



The 40-10



LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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Welcome back, Ian Lowe, as our Editor. I wish to start by sharing my admiration for Ian, his fortitude, and his devotion to the Leinsters by resuming as Editor, in addition to all his other duties, after the sudden and traumatic loss of his wife last year. Not many will know just how much is involved in writing and assembling the 40-10. One that does is Stephen Callaghan, to whom we are greatly indebted for the last issue.

Ian Lowe has crafted yet another outstanding product. In this edition, you will find the obituary of Colonel Peter Walton, our previous Chairman, who died on 2nd March this year. To Gilly, his wife who cared for Peter during his long illness, and to his children David and Victoria, together with the wider family, I extend my sincere condolences. Ian revisits Prémesques: this time with a German perspective from an account provided

Front Cover

Association members David Ball, Ken Geary and Paddy Kelly proudly parade The Old Contemptibles' Standard past the Cenotaph during the annual CIROCA parade on the 8th June. The standard originally belonged to the Dublin Central Branch of The Old Contemptibles' Association. Membership of the Association was open to men who were members of the original British Expeditionary Force and went to France between the 4th August and 7th November 1914.

Back Cover

The memorial in Ta' Braxia Cemetery, Floriana, Malta, to the members of the 100th Regiment (*Antecedent to 1st Battalion*) and their families who died during the cholera outbreak of 1865. (Photo courtesy of Lt-Col M H Weldon)

by Colonel Peter who was the great-nephew of Captain Maffett, one of the missing at Prêmesques. You will also find an article on Malta recounting the experiences of one of our antecedent regiments - 100th (Prince of Wales's) Royal Canadian Regiment of Foot who first arrived in Malta in October 1863. I have recently returned from Malta where I was researching my father's wartime experiences 1939-43. However, I did manage to trace where the 100th Regiment had been stationed, and perhaps a pictorial article will follow in a future edition.

Much more up to date, on the 7 June we held the annual Leinster gathering at the Civil Service Club. This year it was a dinner because the Club could not accommodate us at lunchtime. Such an evening function unfortunately excluded some who would normally travel long distances for this event, nevertheless we sat down almost 60. An excellent meal was appreciated by all, culminating in a most amusing address by our President who hosted the evening. It is our intention to reinstate the lunch in future years. The Combined Irish Regiments' Old Comrades Association

(CIROCA) held their muster and parade past the Cenotaph on the next day. The Inspecting Officer was none other than the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Roly Walker KCB, DSO. Further details on the weekend can be found in this edition, but be assured it was very busy and enjoyable weekend.

Our Forthcoming Events feature details what is happening in the near future. Of particular significance is the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Birr on Saturday 9 August. It will include the Regional Committee's (Ireland) AGM. It will be followed by a presentation from local historian Aidan Doyle on 'Sport within the Leinster Regiment', the wreath laying at Crinkill, and then lunch at The Thatch.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Birr, especially those based in Ireland.

Ich Dien

Mark

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 or by bank transfer. Please contact the Treasurer for details. The annual membership subscription was due on the 1st January, sterling £20 or €25. With thanks to those who have already paid.

All items are subject to availability. Please note that orders from the Republic of Ireland may be charged VAT/Import duties by the Irish authorities, payable on delivery.

	£	€
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
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 1.5" x 0.5" (approx).

A Forgotten Irish Hero

Captain George Edward Henry McElroy, MC & Two Bars, DFC & Bar

Twice every school day, for nearly ten years, I filed into the my school's assembly hall passing the memorials for two World Wars that listed the names of the fallen old boys of those conflicts. Most noticeable of them were the three, on the Great War Memorial, awarded the Victoria Cross. Among the rest one name stood out with an impressive collection of decorations, George Edward Henry McElroy, MC & 2 Bars, DFC & Bar. The more observant schoolboy might have noticed that there was also a McElroy on the Memorial for the Second World War. So who was George McElroy and how did he acquire such a prestigious array of awards?

George McElroy was born in Donnybrook, a desirable suburb of south Dublin, on the 14th May 1893. He was the eldest son of Samuel and Ellen McElroy and one of eight children. The 1901 Census records George's father's occupation as a "National Teacher" and his mother's as a "Work Mistress". There was a live-in domestic servant indicating a household of modest prosperity. The family lived at No 2, Beaver Row, an address that was shared with the Luke family, the head of which, Robert, is described as a "Sexton". The next door address is listed as a "National School". All this detail points to the house being owned by the parish



Capt. G.E.H.McElroy.

and that Samuel McElroy was the primary school teacher. The 1911 Census gives us a similar picture, although George is not listed. We find him, now 17, as a boarder in Mountjoy School, located on the eponymous square in north Dublin. At this time Mountjoy was a small school of fairly recent foundation with about 100 pupils presided over by the imposing figure of the Rev. William Anderson. It was the sort of institution that the expression "muscular Christianity" might have been coined for. The probably apocryphal story is that every old boy of the school joined the military during the Great War.

On leaving school George McElroy joined the Civil Service and worked for the Inland Revenue and the National Health Insurance departments. He enlisted in the Royal Engineers in August 1914 as a Motor Dispatch Rider, arriving in France in October 1914, thus qualifying for the 1914 Star. In May 1915 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the 1st Battalion, the Royal Irish Regiment, then stationed at Hooze, near Ypres. This is recorded in the "*Royal Irish Regiment 1900 - 1922*" by Brig. S. Geoghegan. Various short biographies of McElroy tell us that he was sent home to recuperate from gas poisoning in December 1915. By that time 1/Royal Irish Regiment was in Greece with the British Salonika Force. The only other Royal Irish Regiment battalion in France at the relevant time was the 2nd so it seems that, for some reason, McElroy remained on the Western Front being transferred from the 1st to the 2nd Battalion. At the end of 1915 2/Royal Irish Regiment was in the line around Beaumont-Hamel in the Somme sector. In his history, referred to above, Brig. Geoghegan covers the period from September 1915 to February 1916 in one paragraph and describes it as "a very quiet time". So we do not know how George McElroy was injured.

McElroy was still at home in Dublin and apparently available for duty when the Easter Rebellion occurred in April 1916. There are two conflicting versions of his involvement in these events. The popular and most quoted version is that he refused to take part in action against his fellow countrymen and was quietly sent to a garrison away from Dublin. The other version, that appears in his profile in the "*British Roll of Honour*", is that, "he fought all through the Dublin Rebellion of April 1916". Reader: take your pick !

At the beginning of June 1916 George McElroy resigned his commission in the Royal Irish Regiment

and became a cadet at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. At this time RMA Woolwich provided the professional training for aspiring Officers in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers and was colloquially known as “The Shop”. The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, provided the equivalent training for the cavalry and infantry; the two colleges were amalgamated in 1947. McElroy graduated in February 1917 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant (with back dated seniority) in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He was immediately seconded to the Royal Flying Corps and sent for pilot training to the Central Flying School at Upavon, Wiltshire. We don’t know if this transfer was voluntary or not, given the hazardous nature of flying at the time it was probably voluntary. By all accounts George McElroy was a useful rugby player at the scrum-half position both for his club in Dublin and for RMA Woolwich. Some of the skills of a good scrum-half are transferable to aerial combat; fast reactions and the ability to rapidly spot and exploit tactical opportunities. It is worth remembering that at this time it is likely that as many aircrew died as a result of accidents and equipment failures as by enemy action. The perfunctory nature of the training is illustrated by the fact that by the middle of August 1917 he was posted to 40 Squadron, RFC in France. The Squadron were operating French built Nieuport 17 aircraft, then considered one of the best fighters on the Allied side. At a time when a new pilot’s life expectancy could be measured in weeks the newbie was fortunate to befriend and be mentored by one of the legendary pilots of the time, Major Edward “Mick” Mannock VC, who shared some of McElroy’s Irish heritage, and had already acquired a formidable reputation as a fighter pilot. On the 28th December 1917 George McElroy (who had acquired the nickname “McIrish”) scored his first victory flying a SE 5a, one of the best aircraft of the Great War period. Gaining the reputation as an aggressive dogfighter McElroy’s score of victories increased rapidly during the early months of 1918. In the middle of March 1918 he was awarded his first Military Cross with his score standing at 18 victories. On the 7th April when he was injured in a landing accident his score had increased to 27, shortly afterwards he is awarded a Bar to his MC. His injuries kept him out of action until June but through the remainder of that month and into July he continued to add to his tally almost daily.

