



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission



FOUNDED IN 1828

**GLASNEVIN TRUST**

DARDISTOWN GLASNEVIN GOLDENBRIDGE  
NEWLANDS CROSS PALMERSTOWN



Dedication of the Cross of Sacrifice  
by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins  
and centenary commemoration of the First World War  
attended by HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Kent,  
President, Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
31 July 2014

The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue du Bois by Father Francis Gleeson



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# Chairman's Address



The dedication of the Cross of Sacrifice and the centenary commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War is a hugely significant event for Glasnevin Trust. This is one of a number of major commemorations taking place in the Cemetery during the “Decade of Centenaries”. Already this year we have had a very important commemoration to mark the centenary of the founding of “Cumann na mBan” led by President Higgins and featured the first all female personnel guard of honour in the history of the state and possibly in the world!

The decade we are remembering is complex. As Europe and much of the rest of the World prepares to commemorate the start of World War 1, it is noticeable, even after one hundred years, that there is no consensus on what actually caused the outbreak. This period of history on this Island is even more complex as we must not forget that the decade ended in independence and retention of the Union. This commemoration and the exhibition opened in our museum will, hopefully, push back the door further on this intricate part of our history. It should remind us of our shared history amongst the two traditions on this Island. One in six of those eligible enlisted, at least 210,000, and of those one in five perished. For whatever reason it is only now that we are coming to terms with the full impact of World War 1 on this Island.

Glasnevin Trust has had a relationship with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for 83 years. In the beginning the Commission was frustrated by what was perceived as a lack of cooperation by the Trust. In fact the memorialisation of the War dead was no more sensitive than the memorialisation of our Civil War dead. Fergus D’arcy’s “Remembering the War Dead” has an excellent chapter entitled “Glasnevin: A special case.” D’arcy clearly and succinctly records the difficulties. Suffice to say that the Trust in trying to offend nobody possibly offended nearly everyone involved. The compromise was the screen wall detailing those who died in or as a result of serving in World War 1, designed and erected by the Office of Public Works in 1937(replicated for WWII). For over 75 years the relationship between the Cemetery and the Commission was expertly facilitated and managed by the OPW. As the Cemetery commenced a major restoration programme with funds from the Government through the OPW our relationship with the Commission developed into a true partnership. Since 2008 we have put up CWGC headstones on 152 individual, originally unmarked graves and 39 Gallipoli markers on family graves. In 2011 the Screen Walls were moved to their current location close to Parnell’s final resting place. Now the alliance between the Commission and the Cemetery has culminated in the gift of a Cross of Sacrifice. This is a magnificent gift to the people of Ireland, Glasnevin Trust is honoured and privileged to be the custodian. We thank the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for presenting this Cross to the people of Ireland and HRH The Duke of Kent their President for his presence at the dedication ceremony. By officiating at the ceremony the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins has added greatly to its significance and profile, Glasnevin Trust is truly grateful to him. We are also grateful to the Government representatives and Regional Government representatives of these Islands, and the Ambassadors and Diplomatic representatives of all the participants in World War 1 who attended. Finally, on behalf of Glasnevin Trust I would like to thank all those involved in the erection of the Cross especially the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Office of Public Works, Glasnevin Trust Heritage Project Restoration Team, McKeon Stone and all those who helped organise today ,The Irish Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána and Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht..

**John Green,**  
*Chairman, Glasnevin Trust*

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The Cross of Sacrifice we dedicate today, is an important step in the continuing process of recognising and remembering those Irishmen and women who died in the two world wars. It represents a lasting tribute to their sacrifice and it is my hope, in the years to come, that memorials such as these continue to inspire successive generations to remember.

**HRH The Duke of Kent,**  
President, Commonwealth War  
Graves Commission

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In the year that marks the Centenary of the First World War, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is delighted that our joint initiative to erect a Cross of Sacrifice in Glasnevin Cemetery has reached fruition. The Cross is an important feature of our work worldwide commemorating those from both Ireland and throughout the Commonwealth who gave their lives during both World Wars. We are extremely grateful to the Irish Government, public, and Glasnevin Trust, all of whom have done so much to support our work of commemoration and remembrance in Ireland.

