5th year pupil at St Brendan's Community School, Birr. It is encouraging to see that interest in events of over 100 years ago is being taken up by a new generation. Our hearty congratulations to Damien on his success and our thanks for allowing us to share his work with you.



The 'Decade of Centenaries' Irish History Competition 2021

Introduction & Background (1875-1890)

My name is Damien Delaney. In the following essay I will be speaking about my great-great-grandfather, Patrick Joseph Ahern. I will be giving a background and talking you through his journey to war with an emphasis on his role in the Battle of Ginchy during the Battle of the Somme in September 1916.

Patrick Joseph (P J) Ahern was born on the 22nd March 1875, in Thurles, Co Tipperary. His family were relatively well off, and he studied at Mount St Joseph Abbey, a private boarding school on the outskirts of Roscrea, Co. Offaly. P J was a big man, a strong man – a man who had set his sights on enlisting in the army at a young age. The age at which he did this was also premature, like most young men going into war he wasn't of age. At age 15 P J escaped Mount St Joseph Abbey to arrive at the Crinkill Barracks in Birr. He walked this journey, which would have been just over three hours – that's if he didn't get lost along the way. He enlisted into the army in 1890 at the age of 15 on the 3rd September. He lied on his service papers saying he was 18 years old.



Patrick Joseph Ahern in uniform.

Service Before WW1 (1890 - 1912)

P J Served 21 years as a professional soldier, reaching the rank of Sergeant Major. He served in the Second Anglo Boer War and received the Queen's South Africa Medal. He also received the 1911 Coronation Medal for attending the coronation of George V and

his wife Mary as king and queen of the British Empire and the United Kingdom on the 22nd June 1911 which took place at Westminster Abbey in London. This was quite prestigious and would've been a great honour to be selected to attend such an event. He was discharged from the army in December 1912.

Intermediate Years (1912 -1914)

The majority of Patrick's time spent during the intermediate years was spent training the National Volunteers. As an ex- Sergeant Major, he was very familiar with training and various drills. He was qualified in musketry (which was the technique of handling a musket), army signalling and army physical training.

Leinster Regiment

The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) was formerly known as the 100th Regiment of Foot and 109th Regiment of Foot. The Leinster Regiment, a British infantry regiment was raised in 1857 to serve in India. The Regiment served in places such as Canada, England, Gibraltar and Malta. It wasn't until 1881 that the Regiment was reformed. The 100th Regiment of Foot was retitled 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) and the 109th Regiment of Foot was renamed the 2nd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) During World War One, the Regiment raised 2 Battalions. It had already consisted of 2 regular battalions and 3 reserve battalions. During the Great War they won 32 battle honours and 4 Victoria Crosses, with 1,980 soldiers at the cost. The 7th Battalion, the Battalion in which Patrick Joseph Ahern fought with in the war was disbanded at Tincourt on the 14th February 1918, with troops going to the 2nd Leinster Battalion and the 19th Entrenching Battalion. However as you will soon find out, Patrick Joseph Ahern didn't live long enough to see this disbandment.

7th Battalion: Leinster Regiment (1914 - 1918)

Patrick Joseph Ahern was involved in setting up the 7th (Service) Battalion, Leinster Regiment in Fermoy, County Cork. He was with them from their formation when it was raised in October 1914. This was part of Kitchener's Second New Army and joined the 47th Brigade, 16th (Irish) Division. In January 1915 the battalion moved to Kilworth Camp, not far from Fermoy. Subsequently, they arrived in England in September 1915. Once they arrived in England, they went to Blackdown, Hampshire. Here they undertook their final training. Their last stop before proceeding to

France was Southhampton on the 16th December 1915. On the 18th of December 1915 at 7am the Battalion arrived in Le Harve right on the coast of France. The group spent some time there, getting some food before moving North. They moved North by train, detraining at Choques at 9:40pm on the 19th December 1915 before marching on foot to Gosnay, where they arrived at 11:20pm on the 19th December 1915 after travelling by train. P J celebrated his final Christmas Day, 25th December 1915 in a billet. At 10:15 that morning the soldiers were involved in a church parade at Gosnay.

Over the next few days, the soldiers travelled between, Philosophie, Gosnay, Verquin, Minx and Laires. A conference was held at 3pm in Verquin on the 27th of December, where plans were further laid out and more details given about what all ranks should know and be able to do. Information about flags carried in motorcars, transport, books, arms and map reading was noted as being key information from the event. A harsh 8 months would be ahead of these soldiers, totally oblivious of what they had really gotten themselves into and what was about to go down. It wasn't until September of the following year when a great victory came for the Battalion, a victory that came at great cost, a price that included the life of Lieutenant Patrick Joseph Ahern.

Battle of Ginchy

The Battle of Ginchy was a battle that took place during the Battle of the Somme on September 9th 1916. It was launched in advance of the main September offensive, the Battle of Flers - Courcellette to push the British front line nearer to the main German defences. The 7th Battalion left it until late afternoon before making their advancement, a serious push was met with a heavy response of artillery. The battlefield had become a blood bath, with Patrick Joseph Ahern in the centre of the action. Below I talk through the movements of the 7th Battalion, Leinster Regiment, a log of movements that for some were a final journey.

1st of September

At this stage, the Battalion had arrived at Guillemont. They had secured a significant area of trenches and nothing of further importance was noted on this day.

2nd of September

The Battalion remained in a secure position in the trenches. They received orders for the attack on

Guillemont for the 3rd of September, the next day. The message had been received from the 16th Divisional Commander stating, "The Divisional Commander sends his best wishes to the officers and men of the 47th Brigade and knows that their actions tomorrow will go down in history". The message was from Major General Sir William Hickie, a man native of Terryglass in Co Tipperary, a place not far from Crinkill Barracks where P J Ahern's journey as a soldier began at the tender age of 15 in 1890. When he said the events about to unfold would go down in history, he wasn't wrong.

