



Secretary David Ball proudly carries the Union Flag followed by Harry Hogan bearing the RBL (Ypres) Standard leading the column during the Remembrance Ceremony, Ypres, 11 November 2008..

photo Hans Jacques

With the Association engaged in such a busy second half of the year, and time being at a premium, the editors took the decision to delay this issue from October and put together a bumper Christmas Edition and here it is, packed with news, stories and articles. We always attempted to achieve something new with each edition and this issue is no exception. To coincide with the description of events that took place in Ledegem last October, we have included an article about one family's quest to discover information about their grandfather, a Leinster soldier who died following the attack on Ledegem by the 2/Leinsters. There is a timely article concerning the "Christmas Truce" of 1914 with a thoughtful and well researched article from Ian Lowe. As part of our series of how the Association supports other events we have an interesting article concerning the deeds of Captain Noel Chavasse, VC & bar and Private Edward Whirlpool VC both from Liverpool. In response to the increase in requests we are now receiving for information about Leinster Soldiers there is part one of a two part series on how to go about finding information on Leinster Soldiers. This edition also includes a report of recent activity of the Association in Ireland demonstrating that the members there are active and promote the Leinsters whenever they can, especially at important national ceremonies. There are also our regular items on News from Birr and our Secretaries Report. A bumper edition with four additional pages of stories and photographs thank you for all your

PRINCE OF WALES'S LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Journal of the Prince of Wales's
Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)
Regimental Association

In this issue

News from Birr	Page 2
Secretary's report	Page 3
1914 Christmas Truce	Page 4
A long & winding road	Page 7
A truly amazing Sunday in Belgium	Page 8
The Association in Ireland	Page 12
Researching the Regiment	Page 14
Your letters	Page 15 & 18
Discovering my grandfather	Page 16
Liverpool Heroes	Pages 19
Note on Subscriptions	Page 20
Q. M. Store	Page 20

submissions, keep them coming!

Looking forward to our next edition we have articles on the Leinsters & the Easter Rising in Dublin, the cemetery in Crinkle that is the resting place for many a Leinster soldier. A story about Private Whirlpool VC of the 3rd Bombay European Regiment (109th Regiment of Foot), an update on the Leinster Regiment collection in Birr and the story of Capt. Johnston 2/Leinsters, and much much more!

Now all that remains for me to say is -
Enjoy the edition!

Don Dickson, December 2008
Editor

"Opinions expressed by contributors to this Journal are not necessarily those of the Editors or the Association"

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

News from Birr

2 With all the other things that have been happening to the Association the spotlight has temporarily moved away from Birr. However with this years Ledegem event completed and useful lessons learned, it is time to once again focus on the objective of creating a permanent monument to all those who served in the Regiment at the site of the Depot in Crinkill. A number of designs for a memorial have been produced, some of which can be viewed on the Association's website. There is an ongoing process of developing one of these into the final form. In doing so there are a number of considerations which have to work together. The basic design needs to be ascetically pleasing to the Association but also to the civic authorities and local residents. We are looking for a design that will be timeless but yet has a contemporary feel to it. It is also important that it is robust enough to survive in a roadside position, endure the worst that Irish weather can throw at it and need as little maintenance as possible. It is hoped to make further progress with the design and content of the project during December 2008 but it is prudent to recognise that the current global difficulties with public funding may make it impossible to complete the project during 2009.

It is with a feeling of both loss and gratitude that we report the retirement at the end of November of Anne Coughlan, the County Librarian for Co. Offaly. Anne has been a good friend and supporter of the Association and was instrumental in establishing the Leinster Collection in Birr Library. The brilliant job that was done of converting the old convent into the town library will long remain a testament to the contribution that Anne has made to the cultural and civic life of the town and county. It was a great pleasure for the Association to be able to welcome Anne and the Chairman of Birr Town Council Councillor Sean Doorley as our guests to the events at Ledegem last October. The Association sends Anne our very best wishes for the future and we hope that we will see her at future Association events.

On a more sombre note we report with sorrow and with a sense of history repeating itself that

Corporal Sarah Bryant, Army Intelligence Corps, who was killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb on the 17th June, had family connections with both Birr and the Leinster Regiment. One of her grandmothers, Mrs Mae Feeley lives in one of the old soldiers houses in Crinkill, her great-grandfather, Christy Naylor served with the Leinsters as a regular soldier. The Association extends its sincere sympathy to Corporal Bryant's family and friends.