**Deirdre Mills,**  
the Commission's Director of  
United Kingdom Operations

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# Order of Service

## Opening of the Ceremony

John Green, Chairman, Glasnevin Trust

## Reflection

Dr. Edward Madigan

*Flowers of the Forest*

## Remarks

HRH The Duke of Kent KG, President, Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Evening Hymn*

## Address

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins

## Prayer led by British and Irish military chaplains

*Pipers' Lament (Lord Lovat's Lament)*

Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht invites the joint laying of wreaths by

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent KG

## Minute of Silence

## Last Post & Reveille

*National Anthems*

## Concluding Remarks

John Green, Chairman, Glasnevin Trust

## Conclusion of the ceremony

*Killaloe*

*Music by the Army No. 1 Band*

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## We Will Remember Them

In 2008 Glasnevin Trust and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) joined together in a partnership to individually mark the graves of those buried in Glasnevin Cemetery who died in service during or as a direct result of the First and Second World Wars.

207 such men and women are buried in the cemetery and all of their graves had not been previously marked or acknowledged. In the following five years either full size CWGC headstones or smaller markers, similar to those seen in Gallipoli, were placed on the relevant graves.

The marking of the graves was also accompanied by a project to research the lives of each of the men and women individually. This gave a remarkable insight into the lives of those who witnessed these moments of history and showed a cross section of political viewpoints, religious beliefs and social standings indicative of the wider story of Glasnevin.

In 2011 two commemorative screen walls that bear the names of the 207 casualties of the wars were relocated to a more prominent position at the new ceremonial plaza. The walls were originally located at the Prospect Gate area of the cemetery and previously had no opening ceremony or dedication.

The next step comes on the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and is the unveiling and dedication of the Cross of Sacrifice adjacent to the commemorative screen walls. It is an international symbol and commemorates those who lie beneath its shadow who died as a result of conflict.

The cross at Glasnevin is the first in the Republic of Ireland and the first in the world made from blue Irish limestone. Its unveiling is an important milestone and it will act as a focus point for commemorative events for years to come.

This Cross of Sacrifice will serve as a reminder of the cost of war for this and future generations. It also reminds us of the sacrifice of the tens of thousands of Irish men from the four provinces of Ireland who gave their lives, limbs and sanity on the international battlefields of two world wars.

This and other projects embarked upon by Glasnevin Trust have been invaluable in strengthening cross border links and understanding. Each year Glasnevin welcomes thousands of cross community groups who come to learn more about the stories of those buried here and the shared history of Ireland.

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## Pictured on previous page

1. Sub-Lieutenant Charles Aloysius Markey, Hood Battalion Royal Naval Division. 23 January 1920, OD 44 Dublin
2. Sergeant Louis W. Dowling, Royal Irish Fusiliers. 30 September 1918, CD 53.5 St. Paul's
3. Captain James F. Carroll Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 24 March 1919, IE 11 New Chapel
4. Surgeon Arthur H. Flannery Royal Navy. 31 December 1916, VT 48 South
5. Lieutenant Henry Burke-Close Royal Dublin Fusiliers. 1 November 1918, SB 37 St. Paul's
6. Private John McLoughlin Royal Irish Rifles. 22 September 1918, BI 211.5 St. Bridget's
7. Sergeant James Boucher Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 13 January 1918, OB 39 St. Paul's
8. Private Francis J. Murphy Bedfordshire Regiment. 22 August 1915, DA 43 South
9. Gunner Patrick Meleady Royal Field Artillery. 15 January 1919, JL 266.5 St. Patrick's