On the 20th July McEvoy was forced to make an emergency landing as a result of mechanical problems but escaped serious injury. The same day he met Mick Mannock at a lunch given for a departing colleague. In the course of the lunch Mannock advised his protégé of the dangers of following his victims down close to the



Capt. George McElroy’s grave.

ground where he would be exposed to small arms fire. Ironically this is how Mick Mannock was killed six days later, the same day as McElroy received the second Bar to his MC. On the 31st July George McElroy went on patrol during which he destroyed a German Hannover C machine, his 47th and final victory. He returned to base to refuel and rearm before setting out on a second mission of the day from which he failed to return. The Germans later informed his Squadron that he had crashed behind their lines having been hit by the sort of ground fire that he had been warned about by his friend Mick Mannock. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross posthumously and later a Bar to that decoration. He was 25 years of age when he died. His younger brother, Lt (A) William Alfred McElroy, RNVR, a Fleet Air Arm pilot, died in the Second World War.

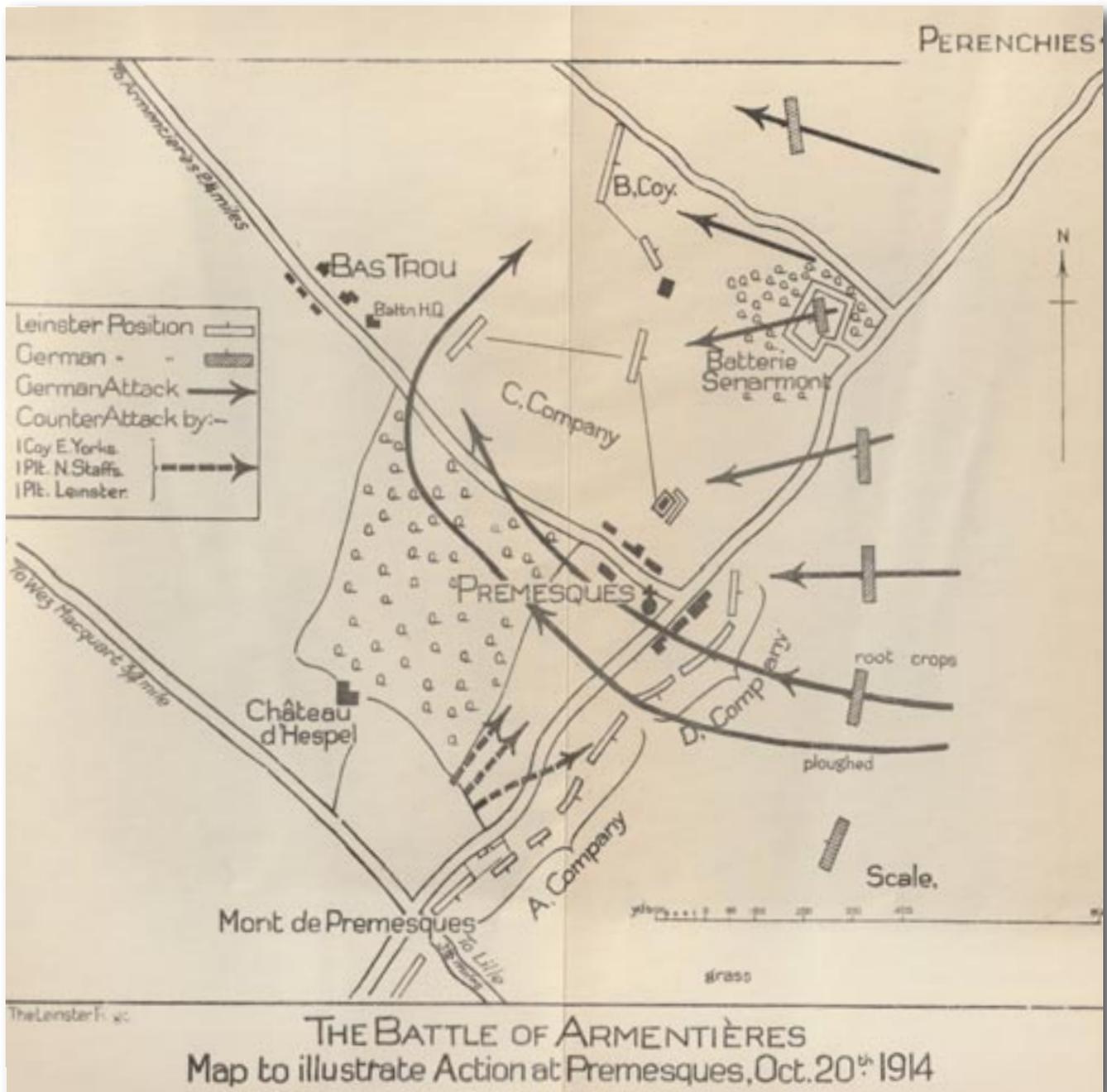
George McElroy’s record sits just outside that of some of the best know British air aces of the Great War, men like Mannock (61 victories), McCudden (57) and Ball (44). His achievements are remarkable as he achieved his 47 victories in about seven months, further reduced by time out recovering from his crash. He is buried Laventie Military Cemetery at La Gorgue, northern France. Close by is the grave of “A British Airman of the Great War”, i.e. unidentified, who some believe to be Major Mick Mannock, though this is disputed. Truly these were brave men who daily risked their lives not just facing the enemy in single combat but did so in flimsy unreliable machines at the edge of then available technology. The motto of the Royal Air Force is surely apt: *Per Ardua Ad Astra*.

Prêmesques: A German Perspective

What follows is the verbatim translation and transcription of an account of the early days of the Great War and specifically the actions around Armentières in September and October 1914. It was written by a German Artillery officer, Lt Walther Reinhardt, and is taken from his book "Sechs Monate Westfront" (Six Months on the Western Front). The book was published in Berlin by Ernst Siegfried Mittler & Son in 1915. The extract concludes with an account of finding the body of Capt. H T

is also included in the Maffett papers held in the National Library of Ireland. We should bear in mind that this document has, in some cases, been translated from English into German and then back into English. Ed

"For ten days we have lain west of Lille not far from Armentières opposite an English army. My battery forms part of the war chain of "growlers" which bombard



Reproduced from the Regimental History by Lt-Col F E Whitton CMG.

Maffett who commanded B Coy, 2/Leinsters at Prêmesques. The original syntax, grammar and style have been retained. This account was provided by the late Col. Peter Walton, former Chairman of the LRA, and great-nephew of Capt Maffett and

the enemy daily with a hail of fire and steel and we have long given up counting the battle days (*gefecht tage*), for every day brings battles. Besides the English we have opposite us Anglo-Indian troops and a French battery.

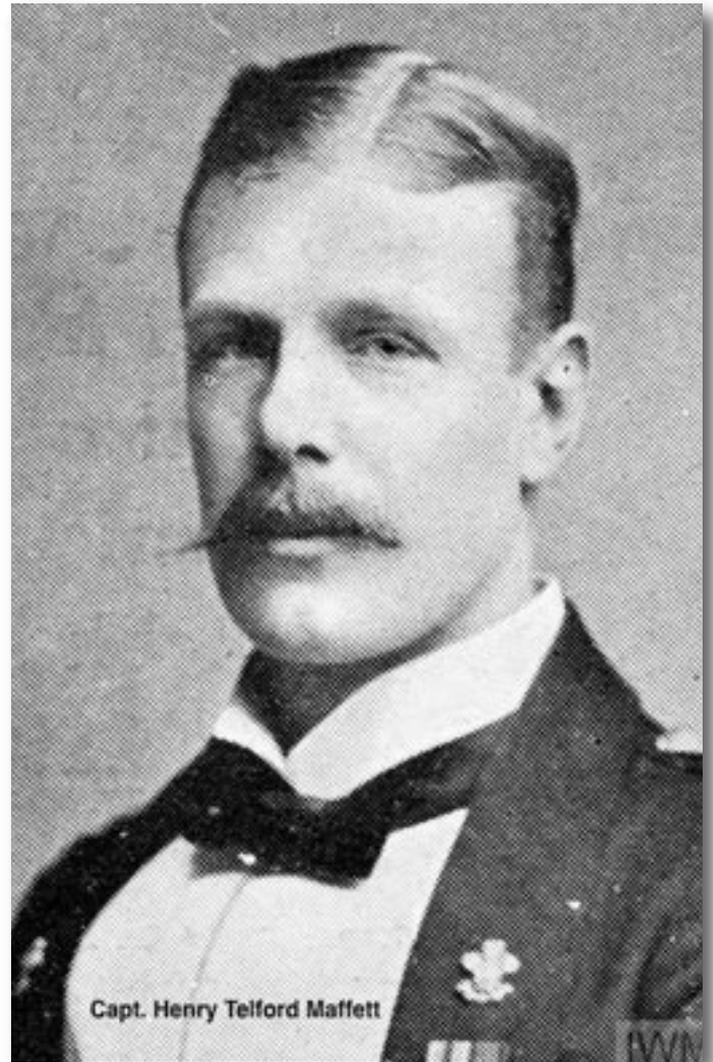
We are impressed every day by the fact that we have before us an opponent of unexampled obstinacy and toughness who through the fiercest fire, through the most appalling [*sic*] rain of shrapnel and grenades is not to be shaken. Very slowly we advanced, every forward pace is won with heavy sacrifice. In the stormed trenches the Englishmen lie in rows as men who have neither flinched nor given ground to the clubbed rifles and bayonets of the enemy. It must be understood that from the military point of view our opponents deserve the highest respect”..... (at this point there appears to be a break in the translation suggesting that a passage may have been omitted)