3rd of September

The events that Sir William Hickie had mentioned a day earlier were about to unfold, history was happening, the plan was on paper but now the plan was in action. The Battalion moved into its assembly trenches at an early start of 4am. At 12 noon the attack commenced and the Battalion achieved its first objective to reach Brompton Road. At 12:40pm the Battalion moved forward towards their second objective, reaching Green Street, which it also made good with little to no problems. They had done particularly good work pushing forward through their own barrage and clearing the village. They got as far as the Crossroads, East of Guillemont. It is noted that Captain H F Downing was killed at approximately 1pm by rifle fire. The Battalion, here, held onto its position with "comparative ease". Great difficulty, however was experienced in the evacuation of the wounded. A great number of fatalities are listed here. The village of Ginchy was captured, but a great list of fatalities soon emerged after a German counter-response to the takeover caused a pushback out of the village.

4th of September

Unsafe to move, the Battalion remained in its position at Guillemont. It was after undergoing heavy pushbacks, while they persevered, many men died. To avoid further major casualties, the Battalion remained in its position awaiting relief, due to come the next day before giving it all they had and pushing in to finally capture the village of Ginchy and push out the Germans.

5th of September

As planned, and with reassurance, the Battalion was relieved at 6am by the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and proceeded into Garnoy. They were complimented by the Brigadier commanding the 47th Brigade for their action at Guillemont. Casualties during this amounted to 10 officers and 219 other ranks.

6th & 7th September

The Battalion remained where they were with "very fine weather". The Battalion moved to La Briquerie and Major H W Gaye assumed command of the battalion.

8th of September

The Battle of Ginchy, a suicide mission for some, was becoming a reality. As time crept forward, the Battle as we know today was about to take place. What P J and the troops didn't know was that they weren't going to be pushed back by the Germans anymore and they would take control of the village. Unfortunately, this would come at a great cost, with a huge amount of men of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Leinster regiment losing their lives. Among them would be Patrick Joseph Ahern, whose story we follow. The Battalion moved up into the line and dug itself into the East of the Cemetery on the East side of Guillemont. They arrived in the position at 10:30pm. Presumably exhausted, the men finished this work at 5am on the 9th September.

9th of September

The 9th of September 1916 had arrived, unknown to these men what would come of the day, plans were set in action and a final push was about to follow. The Battalion was in local reserve. In a brilliant plan, the Battalion left it until late afternoon before they would advance. This gave the Germans the idea that they were waiting out and weren't going to perform the advancement that day. It also meant, that by waiting out until later in the evening, the Germans would have little time to react and counterattack the advancement being made by the 7th Battalion. It left its assembly trenches at 4:45pm and moved to take over the line held by the 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers in the trenches East of the Crossroads which were situated East of Guillemont. These trenches had been evacuated by the Battalion at that time. The 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers who were unable to move were joined by 7th Leinsters in the trenches. The advance was checked by heavy rifle and machine gun fire and the battalion was unable to move. The battalion head quarters remained in position at the cemetery.

Conclusion

At the age of 41, on the 9th of September Lieutenant Patrick Joseph Ahern died in battle. He died as a patriot, a man of honour, a man of courage and a display of excellence to all he trained and guided. It was in the final push to capture the small village of Ginchy that Patrick lost his life. Not long after his death, two



Photo of Patrick & Mary Ahern.

suiting men turned up at the door of Mary Ellen Ahern, the wife of Patrick Joseph Ahern who resided in Townsend House in Birr. Devastated by the loss of her husband, Mary Ellen Ahern requested a combined photo of the two. By this I mean she got a photo of herself and a photo of Patrick and had it combined into one single photo. If you are unaware of this, it would seem as if the pair were in the same room when the photo had been taken. Grieving his premature departure, in his memory she received a collection of his materials from war such as his musket, his sword, his uniform and a collection of his writings all still in fantastic condition. She was able to add all of these to her already impressive collection of his books and such from the 21 years he spent travelling the world as a soldier prior to his embarkment in World War One after being part of the creation of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Leinster Regiment. Patrick, while a soldier, loved English and loved poetry, it was something he had apparently done in his free time!

Remembrance 2021

After the many cancellations and disappointments of 2020 it was encouraging to be able to return to the familiar customs of remembrance this year. Association members were active in attending and participating in remembrance ceremonies around the United Kingdom and Ireland. On the opposite page we show a selection of photos recording some of these events.

Noteworthy among them is the story behind the photo of the young man, Aidan Farrell, and his family shown opposite, top right. Aidan is 9 years old and lives in Billericay, Essex. He recently wrote to James Heapey MP, Minister for the Armed Forces, explaining that his great-great grandfather Pte Peter Murphy had served with the 2nd Leinsters and had been killed in action on the 27th March 1918 during the great German offensive of that time. Aidan's letter explains that he is reading about the Great War and what it was like to serve in it. In the course of his research he has discovered his relationship to Private Murphy and that he would like to pay tribute to him by attending the Cenotaph Ceremony on Remembrance Sunday. His letter triggered an impressive trail of emails that whistled around Whitehall before eventually landing in the inbox of our own David Ball. Our ever resourceful

Secretary, his little black book and Chairman Mark Weldon swung into action and in due course all was arranged. We don't know much about Peter Murphy's story but what we do is familiar. He was born and enlisted in Navan and is listed as Killed in Action on the 27th March 1918. This was a day of intense action for the 2nd Leinsters during which they moved to three different positions as they and the rest of 16th (Irish) Division tried to stem the German advance. At the time the battalion was near to the village of Proyart close to the River Somme. Like so many of his comrades Private Murphy is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing of the 5th Army. It is encouraging to see one so young taking an interest in what to him must seem like ancient history and it helps to give us some confidence in the future of Remembrance as we know it.

The Committee would like to thank the many members who took part in the various ceremonies and who helped to organise wreaths and events. In addition to the primary purpose of remembering it was important to reestablish the occasions and traditions of the day after last year's lay off.