CWGC headstones unveiled at Glasnevin Cemetery November 2010





## Listed on the screen walls

Private	R	ABBOTT	Army Service Corps	09/04/1917
Private	P	ASHLEY	The King's Regiment (Liverpool)	17/09/1943
Private	J	BANNISTER	Royal Air Force	04/11/1918
Private	W	BERGIN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	30/03/1919
Private	J	BERRY	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	07/04/1919
Leading Stoker	A J	BLAKE	Royal Navy	06/07/1944
Private	E	BOLGER	South Lancashire Regiment	24/12/1916
Aircraftman	J P	BOOMER	Royal Air Force	25/03/1920
Q.M.S.	J	BOUCHER	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	13/01/1918
Private	J	BRAZIL	Pioneer Corps	03/02/1946
Saddler	M	BRENNOCK	Royal Field Artillery	09/05/1915
Private	W	BROUGHAL	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	13/11/1915
Gunner	J	BURKE	Royal Garrison Artillery	13/09/1919
Private	M L	BURKE	London Regiment	24/06/1916
Private	E	BYRNE	Royal Army Medical Corps	17/06/1920
Corporal	E	BYRNE	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	06/07/1918
Serjeant	R	BYRNE	Royal Irish Fusiliers	30/05/1920
Gunner	T C	CAMPBELL	Royal Artillery	27/01/1947
Corporal	J M	CARLIN	Royal Army Medical Corps	03/12/1917
Private	M	CARR	Connaught Rangers	04/07/1916
Private	C J	CARROLL	Essex Regiment	04/04/1918
Private	D J	CARROLL	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	25/12/1916
Captain	J F J	CARROLL	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	24/03/1919
Private	J J	CARROLL	Canadian Infantry	09/03/1919
Pioneer	M	CARROLL	Royal Engineers	14/06/1919
Fireman	J	CARTER	Mercantile Marine Reserve	04/04/1917
Private	K M	CARTWRIGHT	Auxiliary Territorial Service	11/09/1943
Serjeant	P	CASEY	Royal Irish Fusiliers	12/03/1919
Private	C	CLARGES	Leinster Regiment	03/05/1918
Corporal	J	CLEARY	Army Service Corps	16/02/1918
Lieutenant	H B	CLOSE	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	01/11/1918
Pioneer	W	COLEMAN	Royal Engineers	29/12/1915
Serjeant	J	CONNELL	Lancashire Fusiliers	07/12/1943
Corporal	M L	CONNOLLY	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	23/02/1919
Member	A	CONNOR	Women's Royal Air Force	18/02/1919
Serjeant	J H	CONROY	Royal Warwickshire Regiment	16/07/1917
Private	A	COULAHAN	Labour Corps	22/12/1919
Aircraftman	E K	CULLEN	Royal Air Force	14/05/1920
Guardisman	J	CURTIS	Irish Guards	12/12/1919
Aircraftman	J	DALY	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	08/11/1946
Gunner	C	DENNIS	Royal Garrison Artillery	13/07/1917
Private	B	DILLON	Royal Pioneer Corps	19/02/1947
Private	R	DOMICAN	Royal Army Medical Corps	16/03/1915
Rifleman	J	DONOVAN	Royal Irish Rifles	04/04/1920
Corporal	J	DOOLEY	Royal Army Medical Corps	07/12/1918
Corporal	J	DOOLEY	Royal Engineers	08/05/1916
L./Corporal	J H	DORAN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	21/08/1918
Serjeant	L W	DOWLING	Royal Irish Fusiliers	30/09/1918
L./Corporal	A F	DOYLE	Royal Irish Regiment	10/10/1918
Private	E	DOYLE	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	05/10/1918
Private	J	DOYLE	Connaught Rangers	20/08/1920
Private	W	DOYLE	Leinster Regiment	28/10/1919
Private	F T	DUFFY	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	21/05/1919
Private	P	DUFFY	Royal Defence Corps	24/03/1919
Private	P	DUFFY	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	19/03/1920
Gunner	J	DUGGAN	Royal Garrison Artillery	10/09/1919
Private	P	DUIGNAN	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	19/07/1920
Stoker	D	DUNNE	Royal Naval Reserve	13/03/1918
Private	M	DUNNE	Royal Sussex Regiment	02/05/1944
Serjeant	P	DUNNE	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	30/06/1916
Rifleman	S	DWYER	Royal Ulster Rifles	11/11/1944
Major	J	EDWARDS	Royal Garrison Artillery	23/05/1916
Private	J	ELLIS	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	29/10/1914
2nd Lieut.	E A	ENNIS	Leinster Regiment	30/10/1918
Rifleman	M	ENNIS	Royal Irish Rifles	18/05/1916
Saddler	G	EUSTACE	Royal Field Artillery	04/12/1914
Private	C	FARRELL	Northumberland Fusiliers	17/07/1918
Q.M.S.	J	FARRELL	Royal Irish Fusiliers	12/06/1916