It continues: “The English have been very clever in adapting the experiences of their Colonial Wars to European conditions. Near Prèmesques I saw an evacuated laager plainly of South African origin all built of straw with high straw walls and with many straw huts inside – an admirable protection against wind and cold. The cut and colour of their uniforms, also the result of Colonial experience, are most practical. Especially worthy of mention it seems to me are the putties used by us only in connection with sport, which remain close and well-fitting after the events of a day’s fighting and appear comfortable, warm and easily-dried “leg-wear” (*beinbakeidung*). One sees many of our officers wearing the English putties now.

In the first days of fighting west of Lille our advance was swift and unflinching, one English position after another falling into the hands of our infantry. Of the many dreadful pictures the stormed enemy positions presented here is only one small scrap of the vast panorama of woe and horror in the midst of which we stand. Not far from our own lines, which we have occupied now for ten days, is a stormed English trench where lies amidst his own people a dead officer of from 40 to 45 years of age. I have ascertained his name from his papers – Captain H T Maffett, 2nd Leicester [*sic*] Regiment. Near the body I found a card, written in tinted pencil, which I freely translate:-

‘To Lieutenant Daly. My position lies 600 paces north-west of the point 42 of the forts “Battery Genarmont” [*sic, this should be “Senarmont”, Ed*] near the edge of the map of Lille. I cannot reconnoiter further because of the heavy machine gun fire from the enemy trenches which lie on “Battery Genarmont” or immediately under it. Please request the artillery to reply to this fire.

There is no intention to advance and it is possible I may receive the order to draw back my men from the firing line. Look out for a good firing position , dig yourself in’ Here the message breaks off in the midst of a sentence. Perhaps he was struck in the very moment of writing by the fragment of the German shell. I took and I keep the card, together with an empty envelope with the address of the dead man’s wife. (*Capt Maffett was unmarried so probably his sister-in-law, Ed.*) Perhaps I shall have an opportunity after the war to convey to the widow of the fallen English comrade the last message written by her husband. Also the wrist compass of the dead man which I now carry on my own wrist.”



There is a considerable collection of papers relating to Capt Maffett in the National Library of Ireland that are available on-line. These include correspondence concerning his death together with his will. His property was left 50:50 to his brother and his “dear friend” (female) There are detailed instructions concerning the future of his favourite mare “Mollie” who is left to his friend.

The Real Private Frederick Whirlpool VC



The exploits of Frederick Whirlpool VC have previously been described in these pages. Briefly, he received his VC while serving with the 3rd Bombay Europeans, one of the Leinster's antecedent regiments. His award was made for his courage at two sieges in 1858 during the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, those of Jhansi and Lohari. These sieges were carried out by the Central India Field Force, under the command of Maj-Gen Sir Hugh Rose. The Leinster Regiment were allowed to carry the Battle Honour, "Central India", on its colours recognising the fact that their antecedent regiment had taken part in the Central India Campaign and thus felt able to call Frederick Whirlpool one of their own. The little that was known about Pte Whirlpool was confusing and often contradictory. Most sources agreed that, he was born in Ireland, his father was in public service of some sort, Whirlpool was an assumed name, he was badly injured during his VC winning exploits and that he died a semi-recluse in Australia. His medal is on display in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra

So recently, it was gratifying and surprising to come across a book titled, "Frederick Whirlpool VC", with the subsidiary title; *Australia's Hidden Victoria Cross*". The author is Alan Leek and it was published in 2018. The book explores in detail Whirlpool's family background and early life, and what may have prompted him to join the East India Company's Army. Considerable space is given to tracing the causes and course of the Indian Mutiny of 1857 - 1858 and the part that Whirlpool's regiment played in its suppression as part

of the Central India Field Force (CIFF). The various engagements and sieges are described and, where known, Whirlpool's part in these events. The often brutal reality of the Mutiny and its suppression is vividly described and the author speculates at length on the possible effect this, together with the physical injuries he sustained, had on the subsequent career of Frederick Whirlpool.

So, who was the real Frederick Whirlpool? His actual name was Humphrey James and he was born in Co. Carlow in 1831 to Humphrey and Lavinia James. His family were of mixed Church of Ireland/Quaker/Roman Catholic background. His father was a policeman in Carlow in the forerunner to the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) and had family connections to Dundalk and Co. Louth. Frederick was one of eight children of the marriage. As described by Leek, it seems to have been a happy, stable and modestly comfortable household. The family appear to have placed considerable importance on education, self-improvement and the advantages to be gained from leading a regular, god-fearing life. By the time Frederick had reached school age the family had moved back to Dundalk where he was enrolled in the local Grammar School. This school, still extant, would have provided him with a better than average level of education and possibly gives us clues to the origins of some of his later aspirations. On leaving school he was employed as a clerk in the local office administering the Poor Law, indicating a reasonable level of educational attainment. In this capacity he sometimes had to appear in court as

a witness for the prosecution of transgressors of the Poor Law regulations. It is in the press reports of these proceedings that his name first appears in the public record.

He appears to have remained in this job for a number of years and like many young men began to feel frustrated and a longing to spread his wings and explore the wider world and its possibilities. This led to tensions at home, a not uncommon family dynamic. His natural restlessness seems to have been exacerbated by an impetuous nature which eventually resulted in a quarrel with his father, who it is alleged, described his son as having a temper like a “whirlpool”, giving rise to his later adopted surname. The cause of the quarrel seems to have been something quite trivial but it was sufficient to prompt Humphrey to leave Ireland in October 1854, and to make his way to Glasgow to join the East India Company’s army, signing up as “Frederick Whirlpool”, born in Liverpool. At this point Humphrey James began to weave a narrative of half-truths and lies around his story. The story that his father was a Mr Conker, postmaster at Dundalk, was a creation of others and probably arose much later. Whirlpool joined the private army maintained by the East India Company who ran large swathes of India as a commercial enterprise from their headquarters in the City of London. This army, about 250,000 strong, was recruited mainly in India but was officered by Europeans and included a number of all European units like the 3rd Bombay Regiment. After training at the Army’s depot at Warley, Essex, he arrived in India in March 1855. In an age of widespread illiteracy, the Army, by the appointment of schoolmasters, encouraged men to further their education. Men were also encouraged to help their colleagues widen their learning and with his better than average education Whirlpool was a willing participant in this process and aspired to become an army schoolmaster. This experience and interest in teaching was to have significant bearing on his later career.

When the Mutiny broke out in May 1857 many Indian units remained loyal and after the initial chaos and surprise of the outbreak the authorities instigated a series of campaigns to recapture towns and fortresses occupied by the rebels and to track down and bring to justice the mutineers. It should be said that “justice” in this context was usually of the most basic and brutal kind and the 3rd Europeans played their part in this process. It should also be said that the rebels committed dreadful atrocities against civilian European men, women and children as well as their European officers. This struck a deeply sensitive cord in European society at a time when women/motherhood and family held a special place in popular sentiment. Not only had the mutineers broken the military code of obedience, they

had violated home and hearth, and European ones at that. The authorities and the loyal soldiers were out for revenge. In one incident and after a “trial”, the 3rd Europeans executed over 140 mutineers at one time by shooting. We cannot say if Frederick Whirlpool took part in this event but he would have almost certainly witnessed it and similar occurrences. The various sieges and battles conducted by the Central India Field Force (CIFF) were accompanied by much slaughter and the application of rough justice for any captives. One of Rose’s Brigadiers was sacked for not being rigorous enough in his methods for dealing with rebels.