The Association was represented at many remembrance ceremonies around Britain and Ireland. Here are some photos from London, Dublin, Cork, Northampton, Athy and Portlaoise.



Memorial Service for Maj-Gen David The O'Morchoe CB CBE



‘A family man, a soldier, a peace maker, a peacekeeper, a diplomat, a bridge-builder, a gentleman, a friend. For all of that, we give you our heartfelt thanks.’- Brigadier Adrian Naughten, (The Royal Irish Fusiliers).

St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral in Ireland’s ecclesiastical capital, Armagh, was the venue for a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of our esteemed past President, Major-General The O’Morchoe CB CBE, during Remembrance weekend.

Observing social distance rules, family, friends and colleagues gathered to pay tribute to David who died at his home in Gorey, County Wexford, in November, 2019 at the age of ninety-one. Because of the pandemic, the Service celebrating his life could only take place during Remembrance Weekend.

David was President of the Prince of Wales’s Leinster Regiment Association which he guided with the same widely recognised and admired skill set that was so much a characteristic of his years of distinguished military service.

The Association was represented at the Armagh Service by Ireland Chairman, Denis Kirby accompanied by other Ireland and General Committee members.

Civic leaders in attendance were the Deputy Lieutenant for Armagh, Col Hubert McAllister, OBE TD, and the Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Alderman Glenn Barr.

Very Reverend Canon Shane Forster read the Service and delivered the Sermon while the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Most Reverend John McDowell, led the Prayers and gave the Blessing.

Readings were delivered by Ray FitzGerald, (The Friendly Brothers of Saint Patrick) and Col Darren Doherty, (The Royal Irish Regiment). The Gospel was read by Lt James Patterson, (The Parachute Regiment). The Act of Remembrance was recited by Lt-Col Ken Martin, President, the Royal British Legion, Republic of Ireland with the Last Post and Reveille played by Bugler L Cpl Whiteside.

A beautiful and moving musical tribute was played by family members. Piper Rgr Sommerville played ‘Eileen Alannah’ as the Standard of the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Portadown Branch) was processed through the Cathedral in recognition of the fact that David was originally commissioned into the ‘Faughs’ and that they had their depot in Armagh.

A close friend of David’s, Brigadier Adrian Naughten, (The Royal Irish Fusiliers), delivered the Eulogy. In a wide-ranging address, he recounted details of the Clan Chief’s military career and some insightful stories of his undoubted leadership style and dedication to duty.

Brigadier Naughten told the congregation: “David was an extremely professional soldier, demanding the highest standards of all those who served with him”.

“Woe betide the officer who did not know and look after his soldiers. Woe betide the officer who was idle, in uniform or on the sports field. Woe betide the officer who slacked when doing Irish dancing or who misbehaved at social events”.

“...He will long be remembered by all who served alongside him as an honourable, courteous, dedicated, hardworking, utterly unselfish and professional man – a view held not just by the Officers and soldiers but also by the families.”

Adrian went on to recount some of David’s remarkable achievements, he was appointed Adjutant on three occasions. He was the last CO of the Faughs and the

only CO of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Irish Rangers before taking command of 16 Parachute Brigade. His final command was that of the Sultan of Oman's army. "I would suggest that it would be difficult for anyone to match such variety," said the Brigadier.

David had been selected for a job in the Ministry of Defence, but he chose loyalty to his family which was of paramount importance.

Adrian set out David's work with charities such as SSAFA and his passionate devotion to his work with the British Legion. Remembrance and sacrifice always came readily to the surface whenever his name was mentioned.

"It can be rightly said that one of his greatest lifetime achievements - and there were many - was how he helped this whole country of ours to remember well and to connect the meaning of healing with the meaning of peace.

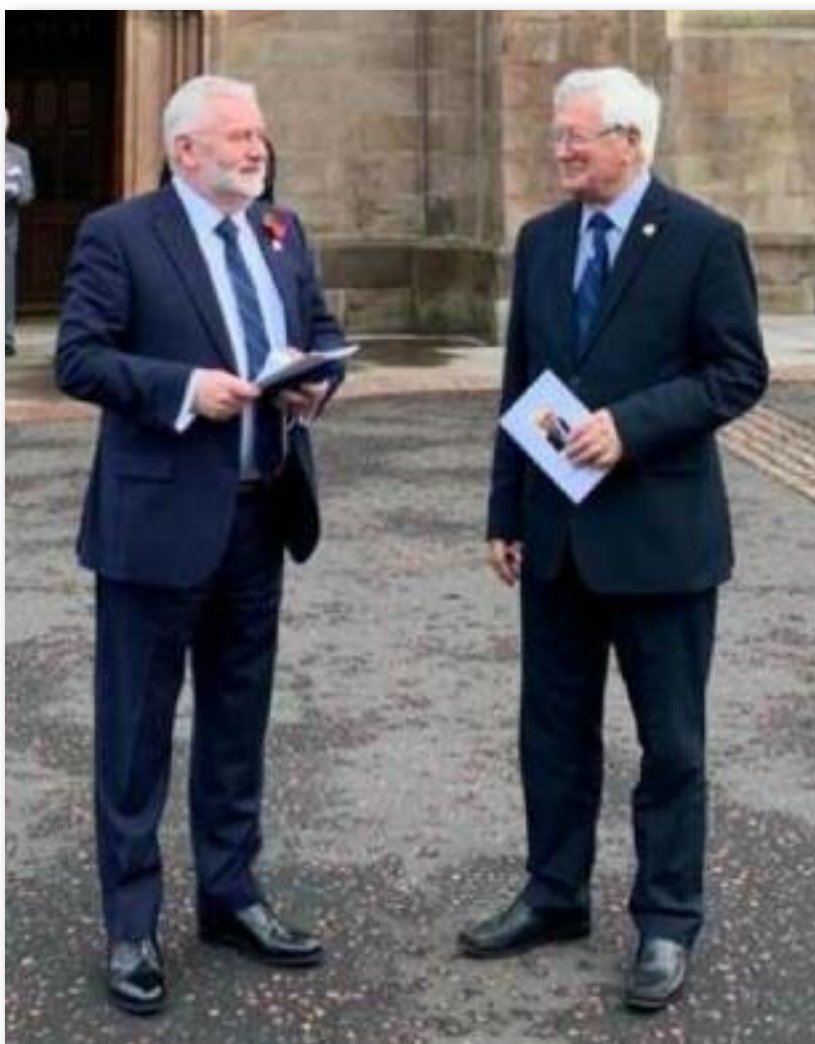
"He did so as an Irish Chieftain, long in British uniform, but always an Irishman. He saw it as a duty to remember the thousands of Irish volunteers and that duty, performed with such unapologetic and