W.O. Cl. 1	L J	FARRELL	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment	16/10/1939
L/Corporal	P	FARRELL	Connaught Rangers	21/07/1915
Aircraftman	P	FITZGIBBON	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	14/09/1945
Private	J	FLANAGAN	King's Own Scottish Borderers	23/05/1945
L/Corporal	P	FLANAGAN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	23/10/1918
Surgeon	A H	FLANNERY	Royal Navy	31/12/1916
Private	M B	FLOOD	Royal Irish Fusiliers	20/11/1918
Private	H J	FLYNN	South Lancashire Regiment	12/10/1914
Private	J	FLYNN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	28/02/1916
Private	G M	FOX	Auxiliary Territorial Service	10/09/1945
Private	P	FOX	Pioneer Corps	18/02/1943
W.W.O.	S	GAFFNEY	Royal Navy	14/02/1945
Gunner	P J	GEON	Royal Field Artillery	26/02/1920
Chaplain	W G	GILGUNN	Royal Army Chaplains' Department	11/12/1942
E.R.A.	R	GLAISTER	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	28/04/1916
Private	T	GOFF	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	03/11/1918
Corporal	W P	GRAY	Royal Army Service Corps	31/03/1941
Gunner	L	GRIFFIN	Royal Artillery	05/02/1940
Private	M	GUNNING	Royal Irish Regiment	20/09/1918
Sapper	J	HALLEY	Royal Engineers	27/06/1919
Private	J	HALPIN	Leinster Regiment	18/07/1916
Private	M	HANLON	Pioneer Corps	05/10/1945
Gunner	M	HAYES	Royal Garrison Artillery	10/03/1918
Private	E	HEFFERNAN	Royal Irish Regiment	20/01/1919
Driver	W A	HENDERS	Royal Army Service Corps	31/01/1942
Private	W	HENDRICK	Army Catering Corps	06/06/1944
Pioneer	J	HOLAHAN	Royal Engineers	12/05/1918
Corporal	J	HOLMES	Royal Army Service Corps	07/04/1919
Aircraftman	N C	HUMPHRIES	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	24/02/1946
Private	J	HUTTON	Leinster Regiment	16/01/1917
L/Corporal	R	HYLAND	Royal Defence Corps	06/12/1918
Private	W E	JAMES	Glamorgan Yeomanry	24/04/1916
Private	J P	JOHNS	Leinster Regiment	06/04/1917
Private	M	JOHNSTON	Royal Irish Fusiliers	24/05/1918
Private	A	JUDGE	Pioneer Corps	28/04/1946
Rifleman	J	KANE	Royal Irish Rifles	28/09/1914
L/Corporal	M	KANE	Royal Army Medical Corps	24/12/1914
Gunner	M	KAVANAGH	Royal Artillery	28/07/1942
Private	J J	KEARNS	Royal Army Veterinary Corps	06/10/1919
Driver	R	KEELEY	Royal Army Service Corps	16/12/1920
Captain	J	KEENAN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	26/03/1917
Bombardier	J	KEENAN	Royal Garrison Artillery	14/10/1915
Private	C	KELLY	Labour Corps	05/02/1920
Corporal	F J	KELLY	Royal Air Force	25/05/1947
Corporal	J	KELLY	Royal Irish Regiment	31/03/1919
Trimmer	R	KELLY	Royal Naval Reserve	01/01/1918
Sergeant	J J	KENNY	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	07/02/1943
Chaplain	T J	KENNY	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	03/09/1945
Gunner	T	KILLEEN	Royal Field Artillery	13/04/1918
Driver	P V	LANIGAN	Army Service Corps	16/11/1918
Private	J	LEE	Royal Irish Regiment	27/01/1917
Aircraftman	T L	LEMATY	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	25/11/1947
Private	R	LONG	Royal Irish Regiment	14/10/1918
Lieutenant	J M	LYNAM	Army Ordnance Department	29/12/1916
Private	B	LYNCH	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	11/03/1918
Sergeant	G C	LYNCH	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	04/05/1947
Rifleman	C	MAGUIRE	Royal Irish Rifles	05/11/1918
2nd Lieut.	P A	MALONE	Royal Munster Fusiliers	13/02/1919
Private	J	MARJORAM	Royal Irish Fusiliers	26/06/1915
Sub-Lieutenant	C A	MARKEY	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	23/01/1920
Private	T	MARTIN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	08/01/1917
Sapper	P T	MATTHEWS	Royal Engineers	27/11/1916
Gunner	P	MELEADY	Royal Field Artillery	15/01/1919
Private	J	MELROSE	Royal Army Medical Corps	14/10/1919
Private	D	MOLLOY	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	02/02/1916
Private	B D	MOORE	Machine Gun Corps	27/06/1917
Private	M J	MORAN	Pioneer Corps	31/05/1941
Rifleman	W	MORRISSEY	Royal Ulster Rifles	30/07/1946
Private	J	MOYLES	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	10/09/1915
Saddler	C J	MULDOON	17th Lancers	22/02/1919