One of the principal fortified towns that the CIFF encountered was Jhansi which was also the seat of a prominent local ruler and rebel, Lakshmibai, the Rani (Queen) of Jhansi. The siege began in March 1858 and was conducted by the same age-old methods that medieval soldiers used, saps, tunnelling, mining and bombardment followed by assault. It was during the assault phase, carried out by the 3rd Europeans and the 86th Foot (an Imperial regiment later, The Royal Irish Rifles), that Whirlpool first came to the notice of his superiors and to be a candidate for the Victoria Cross. It was during the desperate and bloody assault stage of the siege, that a call went out for volunteers to go out and try to recover wounded and dead comrades. It was responded to by Pte. Whirlpool and a colleague, Pte Few. Whirlpool made two such sorties under heavy fire and returned each time without injury. Two men of the 86th were awarded the Victoria Cross for their conduct during the assault, Whirlpool and Few were “Mentioned in Dispatches”. The two men were also mentioned in the private correspondence of the commanding officer of their brigade, Brigadier Stewart. It took several days of intense fighting, accompanied by bloody revenge being exacted for the earlier massacre of Europeans, before the city and fortress was secured. In later correspondence with his family it appears that what he witnessed and perhaps took part in at Jhansi had a profound effect on Whirlpool. Thereafter the CIFF paused to rest and resupply before resuming its march across Central India. Before leaving Jhansi, the 3rd Bombay Europeans raised a memorial to fallen comrades in the Cantonment Cemetery, Leek reports it as still surviving in 2018.

Leaving a garrison behind, Frederick Whirlpool and the rest of the CIFF left Jhansi in early May 1858. Sir John Rose detached part of his force, including 3rd Bombay Europeans, to deal with the fortified village of Lohari which was held by a party of rebel sepoys. After some abortive negotiations with the rebels it became necessary to storm the position. Desperate fighting occurred as the attackers fought their way through successive gates protecting the village. It was in a narrow

passage between the concentric walls that contained these gates, that Whirlpool stood his ground in the face of a determined counter-attack from the defenders. He was armed with a rifle and bayonet, not the most practical of weapons to use in a confined space, and it is reported that the passageway was only wide enough to take three men abreast. His stand protected some wounded comrades including an officer and helped prevent the rebels from thwarting the assault. The citation for his Victoria Cross summarises what happened and the consequences for Whirlpool.

“For gallantly volunteering on the 3rd of April 1858, in the attack of Jhansi, to return and carry away several killed and wounded, which he did twice under a very heavy fire from the wall: also, for devoted bravery at the Assault of Lohari on the 2nd of May 1858, in rushing to the rescue of Lieutenant Donne, of the Regiment, who was dangerously wounded. In this service, Private Whirlpool received seventeen desperate wounds, one of which nearly severed his head from his body. The gallant example shown by this man is considered to have greatly contributed to the success of the day.”

The oft repeated story of him telling the stretcher bearers to take care that his head did not fall off appears to have some factual basis. Whirlpool’s brave conduct was reported up the chain of command starting with Major Gall who commanded the assault on Lohari. In addition to the severe neck wound, Whirlpool had suffered a broken skull, the most serious of his injuries. He was evacuated to Jhansi where surgery, including the insertion of a silver plate in his skull, was necessary. It is a tribute to the quality of care that he received and to his own constitution that he survived the relatively primitive hospital facilities that would have been available. Whirlpool remained recuperating in Jhansi for about five months before he was sent back to the Regimental Depot at Poona pending a decision regarding his future. On the 2nd February 1859 Frederick Whirlpool was discharged from the Army with an enhanced pension, on account of his injuries, of 1/3d per day. In addition he would have qualified for the £10 per annum bounty given to holders of the Victoria Cross. The award was Gazetted on the 21st October 1859. Furthermore, he qualified for the Indian General Service Medal with “Central India” clasp. Discharge from the Army not only meant the end of his career as a soldier, but also of his ambition to become an army schoolmaster. By this time he seems to have decided to begin a new life in Australia, as he made arrangements for his pension to be remitted to Victoria.

There is no reliable record of when Frederick Whirlpool arrived in Australia, but it appears to be

sometime in late 1859. A notice appeared in the *Victoria Government Gazette* of 1st December 1859 advising that a letter addressed to him awaited collection at the Post Office. In October 1860 he made an application to join the Victoria Police stating that he had been in the colony for “*more than a year*”. His application includes reference to his army service, the award of his VC, and that he was a “*fair clerk and correct accountant*”. It also said that he was willing to serve in the Mounted or Foot Police. At around the same time he joined the Hawthorn and Kew Volunteer Rifle Regiment, a local militia unit. In the, roughly, 12 months between arriving in Australia and applying to join the police, Whirlpool seems to have been employed as a labourer but also did some teaching, for which he reverted to using his birth name; Humphrey James. At this time, he seems to have alternated, depending on the occasion, between his military persona; Frederick Whirlpool and his civilian one; Humphrey James. The fact that he was a holder of the Victoria Cross was beginning to be noticed and that he shunned the limelight encouraged him to use both personas. The fact that his pension would have been paid to “Frederick Whirlpool” would have encouraged him to continue to use that name. It was wearing his Volunteer Rifle Regiment uniform that he actually received his medal from the Governor of Victoria’s wife at a grand parade on the 20th June 1861. This was the first time that a Victoria Cross had been *publicly presented* on Australian soil. By all accounts, it was a glittering occasion with a parade of Militia units, the high point of the day being the presentation to Frederick Whirlpool who, according to reports, was unaware of what was to take place.

The public presentation of the award brought a level of local celebrity in its wake and before long questions were being asked in the State Parliament about finding the hero a public service job. In reply it was pointed out that he was already on the waiting list to join the State Police. At around the same time he attempted, unsuccessfully, to revert to a version of his birth name, adding “Frederick” to Humphrey James. This request was denied because he was unable to produce a birth certificate in the name of Frederick Humphrey James. Sometime after October 1861 he resigned his teaching post and his membership of the Militia unit and disappeared to Tasmania. Leek speculates that this move may have been prompted by the desire to escape the public attention that was coming his way. He also speculates that the delay to processing his Victoria Police application might have been the work of a cabal of local worthies of Irish Roman Catholic background being opposed to the appointment of an Irish Protestant constable.

Our hero only spent about eight months in Tasmania where he worked as a surveyor's labourer, probably living a fairly rough existence but perhaps able to use some of the clerking skills that his level of education provided him with. By September 1862 he was on a ship bound for Sydney under the name "Thomas Whirlpool". On arrival he applied to join the New South Wales Police, a force which, at that time, was about 60% Irish born. It is worth noting that many colonial police forces were modelled on the structure established by the Royal Irish Constabulary and in consequence recruits of Irish origin, particularly any with some sort of police background, were very welcome. Using the name Frederick Humphrey Whirlpool he was quickly inducted into the police service and was posted to the Murray district on the borders of New South Wales and Victoria.

Whirlpool's time with the New South Wales police was brief, a little more than six months, and did not end well. He was dismissed from the service in June 1863 and sentenced to one month in gaol at Wagga Wagga, for being "in default of sureties to keep the peace". This suggests that there had been a previous offence for which he had been "bound over" but had re-offended. We do not know what the offence was but it seems likely that it was drink related. The personal details he provided on entering prison are a mixture of truths, half-truths and lies, perhaps in an effort to hide his predicament from his family, should they ever trace him as far as Wagga Wagga.