determined graciousness, was well recognised by the presence at his funeral not only of an array of both military and political figures from throughout Ireland, but also by the attendance of representatives from both the offices of the President and the Taoiseach."

Adrian went on to set out David's work to build greater understanding and reconciliation; the work he did in support of the Irish Government in developing the Somme Commemoration and the 'major role' he played during the visit to Ireland by Her Majesty The Queen in 2011.

Adrian also spoke of David's dear wife, Margaret, and family and recalled the words spoken by Bishop Michael Burrows in 2019 when, as well as extolling the virtues of David for his outstanding work with the Church of Ireland, referred to him as follows: 'A courteous, good humoured, sensible, intelligent, strategic thinking person capable of seeing the bigger picture. An utter gentleman whose graciousness in later life was the fruit of his discipline in uniformed service of an earlier life.'

Ray Hayden



Committee members Ray Hayden and Denis Kirby representing the Association at Maj-Gen David O'Morchoe's Memorial Service.

An Alternative Holiday Visit

For many years I have combined a summer holiday trip to the Continent with a visit to a site of historical interest usually with a Great War or other military theme. For all the well known reasons this was not practical during 2021, possibly to the relief of other members of my family. However a “staycation” in Devon and Somerset gave me the opportunity to realise a long held wish to visit the village of Mells near Frome in Somerset, at first glance an unlikely looking place to find “history”.

Mells is a quintessentially English village that nestles deep in the green lanes of north Somerset. Mentioned in the Domesday Book it is on the road to nowhere except the next village and then the one after that. You get the feeling that time has stood still and you half expect to meet Miss Marple cycling by on her way to solve her next case except that nothing so vulgar as a murder would ever happen in Mells. The village is mainly built around the church and the manor house, the pub and village shop are a stone’s throw from each. The buildings are predominately made of the local warm coloured limestone and even the village hall dates from the 14th century. It owes its fame to its association with the Horner family and their connections with some of the great names of late 19th and early 20th century art, design and the political and intellectual life of the nation. The Horners were reputedly descended from “Little Jack Horner” of nursery rhyme fame and were settled in the village from around 1543 providing generations of distinguished service to county and country. On the outbreak of war in 1914, Edward, the only surviving son of the manor dutifully saddled up and went to war with his yeomanry regiment. Edward Horner served with distinction being severely wounded at Ypres before turning down a staff job in order to return to the front where he was killed in 1917 during the Battle of Cambrai while serving with the 18th (Queen Mary’s Own) Hussars and without leaving an heir. In the meantime his sister Katharine had married Raymond Asquith, son of the Prime Minister H H Asquith. Raymond Asquith was killed at Ginchy while serving with the Grenadier Guards and in due course the manor of Mells passed into the ownership of the descendants of Katharine and Raymond in whose possession it remains. In addition to public service the Horners and Asquiths gathered around them a circle of friends and acquaintances drawn from the cultural and intellectual elite of the time and so it was when it came to memorialising the dead they were able to call on the best available talent.



Memorial to Lt Edward Horner.

Thus, as you walk into the parish church of St Andrew you are immediately confronted by a large equestrian statue standing on a stone plinth depicting Lt Edward Horner in full service kit. The statue is the work of Sir Alfred Munnings, best known for his equestrian paintings, this is one of only two statues that he produced. The plinth on which it stands is by Sir Edwin Lutyens and is recognisably related to and predates his Cenotaph in Whitehall. On an adjacent wall is a memorial to Raymond Asquith consisting of a bronze laurel wreath, also the work of Lutyens, surmounting a tribute to Asquith in Latin, designed and carved by Eric Gill the famous typographer and letter carver. Nearby are preserved the original wooden crosses that marked the graves in France of Edward Horner and Raymond Asquith. The parish war memorial in the church is the work of the Kensington School of Art.

There are other artistic treasures to discover in this relatively small church. The window in the Lady Chapel depicting St Francis preaching to the birds and fishes is the work of Sir William Nicholson, the father of the artist Ben Nicholson. There is a white plaster plaque by



St Andrew's Church, Mells.

Sir Edward Burne-Jones, a memorial to his friend Laura Lytton who died in childbirth. There is also a tapestry designed by Burne-Jones with the needlework being carried out by Frances Horner, a friend, patron and occasional subject of the Pre-Raphaelite artist. Tucked

away in the chancel and easy to overlook in this dazzling company is a copy of the Ghent Altarpiece.

The churchyard contains more things of interest. The author and war poet Siegfried Sassoon is buried there as is the theologian and biblical scholar Monsignor Ronald Knox. There are further examples of the work of Lutyens and Gill marking the graves of various Horners, Asquiths and Bonham-Carters. There is also an avenue of yew trees planted by Lutyens.



Mells Village War Memorial,

Back in the village we find the war memorial, a further example of Lutyens's work. This time it is made up of a marble Tuscan column surmounted by the figure of St George killing the dragon. It is flanked by two curved walls each displaying a plaque that carries the names of the fallen of the village from the two wars. The verse that appears on it was suggested by the poet laureate Robert Bridges :

*"We died in a strange land facing the dark cloud of war
and this stone is raised to us in the home of our delight".*

Once again the carving is by Eric Gill. In this most English of villages even the bus shelter was designed by Edwin Lutyens.