L/Corporal	W	MULLEN	Connaught Rangers	10/03/1916
Private	P	MULVEY	Pioneer Corps	26/03/1944
Private	A	MURPHY	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	01/10/1915
Private	F J	MURPHY	Bedfordshire Regiment	22/08/1915
Lieutenant	P J	MURPHY	Royal Army Service Corps	29/09/1945
Rifleman	M	MURRAY	Royal Irish Rifles	04/12/1915
Driver	P	MURRAY	Royal Field Artillery	27/07/1918
Private	J	McCORMACK	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	29/06/1916
Private	P	McCORMICK	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	12/09/1918
L/Corporal	M	McCULLAGH	Royal Engineers	06/03/1947
Serjeant	T	McDONALD	Royal Air Force	23/01/1921
Gunner	T	McGEER	Royal Field Artillery	23/10/1918
Private	J	McHUGH	Royal Army Service Corps	01/12/1918
Private	F E	McLARNEY	Worcestershire Regiment	28/08/1919
Rifleman	J	McLOUGHLIN	Royal Irish Rifles	22/09/1918
Rifleman	J	McLOUGHLIN	Royal Irish Rifles	06/03/1918
Sergeant	P de V	McMAHON	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	23/01/1943
Private	R	NASH	Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)	19/01/1919
Lieutenant	G A	NEILAN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	24/04/1916
C.Q.M.S.	L M J	NICHOLSON	Labour Corps	11/03/1919
Private	P	NOLAN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	24/05/1918
Private	T	O'BRIEN	Connaught Rangers	05/04/1920
L/Serjeant	L P	O'CARROLL	Royal Artillery	02/03/1941
Sapper	J	O'CONNOR	Royal Engineers	26/11/1918
Lieut. Col.	W M	O'CONNOR	Royal Army Medical Corps	21/01/1916
L/Serjeant	W	O'CONNOR	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	06/09/1916
Lieutenant	M D	O'DRISCOLL	Royal Naval Reserve	06/12/1918
Private	J	O'DWYER	Irish Guards	10/09/1918
Serjeant	J	O'HIGGINS	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	10/10/1915
Private	P	O'KEEFFE	Irish Guards	03/12/1917
Private	J J	O'LOUGHLIN	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	15/11/1918
L/ Serjeant	J	O'MAHONY	Royal Irish Regiment	19/08/1917
L/Corporal	W F	O'MAHONY	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	10/10/1918
Lieutenant	W	O'MALLEY	Connaught Rangers	10/11/1919
Private	P	O'NEILL	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	21/02/1919
Forewoman Clerk	M	O'REILLY	Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps	27/10/1919
Corporal	C J	O'TOOLE	6th Dragoons (Inniskilling)	16/10/1918
Private	M	O'TOOLE	West Yorkshire Regiment	06/04/1946
Private	T J	PARKES	Northumberland Fusiliers	01/01/1916
Gunner	W	PEARSON	Royal Field Artillery	18/10/1916
Private	J	PHELAN	Army Service Corps	11/01/1916
Private	M	PHIBBS	Leinster Regiment	06/04/1919
L/Corporal	J	QUINLAN	Military Police Corps	15/07/1917
Private	M	RAFFERTY	King's Own Scottish Borderers	02/02/1946
Private	T	RAPPLE	13th Hussars	23/10/1918
Private	M J	REDMOND	Royal Army Service Corps	22/09/1919
Private	M	REID	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	16/02/1919
Private	W S	REID	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	26/01/1916
Rifleman	B	REILLY	Royal Irish Rifles	08/04/1918
Private	J	REILLY	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	04/04/1920
Rifleman	T	RICHARDSON	Royal Irish Rifles	29/10/1918
Private	P	ROACHE	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	22/03/1919
Private	J	RYAN	South Irish Horse	25/11/1917
Gunner	L	RYAN	Royal Field Artillery	04/09/1915
Driver	P M	RYAN	Royal Field Artillery	07/02/1919
Private	M	SAYERS	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	06/04/1918
Private	P	SEARS	Connaught Rangers	01/07/1920
Private	J	SHARKEY	Royal Irish Regiment	07/12/1919
Serjeant	K	SHIELDS	Leinster Regiment	19/11/1919
Cadet	J M	SIMINGTON	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	30/10/1918
Private	R	SIMPSON	Royal Irish Fusiliers	22/04/1916
L/Corporal	E	SMITH	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	02/07/1918
Private	J	SMYTH	Connaught Rangers	02/07/1920
Signalman	E	WILSON	Royal Corps of Signals	06/11/1941
Private	T P	WRIGHT	Royal Army Medical Corps	27/04/1918
Private	W	WRIGHT	Royal Dublin Fusiliers	07/05/1918
Private	P	WYATT	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	10/03/1916
Aircraftman	P J	WYNNE	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	28/05/1945
Gunner	G J	YOUNG	Royal Garrison Artillery	29/10/1918