On his release Whirlpool headed back to comparative anonymity of Sydney where he had a friend who ran a riding school and livery stable. This friend, Robert Bayley, was also an ex-police constable and native of Dundalk. It seems that Whirlpool worked at the stables, probably in return for bed and board. By January 1865 we find him restless again and applying to join the National School system as a teacher (the school system was also based on the Irish model) under the name of Humphrey James. His application, while correct and detailed in some respects, is noteworthy for its omissions. There is no mention of his army service or his medal, nor is there any reference to his brief police service and its unhappy end. In short, Frederick Whirlpool has been expunged. A few months later he passed out of the teacher training college and a probationary period with better than average marks and assessments. In May of 1865 Humphrey James was appointed teacher at the Lower MacDonald River School and also at the nearby Wiseman's Ferry School. He was to divide his time between the two which were separated by a 500 meter wide river crossed by boat. It was at this point that James (as we will now call him)



Frederick Whirlpool's Victoria Cross. Now displayed in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

came to know one Henry Wilson who was to have a significant and malign influence on Humphrey James' future. Wilson, another Irishman, had lofty aspirations to promote himself in local society by gaining positions of influence. He was already a school governor and was working on becoming a magistrate. It seems that he attempted to gain the support of the new school master for this project which was not forthcoming and caused him to be mark James down for future revenge. Wilson realised that James "liked a drink" and may have encouraged one such episode which resulted in the schools being closed for two days and a subsequent snap inspection. These events caused James to hand in his notice which he later retracted. A further year was to pass before there was another apparent lapse. As previously mentioned the two schools at which James taught were separated by a wide river. On the 6th and 7th February 1867 there was heavy rain causing flooding resulting in the schools being closed. It seems that James spent much of the time in the pub coming to the notice of Wilson, who himself, was partial to a "drop". Seizing the moment, Wilson reported James to the authorities for being drunk and unable to open the school and as a result he was dismissed. James wrote a long and eloquent letter in his own defence calling out the perfidious Wilson but to no avail. A further letter of support from parents also failed to reverse the authority's decision.

On leaving the school, Humphrey James moved to nearby Pitt Town where in addition to labouring he

worked as a sort of freelance teacher, providing tuition over and above what was being provided in the local state and Church schools. In time this led to the establishment of a permanent school at which he was the teacher. In due course the parents took steps to have this unofficial school recognised and taken into the state system. At a meeting held to formalise this arrangement, it became apparent that the authorities would not appoint Humphrey James as the teacher at the newly adopted school. This rejection prompted an emotional outburst and after the meeting James was arrested for “*using indecent language*” and as a result he spent a few days in the police cells. Throughout the 1870’s, Humphrey James appears in local directories described as a teacher and he seems to have made a modest living by providing private tuition. He became friendly with a prominent local resident, John Dick Smith, who allowed him to live in a simple shack on his land and as the years passed became James’ main point of contact with the wider world. He continued to keep his military past private although his wound scars would have been visible. He valued his medals sufficiently to deposit them with the Pension Office in Sydney for safekeeping. At irregular intervals Humphrey James continued to get into trouble for being drunk, making occasional appearances in the Magistrate’s Court.

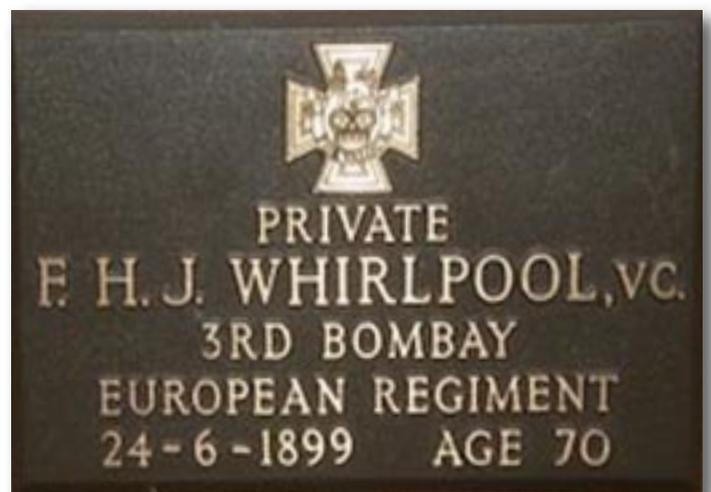
Humphrey James continued to live a simple life in his remote shack, making occasional visits to the local town to buy provisions. He maintained a bank account and had a healthy credit balance when he died. Towards the end of his life he re-established contact with his surviving family who were scattered far and wide. Two of his sisters were living in England, two of his brothers were in America, one, who had followed him into the India Army and later served in the American Civil War, was in a lunatic asylum.

Humphrey James died peacefully in his sleep on the 24th June 1899. He was found the next day when the delivery man called with provisions that he had previously ordered. His friend and landlord, John Dick Smith, took care of the funeral arrangements and was the only mourner. The Windsor and Richmond Gazette published a brief obituary that referred to his military service and noted that he had been awarded the Victoria Cross and that he was “*an educated and well informed man*”. He was buried in an unmarked grave at McGrath’s Hill, Windsor, New South Wales under the name “Whirlpool”. Letters to and from his siblings were delivered to their destinations posthumously. The part of the cemetery where he was buried, now displays a plaque recording the fact that he is interred there.

Looking at the life that Humphrey James led you can understand why his father described him as a “whirlpool”, at times turbulent and unpredictable. Added to this characteristic, and being by nature a sensitive and retiring soul, must be the effect of his experiences in India, where he witnessed and took part in much violence and bloodshed. It is likely that the severe wounds he incurred at Lohrai left him with both physical and mental scars that affected the rest of his life and perhaps explains his occasional drinking bouts. He preferred to remain in the shadows and did not seek to capitalise on the fame and attention that his medal could have attracted. Today we would probably say that he was suffering from PTSD. His Victoria Cross passed from the family and through various hands before being given on loan to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra by Denys Croll, a collector. Its journey through the auction rooms is interesting, it was sold for £46 (1927), £450 (1962), £550 (1963) The whereabouts of his India General Service Medal is unknown, but it is thought to be in a private collection.

Although Humphrey James/Fredrick Whirlpool probably never heard of or had any attachment to The Leinster Regiment, it is appropriate that we remember him as one of our own. A genuine Irish born hero resting far from home.

We are greatly indebted to Alan Leek and his book “Frederick Whirlpool VC, Australia’s Hidden Victoria Cross” for much of the material that this article is based on. Mr Leek’s book goes into a lot more detail, particularly describing the context of events that defined Humphrey James’ life. It is available in hard copy or electronic format and provides a useful insight into the campaigns of the Indian Mutiny and to the early development of Australia. It is published by Pen & Sword Military, ISBN-10 1526759108.



Although not individually marked, a commemorative plaque has been placed in the part of the cemetery where Fredrick Whirlpool rests in Windsor, New South Wales.



Memorial to cholera victims of 100th Regiment. *Photo: Bob Green.*

and efficiency of the Regiment continued to be a drain on its resources throughout its time on the island.

During its tour of duty the Regiment acquired a formidable reputation for rowing, one of the only forms of sporting activity available. Regimental crews regularly beat their Naval rivals in regattas. Their success was attributed to the number of Canadians used to handling boats that still served with the regiment. During this time it seems that the Regiment also provided an unofficial escort to Giuseppe Garibaldi, the father of Italian unification, who, during a visit to the island, was being given a hard time by the locals who suspected that he wanted to incorporate their island into a greater Italy.

The 100th's time in Malta ended in October 1866 when the long-wished for return to Canada occurred in order to help stamp out the Fenian inspired rising that had occurred. The Regimental history records that 25 officers, 54 sergeants, 36 corporals, 20 drummers, 558 privates, 60 women and 89 children embarked for Canada where it remained for the next two years.

A gap of almost 30 years now occurs before another "Leinster" battalion joins the Malta garrison. During this time the Regiment would have called at Malta en route to or from the Middle East and India but only to resupply and break the long sea journey. In the intervening period the Cardwell and Childers reforms had happened and the old 100th and 109th Regiments had become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Prince

of Wales's Leinster Regiment. The 2nd Battalion was scheduled for Malta during the 1894/95 trooping season. The "trooping season" lasted from September to March so as to avoid as far as possible travel in the hottest part of the year. However while crossing the Bay of Biscay in November 1894 the Leinsters met a ferocious storm that lasted several days and caused structural damage to the ship which was recorded at one point rolling to an angle of 45 degrees, several horses died. Further trials awaited the Battalion upon arrival at Malta - the whole Battalion was sent to the smaller neighbouring island of Gozo. Charming as Gozo undoubtedly is to the 21st century tourist it had very limited appeal to the 19th century soldier destined to be there for a year or more. There were none of the attractions healthy or otherwise to be found in Valetta or Sliema on the main island. The official reason given for sending the Battalion to Gozo was that new barrack accommodation on Malta was not yet ready for occupation. The rumoured and more widely believed reason was that officialdom did not want a battalion of wild Irishmen turned loose in the fleshpots of Malta and decided to exile them to the more remote island.