At a time when we are all in need of some reassurance and comfort it is good to visit a place such as Mells and be reminded of enduring values and that although difficult time occur they also pass and can leave behind things of lasting merit.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Some ‘comic relief’ as we get back to (near) normal in Crinkill and Birr

Birr, in early September, was where our Association came out of Covid-19 ‘hibernation’ to pick up where we left off nineteen months earlier. The pandemic had caused significant disruption to our plans and meant meetings, events and commemorations had to be cancelled or postponed.

The relaxation of meeting and travel restrictions meant Saturday 4th September 2021 gave us a long overdue opportunity to meet face-to-face for our Annual General Meeting (AGM). We didn’t just meet up in ‘The Thatch’ in Crinkill to conduct Association business, but we also held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial outside the walls of the Regiment’s HQ Depot, visited the nearby Military Cemetery and at Ballyegan, a few miles from Birr, we saw the work that had been done to restore and preserve the impressive 6.6 metre oak cross to Captain Lancelot Studholme. Before the visit to the Studholme cross, we enjoyed a

first-rate lunch in ‘The Thatch’ where proprietor, Desmond Connole, and his wonderful staff excelled.

If that wasn’t enough activity in a day, we also found the time to hand over several wonderful items for inclusion in the ever-expanding and impressive Leinster Regiment Exhibition in Birr Library.

Our re-elected Chair, Lt-Col Mark Weldon, presented Joe Kinane, Executive Librarian, with a well-preserved brown leather briefcase used by his grandfather, Lt-Col H. W. Weldon DSO. Between 1908-12, he had been Adjutant of the 3rd Battalion at the Depot in Crinkill. He also joined the 1st Battalion in India (1912) in the same appointment and remained in that post until 1915 when according to the Regimental history “The command of the Battalion now devolved upon Captain and Adjutant H. W. Weldon to whom fell the honour of leading out of action the remnants of the Battalion after its first battle on European soil”. Inside the briefcase, which is on loan from the Weldon family, is an undamaged ink well that survived his travels and years of service.



Lt-Col Mark Weldon, Denis Kirby, Joe Kinane (Birr Library) and Tony Hayden with the items presented to Birr Library.

Items handed to Mr Kinane also included a framed home-based helmet badge surrounded by the Glengarry badges of the Southern Irish Regiments, a complete set of Irish regiments silk cigarette cards and a selection of books all of which had originally come from Lt-Col Nick Weekes. There was also a recently produced commemorative Leinster coin. Finally, Denis Kirby presented a superbly framed collection of three popular issues from 'The Victor' and 'The Hornet' published in the sixties, seventies and eighties depicting the Leinster Regiment.

The 'Victor' recalled the stories of two Leinster Regiment VCs, awarded to Private Martin Moffat and Sergeant John O'Neill, following the relief of the town of Ledegem in Belgium in 1918. 'The Hornet' told the story of a fierce hullabaloo in 1858 following the arrival of 'Sam', the feisty mascot to the 1st Battalion, on their arrival in England from Canada.

Our Chairman expressed his delight with the additions to the Birr Exhibition and he thanked Mr Kinane for his continued, unstinting support and advice. He said "This exhibition is going from strength to strength and that is down to the willingness by supporters and friends of this Association to generously offer items for display and the great co-operation we receive from the library and Offaly County Council. Birr is the home of the Leinsters. This is the right place to have this exhibition and we're delighted to add to its development within the space that the Library Service can allow us."

The Association Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Irish Committee, Denis Kirby, was delighted with the activities conducted on the day. He said: "Naturally, we were disappointed not to have been able to meet and commemorate since March 2020. In Crinkill and Birr today, I was pleased to see us return to 'business as usual'. We packed a lot into the day and received great help from our members in Birr."

As for the comics, Mr Denis Kirby offered this view: "They gave us all a laugh and proved a big draw with people. A bit of comic relief, you might say. They'll be a real eye-catcher in the exhibition and, hopefully, it will encourage more people with family ties to the Regiment to join our ranks." He went on to add "We have made great progress with the Birr Library Exhibition. The feedback has been very positive and that makes it all worthwhile. Not only are we keeping alive the memory of an outstanding Irish Regiment, but we're steadily developing an additional visitor attraction in a town that already has a distinguished heritage and much to offer. Birr is synonymous with the Leinsters and remembering

and putting on display the military importance of the Depot in Crinkill gives the area added visitor appeal in the Midlands of Ireland."

The visit to the military cemetery and the Boer War Memorial were conducted by Stephen Callaghan who has recently published a book on these subjects. He also briefed the delegation at the Studholme Cross. Thus concluded a highly successful day. If you haven't been to Birr, it is unquestionably worth a visit and do include a meal at The Thatch where you will not only receive exceptional hospitality but also see more of the history of Crinkill barracks.

Ray Hayden



The restored and preserved Studholme Cross. Made of oak it stands 6.6mts tall.

Disbandment and Laying up the Colours

At first glance, the disbandment of the Irish regiments and the laying up of their Colours was a natural result of the end of the War of Independence and the signing of the Anglo-Irish treaty. The bare bones of the story are well known. The treaty was signed on the 6th December 1921, the disbandment of six Irish regiments was announced in early February 1922. Originally the Royal Irish Fusiliers whose recruitment area included the counties of Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal were also to be disbanded. The Faugh's were saved to fight another day by political lobbying and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers agreeing to reduce their establishment by one battalion. The formal laying up of the Colours duly took place on the 12th June 1922, with pomp and ceremony and formal expressions of gratitude and regret from H M The King. Thereafter the five Southern Irish infantry regiments and one Special Reserve Cavalry Regiment passed into history. As is often the case behind apparently straightforward events there is a more complex story. In this article, we will try to place the disbandment in the context of the wider complexities of the Anglo-Irish treaty negotiations and the economic pressures of the time.