## Ireland and the two world wars

At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Ireland was part of the United Kingdom. Both Nationalist and Unionist leaders initially supported the war and men from across the island, from both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds, enlisted.

Over 210,000 Irishmen served in the British forces during the First World War, while many others of Irish descent served with the forces of other Commonwealth nations or those of America. As many as 50,000 Irishmen died in the war.

In the Second World War, as many as 100,000 Irishmen served and some 10,000 were killed. Some 1,000 civilians were killed during air raids on Belfast and Dublin.

Many more of Irish descent served with the Allied forces of other nations.

## The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is responsible for the commemoration of almost 1,700,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars.

The graves and memorials of these men and women, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and none, are found around the globe in 153 countries.

## War Graves in Ireland

The majority of those Irishmen and women who died in service, lie buried or commemorated in the countries where they died – their graves and memorials looked after in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Less well known is the fact that there are more than 5,500 Commonwealth war dead buried or commemorated at more than a 1,000 burial grounds or churchyards throughout Ireland.

The majority of the war burials in Ireland are Irish casualties who died in the United Kingdom during both world wars and whose bodies were taken home for burial by their families in their local cemetery or churchyard. Some were buried in family graves marked with private memorials but others are commemorated either by Commission headstones erected on their graves or by commemorative memorials where it was not possible to mark the actual place of burial.

The largest concentrations of graves will be found in Belfast and Dublin. The cemeteries with the most war burials are Grangegorman Military Cemetery with over 600 and Glasnevin (or Prospect) Cemetery with over 200 (both in Dublin) and Belfast City Cemetery with almost 600.

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## Caring for War Graves in Ireland

For the maintenance of all but a few of the Commonwealth War Graves in the Republic of Ireland, the Commission has an arrangement with the Office of Public Works. The war graves in Northern Ireland are maintained by local authorities, church authorities and individuals. These arrangements are administered by the Commission's United Kingdom Area office. The Commission has a Regional Supervisor responsible for inspecting war graves throughout Ireland and ensuring that the war casualties continue to be commemorated.

At Glasnevin Cemetery, the Commission and Glasnevin Trust (who oversee the maintenance of the cemetery) have completed a project to identify war graves within the cemetery and to erect the familiar Commission headstone graves that until now have been unmarked.

The Trust and the Commission continue to work together to mark the remaining war graves within the cemetery.

## The Cross of Sacrifice

Designed by the renowned architect Sir Reginald Blomfield (one of three Principal Architects employed by the Commission after the First World War), the Cross of Sacrifice represents the faith of the majority and the human sacrifice of all Commonwealth war dead.

The Cross of Sacrifice is embedded with a bronze sword and can be found in cemeteries across the globe, wherever Commonwealth servicemen were laid to rest during and after the two world wars.

## Further information

Responsibility for the maintenance of Commonwealth War Graves in Ireland, and United Kingdom rests with the Director of the Commission's United Kingdom Area, based in Maidenhead.