The Regimental History is scathing about almost every aspect of life on Gozo, describing the accommodation as being inadequate and in summary said that "compared to Malta proper Gozo was practically a penal settlement". As a result some of the Battalion had to live under canvas which at least had the advantage, for those involved, of qualifying for extra pay via a "field

allowance”, although it is noted that there was nowhere to spend this extra largesse. There were some compensations; because of their relatively remote location the Battalion was largely left alone by higher authority and did not have to get involved in ceremonial duties. Gozo was generally a healthier location than Malta, and although cases of fever and influenza did occur, the overall health of the Battalion improved.

A significant event that occurred during this period was the stopover at Valetta by the 1st Battalion who were on their way home from a long stay in India where it had been for the previous 18 years. The meeting of two battalions of the same regiment under these circumstances would normally be the occasion for great rejoicing although, on this occasion it was rather muted due to the distance between Valetta and Gozo. These meetings were also an opportunity to exchange personnel who were perhaps time expired or due to be posted home. The History records that a total of 429 men were transferred from the 1st to 2nd Battalion on this occasion. Apparently the Maltese Police had a lively time keeping 400+ Irishmen fresh from a long passage from India in order.

The 2nd Battalion’s time on Gozo lasted about a year and in November 1895 the Battalion was on the move again, this time to Bermuda. To the 21st century reader the life of a 19th century soldier must seem like a long touring holiday going from one exotic spot to another.

During the Great War troopships carrying Leinsters plying the Mediterranean would have regularly called at



Fort Chambray, Gozo.

Malta to refuel and resupply. There were also extensive hospital facilities for treating the sick and injured from the Mediterranean and Middle East theatres. There are only four Leinster burials on Malta from the Great War period, two from the 1st Battalion, Pte John Galgey, buried in Addolorata Cemetery and Pte William Gumb, buried in Pieta Military Cemetery. Both died as a result of service in Salonika. Pte’s John Bunce and John Cleary served with the 6th Battalion at Gallipoli and are also buried in Pieta Cemetery.

If your holiday plans include Malta or Gozo please spare a thought, as you enjoy the sunshine, perhaps sipping something long and cool, for the many Leinster soldiers and their families that preceded you.

Canadian Connections by Peter Wright

Peter Wright is a Canada based member of the Association who has extensive ancestral connections to the Regiment and Ireland through both his own and his wife’s family. Peter practiced law in Ottawa before being appointed to the bench of the Ontario Court of Justice. He is now semi-retired and together with his wife, Anne, and Irish Water Spaniel, Mick, divide their time between their homes in Lanark County, Ontario, and Ottawa. Peter describes himself as an “avid history buff and devotee of P G Wodehouse”. In this article he describes the background of these connections and how both families have continued to serve their adopted country. Ed.

Let me begin at the beginning, or at least one of the beginnings.

I was born in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, where my father John Garn, known as Gary Wright, was an aviator in the Royal Canadian Navy. He served in the

Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Air Force as a fighter pilot during the Second World War. My mother was Eileen Dunn of Cornwall, Ontario. I knew that my mother’s father had served in the Boer War and afterwards with the Leinster Regiment. My mother passed on childhood stories of things that her father had told her - descriptions of the exotic places he had seen and snippets of songs that he would have taught her such as “all the bagpipes were kicking up a row for eggs and bacon, eggs and bacon” (to the tune of Highland Laddie) or “Johnny wore a red coat on a gypsy man of war” to the tune of the British Grenadiers. I never knew my maternal grandfather who died before I was born. My grandmother however was very proud of his service and to my memory placed a particular emphasis on the title “Royal Canadians”.

Our family moved to Ottawa when my father was posted

to Naval Headquarters. I attended high school in Ottawa at Saint Patrick's College where I met brothers Bill and Peter Tighe. Through them I met, fell in love with, and married their younger sister Anne. And we now have 3 wonderful sons: John Garn, James Patrick and Joseph Christopher Ronald. I knew that Anne's father Patrick Tighe was of Irish descent and had served during World War 2 with the Canadian Army. In doing family research, I learned something about his family from Ireland, including the fact that her grandfather's family had a history of service with the Connaught Rangers.

It was only recently that I came across a reference to Anne's grandfather having been commissioned into the Leinster Regiment as a Captain, at a time when he was living in Dublin. I thought that it was a remarkable coincidence that both Anne and I, growing up in Ottawa, finding each other and marrying, would both have had a grandfather who had served with the Leinsters prior to World War One and the subsequent massive expansion of enlistments.

I thought it would be interesting to provide a brief account of each of our grandfathers, including their arrival in Canada and, in particular, the continuation of service by the next generation of Tighes and Dunns.

Anne's grandfather, Robert Dolphin Tighe, was born in Claremorris, County Mayo in 1877. The Tighe's were a well-to-do family of landed gentry, involved in



Capt Patrick Tighe receives his MC from Gen Montgomery.

brewing and with substantial land holdings. His mother was a Dolphin of Turoe, another landed old Norman family with substantial land holdings in Galway. Both families were Justices of the Peace (JPs) and active in local affairs. Two of Robert's Dolphin ancestors had in the 19th century entered Spanish military service. Robert attended Dublin University and was admitted to the Irish bar. In 1907 he emigrated to Canada, originally settling in Halifax. In 1908 he married Eugenie-Rosalie Pagnuelo at Saint Hyacinth, Quebec. His bride had an impressive and interesting background as her grandfather, Louis Sicotte, was a Quebec lawyer, politician and judge who had at one point been the co-premier of pre-confederation Canada. Her father was also involved in the legal profession and he was descended from a Spanish soldier who had joined the Swiss mercenary De Meuron Regiment presumably while they were serving with the British Army in Spain under Wellington. Once Napoleon was settled, the De Meurons, along with other veteran units, were shipped to Upper and Lower Canada. After the unpleasantness with the Americans in the war of 1812 was resolved, he chose to remain in Lower Canada.

Robert and Eugenie moved to Edmonton, Alberta in 1909, at a time when Alberta was a brand new province, and there must have been a real sense of being on the frontier and of creating a new society. Robert was called to the Alberta bar. In those days and indeed today, lawyers in the Canadian common law jurisdictions are called to the bar and also entered on the roll as solicitors, historically because of the shortage of lawyers in colonial times. He had a successful and respected practice, primarily engaged in what would be called solicitor work. He was on boards, president of the Edmonton Saint Patrick Society and the local council for the Edmonton Conservative party.

Their children included Henry Dolphin Patrick Robert George, Thomas, Violet and Aileen. Pat worked for International Harvester, Robert with the Bank of Nova Scotia. Both Patrick and Robert took up the call for Canada during World War 2. Patrick was commissioned as an officer with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and served in Sicily and Italy where he was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership as a company commander at the battle for Leon Forte. He subsequently was assigned to the British 14th Army and served in Burma. After the war he returned to civilian life but returned to the Canadian Army for the Korean War. He joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry where he served as second-in-command of the battalion with great distinction. He commanded the battalion for several months during the Commanding Officer's absence. He remained with the Canadian army until his retirement in the 1960s.

Robert qualified as a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force flying Wellington bombers with 428 Squadron. He flew a large number of missions over occupied Europe and was promoted from Pilot Officer to Flight Lieutenant. In 1943 he was killed in action on a raid over Holland.

James Dunn[e]'s circumstances were more modest. He was born in Birr to Michael Dunn, and Mary Coughlin in 1882. His grandfather Patrick Dunne had served in the British Army. Jame's father Michael, a labourer, passed away when James was a year old, no doubt putting the family in dire straits. For adventure or because of his circumstances he enlisted at 16 in 1898 with the Leinster Regiment, initially with 1st Battalion, but transferring shortly after to 2nd Battalion. During his time he saw service in South Africa and India. He returned to Ireland where he met and married Agnes Perry, also of Birr. His enlistment has his occupation at 16 as a groom, but by 1911 his final discharge from the army reserve shows him as a cabinet maker.

1912 saw the family emigrate to Canada, settling in the city of Cornwall where he was able to secure employment. They had a large family consisting of 8 children: Austin, Jimmy, Christine, Viola, Vincent, Eileen, Molly and Brendan. Shortly after arriving in Cornwall, WW1 began and James again returned to service, this time with the the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, which like most Canadian militia units recruited heavily for the expanded army. He was a Colour Sergeant; the family traditional story is that he was offered a commission but felt he could not afford the uniforms.