The end of the Great War brought the inevitable pressures to reduce expenditure on the armed forces and generally balance the national books. An Army Order of March 1922 that formally announced the disbandment of the Irish regiments was primarily about a general reduction of the Army establishment. It was fortuitous that the political situation in Ireland coincided with economic necessity marking the Irish regiments down as an easy win: their disbandment at full establishment represented a potential saving of around 10,000 men, together with their administrative tail. Other reductions took place across the Army, in many cases by reducing regimental establishments by a single battalion or by amalgamation. Although recruitment into the Irish regiments had ceased by late 1922 and despite the political situation, a total of nearly 8,500 men had enlisted in the five regiments between 1918 and 1922: of those 1,700 joined the Leinsters. The regimental breakdown of the 8,500 figure is interesting: in descending order, 1,900 men enlisted in the Connaughts followed by the Leinsters, the Dub's and Munsters were bottom of this particular league table with around 1,600 each. It is striking that the least populated and poorest province should produce the most recruits to a traditionally secure if hazardous job. It is likely that many of these recruits came from the urban working class as evidenced by the address profile

of recruitment into the Dublins which shows a heavy bias towards the north inner city.

The attitudes of the negotiating parties to the treaty towards disbandment mirrors their wider ambitions for the eventual outcome. The British side sought to work towards a future relationship that would give Ireland a similar status to Canada, Australia, New Zealand or South Africa, that of a self-governing dominion within the Empire. The Irish side sought greater independence than the "dominion" status offered. However within the Irish camp, there were already the divisions that would shortly spill over into the Civil War between those that regarded the treaty as another step on a longer road to independence and those who sought a complete break with Britain and saw the proposed treaty as a betrayal of that objective. Where both sides were in tacit agreement was the desire for peace; all sides in their different ways had had enough of conflict.

These factors fed into and coloured that part of the negotiations that affected military and defence matters. On the British side at one point, there seems to have been an assumption that the Irish regiments would continue to exist in more or less their existing form but be paid for by the new Irish state. There was also a desire to retain the ability to recruit in the new "Free State", an area that had a long and distinguished tradition as a fertile recruiting ground. One proposal made during the negotiations was for the new state to contribute to the cost of Imperial defence in proportion to its wealth and that recruitment would be permitted throughout Ireland. Implicit in this proposal was the retention of the five regiments. In return, the Irish Free State would enjoy the protection of the Imperial forces. On the Irish side, Erskine Childers produced a memorandum setting out the case for rejecting these proposals arguing that the creation of its own armed forces was an essential element of Irish nationhood, and that recruitment to the British forces should not be permitted on Irish soil. Article 8 of the final treaty provided for the creation of the Irish Defence Forces limiting their size to the same proportion to population as the rest of the United Kingdom. This stipulation was in part a nod to the international disarmament movement that was gaining supporters around the world at the time.

If Article 8 of the treaty effectively sealed the fate of the southern Irish regiments, it did not stop considerable lobbying for their retention taking place mainly by



(Image courtesy of the Royal Collections. Copyright applies).

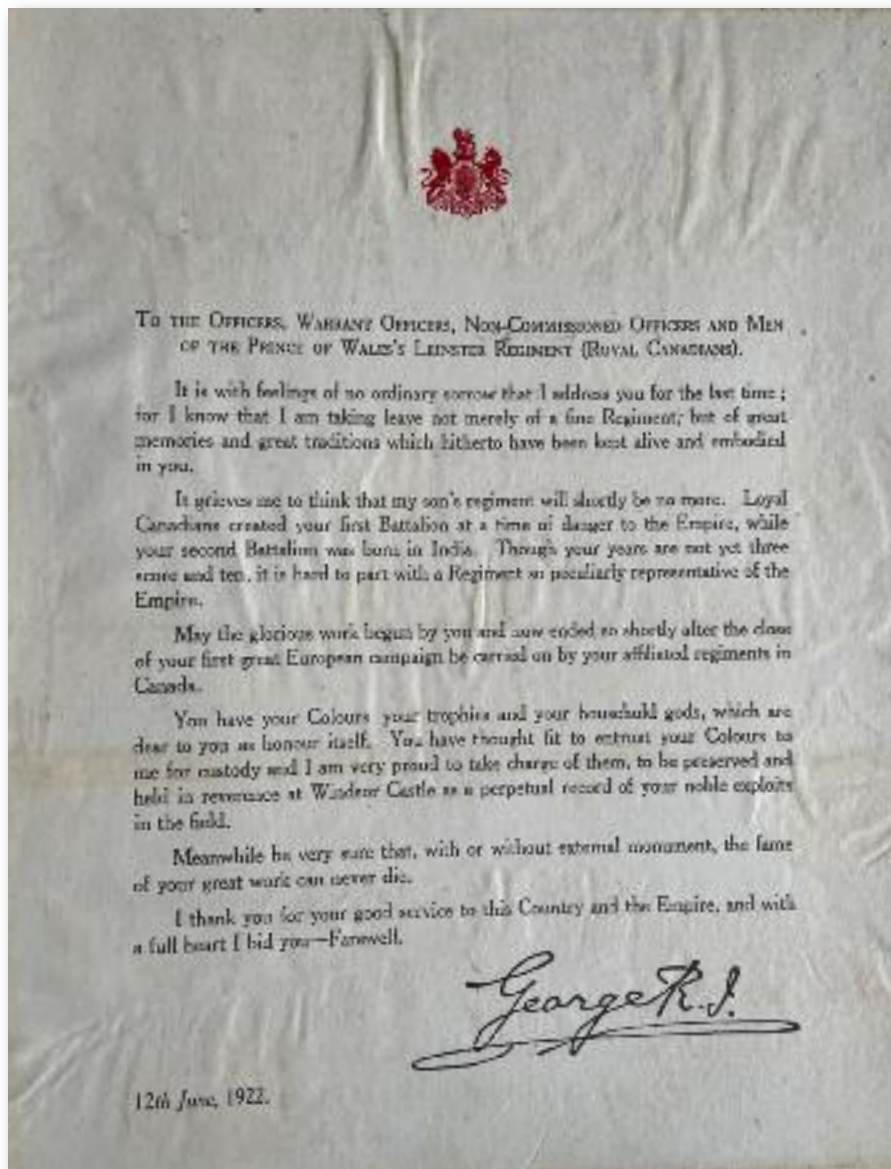
influential Southern Unionists, including the Lord Lieutenant, FM Lord French. The arguments put forward tended to rely heavily on sentiment and lacked practical political or economic weight. In some quarters there seems to have been a belief that if the famous old regiments were suspended rather than disbanded they could rise like Excalibur again in Britain's hour of need. In view of the contribution Southern Irish citizens were to make to the Second World War this was perhaps not too much of a pipe dream.