For further information, about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its work please contact:

### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

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Website: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

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## Irish Regiments and Divisions of the First World War

10th (Irish) Division  
16th (Irish) Division  
36th (Ulster) Division  
4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards  
5th (Royal Irish) Lancers  
6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons  
8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars  
South Irish Horse  
North Irish Horse  
Royal Munster Fusiliers  
Royal Dublin Fusiliers  
Royal Irish Regiment  
Connaught Rangers  
Leinster Regiment  
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers  
Royal Irish Rifles  
Royal Irish Fusiliers  
Irish Guards  
24-27th Battalions Northumberland Fusiliers  
(Tyneside Irish)  
8th (Irish) Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment  
18th Battalion London Regiment  
(London Irish Rifles)

Amiens **Hulluch**  
Guillemont **Ginchy**  
*Salonika*  
**Cambrai** **Palestine**  
MESSINES *Somme*  
**Mons** **Ypres**  
*Le Cateau*  
**Loos** **Courtrai**  
GALLIPOLI  
*Arras* *Mesopotamia*  
**Macedonia**  
*Passchendaele*  
**Neuve Chapelle**  
**Saint**  
**Quentin**

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# The experiences of James Fitzmaurice

James Fitzmaurice was born in Dublin in 1898. In 1914 he enlisted aged just 16 and served for three years at the front with the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment. He recorded in vivid detail his experiences on the battlefields.

Fitzmaurice is most well remembered today for being one of those who carried out the first east west transatlantic flight in 1928. Remarkably the two men he worked closely with in this endeavour had served on the opposite side during the war with the German Air Service. He died in 1965 and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery (VJ 158.5 St. Patrick's)

"It is impossible to describe my feelings when we first came under shell-fire. It is sufficient for me to say that my enthusiasm and eagerness to get right into the war were considerably dampened. Dead German, British and French soldiers lay about in every conceivable position and condition—here and there a dead horse, a broken field gun. I had never seen a dead man before. My whole soul was filled with an indescribable feeling of horror. I felt sick right down in the pit of my stomach. I tried to visualise the position. I looked again at those dead soldiers - I looked at the poor dumb beasts - dead with their poor glassy eyes turned to the heavens.

It has been said that one can get used to almost anything. Such was not my experience during those awful days in the trenches.

At the time of the German retreat on the Somme in January, 1917, I was eighteen years old and more or less a seasoned old veteran. My platoon was detailed as portion of a force to advance on the village of Irlès for the purpose of discovering whether it was occupied.

We had to advance across the open in broad daylight with not even a kindly shell hole into which to throw ourselves in case fire was opened on us. We were simply human targets—"a draw fire party." Everything went well until we reached the outskirts of the village when hostile troops, who had been watching our every movement from the time we started, appeared in great numbers from nowhere firing from the hip as they rushed upon us.

The order to open rapid fire was given. It was however useless, we were hopelessly outnumbered so the order to retire was next shouted. My comrades were all either killed or taken prisoner. Three of us managed to rush back about 100 yards with a hail of lead buzzing about our ears. Z-Z-Zing, the steel-jacketed messengers of death buried themselves into the ground about us, casting little puffs of dust into the air. It was a hail of death! How we ever reached the shelter of the large disused watertank which lay in the middle of the field is a matter of conjecture. My eyes were blurred by the fury of a pounding heart. It was like a nightmare. Our feet seemed to be glued to the ground and at any moment I expected to feel a sudden burning flash as a bullet tore its way through my flesh. In an instant we were burrowing into the ground like madmen, tearing and clawing at the earth with broken nails and bleeding fingers. The noise about us was deafening. I watched with fascinated eyes the little curling bits of steel that suddenly protruded from the tank, and I knew that another bullet had hurled itself through the metal and out over our heads.

Until nightfall we remained behind the shelter of the watertank, and under cover of darkness we slithered and crawled from one tiny sheltering objective to another until we reached our own lines. Literally hundreds of holes had filled the watertank behind which we had been hiding, and my last reflection of our haven of refuge was that it looked like a giant upturned sieve as it disappeared behind us into the darkness."

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Members of the 10th (Irish) Division at Gallipoli