It was some time after the war that he became a lock master on Lock 32, on the St. Lawrence, where in spare moments he was able to indulge in the pastime of angling. The Duns quickly adapted to life in Canada, in particular to sports. Hockey was a popular, and James was also a devotee of boxing, listening on the radio to such fights as Dempsey vs Tunney. My mother recalled with fondness the family collection of John McCormack recordings! In keeping with their roots, the family dog Prince was a Kerry Blue terrier.

The three oldest Dunn men also served in WW2. Austin served overseas with the Canadian army as a Sergeant. Jimmy enlisted in the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, went overseas, and lectured on sabotage mines and explosives; he attained the rank of Captain. Vincent was also posted overseas with the RCAF as a Sergeant, and later had postings in Kingston, Ontario, where the silverware of the Leisters was sent after the Leinster regiment was disbanded in 1922.



James Dunn, veteran of two armies and two wars.

Three of the Dunn women also married men in service: Viola to Raymond Pipal an American who joined the RCAF, trained as a pilot and was killed in a flying accident, Eileen to my father, Garn Wright, a pilot with the RCAF and RAF, and Molly to Chris Doherty a Canadian soldier who served in the bloody Italian campaign with rank of Sergeant.

A website devoted to the history of County Mayo has a section on the Tighe family, which describes in some detail Robert's father and mentions each of his children. It mentions Robert as having served with the Royal Canadians. In addition I was able to locate a reference in the Dublin directory in the early 1900s which refers to Robert Tighe, Barrister, Captain, Leinster regiment with an address on Lower Baggot St. Dublin. Presumably at this time he was associated with the militia battalion of the Leisters.

I wonder if our two grandfathers ever met. It would seem unlikely given the differences in background, social standing and areas of service. But it is interesting that our three boys have two Irish great-grandfathers who wore the same badge.

One thing at least that they both would have had in common and obviously passed on to their children was the importance of service and duty.

Lieutenant-Colonel G A M Buckley CBE, DSO 7th (Service) Battalion The Leinster Regiment



Lt-Col G A M Buckley wearing Leinster Regiment insignia.

Lt-Col Buckley will be a name well known to anyone who has followed the story of the Leinster Regiment and in particular the 7th Battalion during the Great War. We read about him and men like him and probably don't give too much thought to the person behind the name and position. In this occasional series, we will try to delve into the background of some of these characters, where they came from, describe their formative experiences, how they became part of the Regimental story and finally, what became of them in later life.

George Alexander McLean Buckley, despite a surname that could be Irish, was born in 1866 near Christchurch, New Zealand. Both sides of his family came originally from the Hebridean island of Coll and left Scotland in the 1840's to start new lives initially in Australia, but later moved to Ashburton, near Christchurch in New Zealand's South Island. There they acquired sheep stations eventually owning the extensive Lagmhor Estate, one of the largest in the country. It was into this world of hardy, enterprising settler stock that George Buckley was born. After early education locally he attended Cheltenham College in

England, and determined to be a soldier, RMA Sandhurst. In 1885 he was commissioned into the Hampshire Regiment and saw service in India. In 1891 the Lagmhor Estate passed to George and he left the Army to return to New Zealand and farming. At this time the estate covered about 30,000 acres and George was described as living in "the handsome old home-stead, where he was a charming host, extending lavish hospitality". Before leaving the Army and England he had married Mabel Warren, the daughter of a London barrister. Three children, two daughters and a son, were born of the marriage. Continuing his interest in soldiering George founded and was first Captain of the Ashburton Mounted Rifles, a local militia unit. He also was a generous supporter of local sporting and cultural organisations, and took an active part in regional politics being elected a County Councillor. In addition to his farming and community interests he found time to enjoy travel and adventure including taking part in a 1897 British expedition to explore Patagonia. Health problems precluded him from taking part in the South African War and caused him to sell up in New Zealand and move to England in order to receive treatment. Whatever his health problems were he was sufficiently restored to be able to take part in Ernest Shackleton's 1907 "Nimrod" expedition to Antarctica and possibly helped to finance it.

George Buckley was still living in England in August 1914 when war broke out and he promptly rejoined the Hampshire Regiment serving with its 11th Battalion. This battalion acted as the Pioneer Battalion of the 16th (Irish) Division and would have brought Buckley into contact with the 7th Leinsters for the first time. He took command of 7/Leinsters while it was still training at Kilworth Camp in Co Cork and took them to France in December 1915. He commanded the Battalion when it played a leading part in the capture of Guillemont in September 1916, during the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme, and for which one of its Officers, Lt J V Holland, was awarded the Victoria Cross. By this time, Col Buckley was 50, an advanced age for a battalion commander in the field. Shortly after his battalion's triumph at Guillemont he became ill and was to remain on sick leave until June 1917. He returned to duty shortly before the Battle of Messines. At his suggestion Lt-Col Stannus, who had trained the battalion for the forthcoming battle, was given the job of leading the Battalion on the day. It is ironic that Lt-Col Stannus and others at Battalion HQ were killed by a shell just as the battle opened.

Col Buckley continued to lead the Battalion through the rest of 1917 which included the infamous 3rd Battle of Ypres. 7/Leinsters took part in the early stages of the battle, defending the Frezenberg Ridge from determined German counterattacks. An unusual detail supplied by the Regimental History is that Col Buckley at this time allowed his “famous buggy” to be used to transport mess equipment. It seems possible that the “buggy” was a motor car or at least some other form of personal transport. The History makes several mentions of the genuine respect and affection with which Col Buckley was held by all ranks and how he paid close attention to the welfare of the men. The Regimental History quotes at length a letter he wrote to his Company Commanders praising the fortitude shown by all ranks during the defence of the Frezenberg Ridge. In the course of the letter he recounts how he and other battalion commanders made the case to Maj-Gen Hickie, GOC 16th (Irish) Division, that their men were exhausted but that none the less the Leinsters would see the task through. This seems to indicate an Officer confident of his own position and abilities and those of his subordinates. The Regimental History includes a further unusual detail at this time. It mentions the death, as a result of a gas shell “drop short”, of 2/Lt H E Jobling (*spelt “Joblin” in the History*) who is described as “a promising young officer, and an adopted son of

Colonel Buckley”. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records describes 2/Lt Jobling as the son of Major Alfred Jobling, York & Lancaster Regiment. Harold Jobling was 19 when he died.

After the ordeal of 3rd Ypres the 16th (Irish) Division and 7/Leinsters moved to take up positions in the old Hindenberg Line north of Bullencourt. They were involved in some of the subsidiary actions accompanying the Battle of Cambrai including the capture of the “Tunnel Trench” feature. By early January George Buckley’s health once more gave way and he was invalided back to England never to return to 7/Leinsters. The History is effusive in its praise of the man and makes the point that at least he was spared the disappointment of experiencing the disbandment of 7/Leinsters in February 1918.

Lt-Col Buckley left the Army at the conclusion of the war, he had been awarded the DSO in 1916 and was created CBE in 1919. His post war activities included yachting, hunting and travel. He purchased an island off the west coast of Scotland as he found that sea air suited his health. George Buckley died in London in November 1937, his wife Mabel pre-deceased him in 1929. His was a life full of adventure, achievement and dedicated service to both his country and his fellow-man.

Leinster Gathering 7-8 June 2025

This year the Combined Irish Regiments’ Old Comrades Association (CIROCA) parade past the Cenotaph, was arranged for the weekend prior to The Trooping the Colour. Thus our annual Leinster Association gathering at the Civil Service Club (CSC) had to fall in line. It resulted in a dinner, rather than the customary lunch. With the exorbitant cost of accommodation in London at this time of the year, this change resulted in excluding some who would normally have attended from far away. With a late finish after 9pm, it was impossible for them to get home that same evening: not so Ken Geary and Paddy Kelly who came from Dublin: well done them. Nevertheless, there was a record breaking attendance of 58.

Guests of the Association at the dinner were: Fionnula Egan – Deputy Head of Foreign Policy at the Embassy of Ireland in London, Lt-Col Peter Macfarlane – Chairman CIROCA, Major Niall Hall – Regimental Adjutant Irish Guards, and Mick Kinahan, President of The Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen (ONE). The members of ONE had travelled to London with their President for the event, organised by the Association’s Hon. Secretary, David Ball, and Adrian



Fionnula Egan and Sir Anthony Weldon, the latter displaying medals including a Victoria Cross.