So how was the news of disbandment received within the Leinster Regiment? At the time of the announcement, the 1st Battalion was stationed in India at Madras. Although individual companies had been scattered to other locations, they had recently been brought together for the visit of H R H The Prince of Wales and a projected move to a new station. As might be expected, the news of disbandment did not come as a surprise, as all ranks would have been following the twists and turns of the treaty negotiations and the career-minded would have been working out their options. The 1st Battalion left India on the 6th April 1922 with 17 officers and 442 Other Ranks and arrived in Southampton 22 days later: it must have been a melancholic journey. The 2nd Battalion was serving with the Upper Silesian Force in Poland. They took their leave on the 24th March with expressions of regret and gratitude from the force commander, Maj-Gen Sir William Heneker who had done his early regimental soldering in the Connaught

Rangers. On arrival in Britain, the Battalion was posted to Sobraon Barracks in Colchester to await their fate.

Not surprisingly the Regimental history devotes its final chapter to the disbandment including detailed descriptions of the ceremony in Windsor. The Colours of the five regiments were paraded from Windsor station to the Castle led by the band of the Grenadier Guards before being formally handed over to H M King George V in St George's Hall. The parade would have been arranged in regimental order of precedence with the Royal Irish Regiment leading the way followed by the Connaught Rangers, the Leinsters, the Munsters and finally the Dublins. The band played the march past of each regiment in turn and as the parade entered the Castle, it broke into that most emotive of farewell tunes "Auld Lang Syne". Each battalion was represented by its King's and Regimental Colours carried by an escort of Officers and Senior NCO's. After receiving the Colours the King addressed the parade. His words have often been quoted but perhaps it is appropriate to remind ourselves of the final paragraph:

"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."



TO THE OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN
OF THE PRINCE OF WALES'S LEINSTER REGIMENT (ROYAL CANADIANS).

It is with feelings of no ordinary sorrow that I address you for the last time; for I know that I am taking leave not merely of a fine Regiment; but of great memories and great traditions which hitherto have been best alive and embodied in you.

It grieves me to think that my son's regiment will shortly be no more. Loyal Canadians created your first Battalion at a time of danger to the Empire, while your second Battalion was born in India. Though your years are not yet three score and ten, it is hard to part with a Regiment so peculiarly representative of the Empire.

May the glorious work begun by you and now ended so shortly after the close of your first great European campaign be carried on by your affiliated regiments in Canada.

You have your Colours, your trophies and your household gods, which are dear to you as honour itself. You have thought fit to entrust your Colours to me for custody and I am very proud to take charge of them, to be preserved and held in reverence at Windsor Castle as a perpetual record of your noble exploits in the field.

Meanwhile be very sure that, with or without external monument, the fame of your great work can never die.

I thank you for your good service to this Country and the Empire, and with a full heart I bid you—Farewell.

George R.I.

12th June, 1922.

The King also handed a personal letter to each regiment thanking it for its years of loyal service to the Country and Empire. The letter addressed to the Leinsters is reproduced below. The Colours remain on display on one of the grand staircases in Windsor Castle in an area normally open to the public.

In far away Bombay, a different laying up ceremony had already taken place. On the 28th January 1922 the Colours of the 3rd Bombay European Regiment, the antecedent regiment of the 2nd Leinsters, were laid up in the Cathedral. From the description in Whitton's Regimental History, we know that the ceremony was carried out on behalf of the Regiment in impressive style by the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers who provided their band and the carrying party. The ceremony took place during Evensong and we are told that the band played 'Danny Boy' as the Colours entered the Cathedral. At the climax of the occasion, the Colours were carried to the altar to the strains of Kipling's 'Recessional' sung by the choir; a prescient choice. After prayers were said

and the National Anthem sung, the buglers of the Inniskillings played the 'Last Post'; surely a fitting farewell for a regiment that could trace its origins to that city in the reign of Charles II over 250 years before.

So passed into history the Leinster Regiment, a regiment not as ancient, well known or lauded as some but with sufficient of its own distinctive character and history to be still remembered with honour 100 years on.

Sources The History of The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) Lt-Col F E Whitton CMG

Essay by Tom Burke submitted to a seminar at Trinity College, Dublin, "The disbandment of the Irish Regiments of the British Army in 1922: Reasons, Consequences and Legacy."

London Commemorative Lunch



Mr Michael Lonergan, Irish Embassy & Sir Anthony Weldon Bt.

Of recent years the Association has held a meeting and lunch in London usually in the middle of June and timed to coincide with the weekend of the Queen's Birthday Parade and the annual CIROCA parade to the Cenotaph. For reasons that we are all too well aware of, this was not possible in 2020 and for a long time it looked like it would be difficult to achieve in 2021. However with the gradual easing of restrictions on travelling and people meeting in groups the Committee decided to take the plunge and organise a commemorative lunch in the Civil Service Club, Whitehall on the 23rd October. The month of October is doubly important for The Leinster Regiment as it includes the anniversaries of the first and last major actions that the Regiment was involved in during the Great War, Premesques on the 20th October 1914 and Ledegem on the 14th October 1918.