IL



Proposal for the Regimental Memorial at Crinkle

A Calendar for 2009

We have put together some member's photographs to produce a unique -2009 Association calendar. You can preview the calendar online at the Association web site. An order form is included with this copy of 40/10

Events Calendar 2009

April 18 AGM London
July 11 Dublin Meeting
Sep 26 London Meeting
Oct 9-10 IMOS Sphinx Ieper, Belgium
Oct 11 Remembrance Ledegem, Belgium
Nov 8th RBL Remembrance Day Parade *
Dec TBA Christmas Lunch
* Public event organised by others. See website for details.

Secretary's Report

A lot has happened since the last issue of 40-10 and I hope this issue finds everyone well. Mrs. Sheila Dickson has taken on the role of membership secretary so all new applications and membership renewals will be processed and looked after by Sheila. I'm also pleased to report that Col. Peter Walton has agreed to join the committee. I'm sure you will give them both your full support. The association still has a position for Treasurer open so if you would like to help there, please contact me.

The Association has had a very busy time since early summer. June and July saw various parades and ceremonies here and in Ireland. The Association was well represented at the annual lunch and parade of the Combined Irish Regiments Association in June; many members attended sporting caubeens and Association ties. It was mentioned to me that it was great to see such a fine old regiment represented in this way and fantastic to see the cap badge on parade. Our guests from Belgium thought the event was very well organised and thoroughly enjoyed their weekend in London; they asked me thank everyone for the marvellous welcome they received.

In July the Association held its annual meeting in Dublin with 32 members and guests attending. It was a pleasure to welcome Col. David Maitland-Titterton, chairman of the CIROCA to the meeting. In the afternoon the RBL (RoI) held a memorial service and wreath laying ceremony at the Islandbridge War Memorial Gardens, Dublin; again this was well attended by the Leinsters, who I must add, braved the down pour. In the evening when we attended the 'Hooley' organised by RBL (Dublin Central Branch) it was great to see many of our friends there who made us most welcome.

The next day members of the Association attended the National Day of Commemoration, at The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham; this is a moving ceremony to commemorate all Irishmen and women killed in war and on service with the UN.

Our October visit to Belgium to attend Remembrance Ledegem coincided with the annual lunch of IMOS that is attended by members and friends of the Combined Irish Regiments Association. This year the Leinsters took up the torch to combine the two, so with a merry

ON PARADE WITH
THE
LEINSTER ASSOCIATION



LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

bunch on a coach and a few independent travellers, we travelled to Belgium. The IMOS team made us very welcome, there were lots of singing and even dancing! An emotional moment for all attending, was the IMOS tribute to our dearly missed friend, Major Jim MacLeod, and also a young Belgian soldier, killed while serving in the Lebanon, whose widow and two young daughters were attending the function. This brought home to everyone the human sacrifice and what soldiering is about. Spirits were soon raised though, and a great day was had by all.

On Sunday, bright and early, we moved off to Ledegem in a mist that was an eerie coincidence to the conditions of the actual battle in 1918. We were briefed on arrival by Col. Peter, who did a great job. The lads were totally bowled over to see an officer in caubeen with a cane, so a big 'well done that man'. *"Sir, you really made and done us all proud."* It was also a pleasure to have Mrs Betty McCaughey, niece of Sgt John O'Neill VC MM with us to commemorate his brave deeds 90 years ago. There are articles about Ledegem in this issue, so I shall say the rest is now 'well documented history'.

My sincere thanks must go to you, the members, for supporting these many events. I must also thank in my capacity as secretary of this regimental association, my fellow members on the Ledegem organising team, Don, Ian, Peter, Bart and Leo, Heemkring Liedengehem; Nick, Hans, Rik, Walter, Filip, Willy and Hubert, The Ledegem Civic authority, also General David The O'Morchoe, the members of the Combined Irish Regiments, all the 'Skins' 'Faughs' and 'Micks, the MPS Emerald Society P&Ds, IMOS, Canon Ray Jones of St George's Chapel, Ieper, our friends from Ieper and Birr, and all our new friends in the town of Ledegem and surrounding districts, and to 'U-Boat' for the laugh and giggles (never a dull moment). I must also thank YOU for all the letters, cards and emails of thanks and support on this fine event.

Lastly, could I please ask any members present at Ledegem, if they could forward to me, on a disc, any photographs for use in the association archive. I would be most grateful, please send them to my usual address and I will see that they are returned.

Merry Christmas to you all!

David Hall, Ich Dien.