O’Brian. David is a member of ONE’s Drogheda & Slane Branch and Adrian is their Branch Treasurer. The menu was excellent and well presented by the CSC’s Chef and the Catering Team. As usual, there was no shortage of food, as the portions were extremely generous.

The evening was hosted by Sir Anthony Weldon Bt. He welcomed all our guests in his inimitable and highly



Andrew and Sue Overton.



Sean McGaughan and his son Daniel.



Major Mac McGowan, his wife Flo, and Tanyia Allison.

amusing style. He even suggested that resurrecting The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (**Royal Canadians**), and deploying them to Canada should be enough to ward off any ambitions President Trump may harbour for making Canada the 51st State of the United States. On behalf of The Association, he sent all our best wishes to June, David Ball's mother, who was much missed. A well supported raffle was held by David, ably assisted by the Branch Standard Bearer, Eddie Bryant. Port was served, and toasts were made to his Majesty the King, Head of State of Canada, the President of Ireland, to the Regiment, and to absent friends. In all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable night, which ended with Adrian O'Brien generously presenting a ONE shield to Sir Anthony.

A newcomer to our midst was Catherine Fennimore, granddaughter of Lt Col Patrick McEnroy DSO, MC. His is a remarkable story starting the ranks of the Irish Guards and then being commissioned into the Leinsters. He distinguished himself in both units. Catherine has since joined the Association, and we look forward to telling you more about the character and life of her grandfather in future 40-10s.

The next day, 12 members of the Association joined other members of the Irish regimental associations,

together with serving personnel of the British Army and the Irish Defence Forces to parade past the Cenotaph. The parade is organised and hosted by CIROCA and has been held since 1923. It was again headed by three Leinster members, Ken Geary who paraded the Standard of The Old Contemptibles, escorted by David Ball and Paddy Kelly. The wreath of the Leinster Regiment Association was laid at the Cenotaph by Daniel McGaughan. He had travelled down from Leeds with his father Sean, to remember their relative who served with the Regiment. The Association Standard was proudly paraded by Eddie Bryant. Sir Anthony Weldon Bt, headed the Association by being with the Officers that gathered to lay wreaths. The Inspecting Officer was the Chief of General Staff, General Sir Roly Walker KCB, DSO who started his service in the Irish Guards. He spoke in detail about the contribution of Irish soldiers. The parade was supported by the Band of the Irish Guards and the Frontier Pipes and Drums, Northern Ireland's only veterans' pipe band. With fine weather, the parade was another highlight on which to end a most successful weekend.

Ich Dien



F O R T H C O M I N G E V E N T S 2 0 2 5

The following are the events currently planned for the next few months. Any additions or changes to the programme will be posted on the Association's social media pages.

30th July 2025, Birr Library, 18.30hrs, Opening of Leinster Regiment Association Exhibition. New donations will be on display and more are actively being sought. It is hoped that local public representatives will be in attendance. The exhibition will run throughout Birr Vintage Week and will be available to view during Library opening hours.

9th August 2025, Birr Library, 10.30hrs Leinster Regiment Association AGM - Wilmer Rd, Townparks, Birr, Co. Offaly, Ireland. This year, the Association's AGM will be held in Birr in accordance with the established routine of alternating venues between the UK and Ireland. Important Association business, including the appointment of a new Chairman of the Regional Committee (Ireland), will be on the agenda. You are urged to attend what will be a busy, interesting and hopefully enjoyable day.

The AGM will be immediately followed by a talk by local historian **Aidan Doyle** on *Sport within the Leinster Regiment*.

This will be followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the **Regimental Memorial** in Crinkill.

At the conclusion of the formal events there will be an informal lunch and social gathering at **The Thatch** pub in Crinkill.

Other Scheduled Events

12th July 2025, 12.00-15.00hrs Royal British Legion (Republic of Ireland) Festival of Remembrance and the temporary display of the replica Ginchy Cross east of the War Stone for the duration of the Ceremony - Islandbridge War Memorial Gardens, Dublin.

13th July 2025, National Day of Commemoration - Royal Hospital, Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, Ireland. D08 FW31. Also at Fitzgerald's Park (Cork), Portlaoise, Crinkill (Birr) and other locations in the Republic of Ireland.

November 2025

There will be numerous local commemorative events taking place during November in which members will be able to take part, some of which are listed below. Please notify the Secretary of any you are involved with, so that they can be publicised on the Association's social media pages.

2 November, Royal Irish Regiment's Service of Remembrance - St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

6 November, The Field of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey, London. By invitation only.

8 November, Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance - Royal Albert Hall, London. By invitation only.

9 November, United Kingdom's Remembrance (Armistice) Sunday - Cenotaph, London and throughout the United Kingdom.

Members are advised to check dates, times and venues, before making travel plans to attend any events.

Colonel Peter S Walton (1939 - 2025)

It is with regret that we record the death on the 2nd March of the Association's previous Chairman, Colonel Peter Walton, following a period of declining health during which he was magnificently cared for by his wife, Gilly. Colonel Peter led the Association with distinction through a number of significant events in our recent past including the inauguration of the Prêmesques Memorial, the event at Windsor Castle to mark the 90th Anniversary of the laying up of the Colours of the Southern Irish Regiments, and the Centenary of the liberation of Ledegem. He acted as Parade Marshal when the Association was granted the Freedom of Ledegem in 2008.

Peter was born in 1939 into a family with strong military, Irish and Co Carlow connections. His great-uncle, Capt Henry T Maffett, commanded B Company at Prêmesques and is among the missing of that engagement. It was as a result of this connection that Peter first joined the Association and took a leading role in commemorating the action and trying to discover the fate of the missing.

On leaving school, Peter's ambition to become an Army officer was thwarted twice by the Regular Commissions Board (RCB) but unperturbed, in 1957, he joined the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC). This explains why, in later years, he adopted the name "Scarlet Gunner" for the company he founded to provide accurate reproduction blue cloth helmets and helmet plates to British Army bands in order that they could be "properly dressed". Subsequently, as a National Serviceman, he joined the Intelligence Corps with whom he served in Aden shortly after the Suez crisis. He quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant before finally achieving success at the RCB that led to a place at Mons Officer Cadet School and in 1961 to a commission in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He served for a second time in Aden and in Malaya, Borneo, Hong Kong, Cyprus, and also with the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces (SAF) in the late 1960's. His time in the Oman was marked by the award of the Sultan's Commendation and Distinguished Service Medal for his work with the SAF Association and the Anglo Omani Society. His service in Oman made a deep impression, and at moments of exasperation, Peter was known to exclaim in Arabic. Tours in command of 4th Armoured Division Ordnance Company in Germany and 2nd Ordnance Battalion in Catterick were interspersed with various staff and training appointments. A tour on the staff of the Zimbabwe Staff College in the early 1980's was a highlight.



Promoted to Colonel in 1985, Peter retired from the Army in 1989 and immediately immersed himself in a wide range of organisations associated with all forms of military heritage. It was typical of Peter that he readily took on positions of influence and responsibility in them all. He served for some time as Secretary of the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, was actively involved with the Royal Logistic Corps Museum, the Corps of Drums Society, the Victorian Military Society of which he was a Vice President, the British Association of Friends of Museums and the Diehards, the well regarded group of Middlesex Regiment re-enactors, to name but a few! An essentially self-taught military artist with a passion for the late Victorian period, he was an admirer of the work of Richard Simkin and authored what has become the standard work on the subject in two volumes entitled "Simkin's Soldiers". Then later, he produced "A Celebration of Empire", a glossy centenary souvenir of essays associated with Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897. The motto of the Prince of Wales and the Regiment is surely appropriate to sum up Colonel Peter's life: "*Ich Dien*"

We extend our sincere sympathy to Peter's wife Gilly, his children David and Victoria, his brother Simon and the rest of his family at their sad loss.

THE LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Committee and Post Holders July 2025

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** Also members of the General Committee

We'd like to remind all members that membership subscriptions became 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. A number of long-standing committee members have indicated that they would like to stand down from their current responsibilities. We urgently need more members to volunteer to help run your Association and continue to provide the high standards of remembrance already achieved. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the running of the Association, please contact Mark Weldon, Junior O'Callaghan 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