A total of 36 members, friends and guests assembled at the CSC for the occasion. For most of us it was the first occasion in many months that we had attended a meeting or a function of any kind and for some it was the first outing on public transport and to London for nearly 2 years. It was encouraging to see how quickly everybody relaxed and reverted to old patterns of behaviour. It was good to see familiar faces again, none looking a day older than when last encountered! After the new opening conversation gambits concerning vaccinations and health people quickly reverted to the familiar topics of the Regiment, its story and those who served in it.

This year we had a distinguished panel of guests including Mr Michael Lonergan, Counsellor (Political Affairs), at the Irish Embassy, Col Jake Galuga, Army Advisor at the Canadian High Commission, Ms Bridget Orr, Chair of the Chippenham Branch of the RBL,

Mr Alex Shooter Vice-Chair of CIROCA and Brig. Clive Elderton, Chairman of the Military Historical Society, and senior representatives of the National Army Museum, our Chairman Lt-Col Mark Weldon presided and was accompanied by our President Sir Anthony Weldon Bt. Among our friends attending were two representatives of the Gurkha community in South London.

We were called to the table by Pipe Major Mike Shanahan, piper to and an In Pensioner at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, and a thoroughly enjoyable meal followed. Bob Templeman had kindly produced a leaflet for everyone describing the actions at Premesques and Ledegem. To say that the afternoon proceeded in traditional style is true but inadequate, what can best be described as a 'long lunch' ensued with lively conversation flowing freely to the point that people were beginning to look at their watches and think about train times. The formal part of the afternoon concluded with an address by the Chairman who after introducing and welcoming our guests reminded us that we are on the cusp of the centenary of the laying up of the colours of the disbanded Irish Regiments. Toasts were drunk to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen and Head of State of Canada, The President of Ireland, The Men and Families of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) and Absent Friends. During the afternoon Pipe Major Mike played several sets, which were much enjoyed by all.

An account of the day would not be complete without mention of the success of the raffle and the brisk business done by the Quarter Master's Stores including the official Association Christmas Card, both ably run by our friend and member Eddie Bryant. A big 'thank you' is due to all who helped organise the day which involved a considerable leap of faith in these uncertain times, in particular David Ball and Mark Weldon. It is safe to say that the day re-launched The Leinsters in London and it was good to see the following announcement appear on the Court and Social page of The Daily Telegraph the following Monday:

"Service Luncheon"

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

The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) held its Commemorative Luncheon on Saturday at the Civil Service Club. Among those present were; Representatives from the Embassy of Ireland, the High Commission of Canada in the UK, The Royal British Legion, the National Army Museum and other military associations."



Lieutenant Colonel Nick Weekes
(8 Jan 1945 - 24 Dec 2021)

Nick Weekes was brought up in north Kent where his father was a nurseryman. He was educated at Sir Roger Manwood's School, Sandwich.

A chance encounter with Major Harry Howard (later one of his Commanding Officers) resulted in Nick arriving at Sandhurst in 1963 with an aspiration to be commissioned in The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's). This duly happened in 1965 and Nick then served with the 1st Battalion in Germany, Catterick, Swaziland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Aden.

Nick was posted to the North Irish Brigade Depot at Ballymena in 1968. It was there, as a Royal Irish Ranger, that he met Frances Power. Nick and Frances married in Belgium in 1970.

Nick next served with the 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers in Gibraltar, Somerset, Bahrain, and the Trucial States. When the Battalion moved to Warminster in 1972 to become the Demonstration Battalion, Nick served as the Demonstration Officer (the key link between the Battalion and its 'customers' in the School).

Nick was employed on loan service in the United Arab Emirates over the period 1974-76. He was a subunit commander, and then second-in-command (2IC) of a training regiment. Nick returned to the United Kingdom

in 1976 to take up a place on the Army Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham and Camberley.

Nick's career from 1978 to 1989 involved a rotation through staff and regimental appointments. He served on the intelligence staff in HQ 1 British Corps (1978-80), in a logistics appointment in Rheindahlen (1982-84) and in Army Staff duties in Whitehall (1986-89). He commanded C Company 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers in Berlin, Chester, and Belize (1980-82) and was 2IC of the 2nd Battalion in Dover and Cyprus (1984-86).

On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1990, Nick was posted to the Defence Intelligence and Security School at Ashford to become the Chief Instructor of the Psychological Operations Wing. He was detached to Headquarters British Forces Middle East in Riyadh during the 1990-91 Gulf conflict to liaise with the American psychological assets.

Nick left the Active List in 1994 and used some of his redundancy compensation to study for a Master's degree in Modern International Studies at Leeds University. Nick then secured part-time employment as an archivist with the Cabinet Office from 1995 until 2014. Alongside this employment, he served as a part-time intelligence officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (1994-97) and in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (1997-2007). He was mobilized on six occasions for full-time service overseas and received the Air Efficiency Award (AE).

Nick was an extremely smart, loyal, and hardworking Officer. The succession of demanding jobs for which he was hand-picked displayed his unflappable and meticulous eye for detail. In later years he was a strong supporter of Regimental Associations, including the Leinsters to whom he had been introduced by General David The O'Morchoe. He was a natural researcher and historian, contributing hugely to the 40-10 Editing Team. Totally unselfish to the end, in his final year, he generously made a significant donation of books and Irish militaria to the Leinsters and thence to the exhibition at Birr. In his early regimental days, there was a popular song by the Beatles called "Eight Days A Week". Nick's dedication to work and keenness quickly earned him the nickname "Eight Days". So he remained to the end.

Nick is survived by his son Tim, his daughter Vicky and by four grandchildren.

THE LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Committee and Post Holders January 2022

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Vice-Presidents	Mr David Ball Commandant Michael McGoona

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* Also members of the General Committee.

Appeal to Members

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.