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

2nd Leinsters and the 1914 Christmas Truce. IAN LOWE

The story of the Christmas truce of 1914 has become one of the staples of the popular perception of the Great War alongside 'lions led by donkeys' and many other myths. In this version of history, soldiers on both sides spontaneously stopped fighting on Christmas day 1914 and in the words of the song were prepared 'to give peace a chance'. It was an opportunity for common sense and humanity to assert itself and stop the steamroller of war grinding on out of control destroying all before it. The reason that it did not succeed was that peace did not suit the agenda of the politicians, senior officers and what we'd now term the 'establishment' and that in consequence the truce was ended and steps taken to ensure such a thing never happened again. Like most myths, close examination of the facts show that while it contains a grain of truth the story is much more complicated. In this article we will look at the experience of 2/Leinsters during this period and show how it mirrors the wider experience.

2/Leinsters arrived in France in mid September 1914 and took part in the marching, manoeuvring and fighting that eventually ended in the establishment of the Western Front in November. During this period they had taken part in several actions, notably on the Aisne and at Premesques with the so-called 'race to the sea' occurring in between. During mid November 2/Leinsters and the rest of 17 Brigade assumed responsibility for a stretch of the line just east of Armentiers, between the Armentiers – Lille road and the hamlet of L'Epinette, a distance of half a mile and only a mile or so from the scene of their fight at Premesques. The right half of this sector was held alternatively by 1/Royal Fusiliers

and 3/Rifle Brigade while the left half was held by 1/North Staff's and 2/Leinsters. The line was held with 3 companies forward and one in reserve, the German Trenches were between 200 and 500 yards away.

At this stage the trench system had yet to evolve into the fairly sophisticated arrangements of later in the war. They were rarely sited to best advantage often being positioned where mobile warfare had petered out a month or so before. They were likely to be fairly shallow with poor protection offered by parapets and pados. On this part of the front they were often very wet with rudimentary drainage arrangements, in some places it was impossible to dig trenches on account of the high water table and breastworks had to be constructed instead. The Regimental historian, writing as a man with extensive frontline experience, gives us a flavour of what life was like,

'The conditions of trench life at the time were of extreme misery; parts of the trenches were continuously under water the unceasing labour of trying to keep the trenches from falling in had begun to tell upon all ranks; there was the never ceasing sniping on the part of the enemy; while the verminous condition of the men was sapping their health. The misery of those December days of 1914, with cold, wet, mud and lice was perhaps never equalled throughout the war' ¹

The days preceding Christmas seem to have been a fairly typical December mixture of cold weather with rain occasionally turning to snow and by all accounts trench life carried on with the usual routine of duty followed by rest interspersed with occasional enemy activity, usually in the form of sniper fire. It is noteworthy that the war diary and the history tend to record enemy action only and rarely refer to the battalion taking an aggressive initiative although this must have happened.

The first indication that anything unusual might happen seems to have occurred at around 8pm on Christmas Eve when the sergeant-major of C Coy interrupted the officers dinner to report that the Germans had hoisted 'Chinese' lanterns over their trenches which had been promptly shot down by the Leinsters. The Germans then started to call over from their trenches asking for a cease fire. As the officers went to investigate, they could hear singing from the German trench. After a brief consultation with the other officers Capt Markes commanding C Coy decided that, 'all haphazard sniping could cease, but that fire was to be opened at once upon any German seen approaching our lines' ².

And so the night of Christmas Eve passed peacefully but not idly. There was a hard frost and one can imagine that



British trenches were very basic in 1914 with little by way of strengthening seen in later years

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

it was one of those crisp clear winter nights with the pyrothenics of the front adding to the display of stars. The opportunity was taken to set working parties busy repairing and improving the trenches. On Christmas morning stand to occurred just before dawn as usual. Later as B Coy were digging a new trench, a party of Germans appeared in no mans land with shovels and started burying some of their own dead that were lying near the battalion's wire. Soon some Leinsters were helping them and this contact developed into the exchange of seasonal greetings and souvenirs. Apparently



This photo, probably taken for publicity, shows well fed and clothed German soldiers in their trench. Compare these soldiers with the photo on page 6!

a brisk trade was done exchanging Christmas puddings for brandy. One wonders who got the better of that bargain! The Germans opposite B and C Coys were from 139th Saxon Regiment and apparently many could speak English having worked in London before the war in restaurants and shops. Evidently the belief that the streets of London are paved with gold is not a new one! The history records that the Germans believed that there was a war going on between Ireland and England (16 months before Easter 1916) and this must be a reflection of how the home rule crisis dominated domestic British news throughout most of early 1914. This misconception was corrected by showing the Germans two day old Irish newspapers, something that would be difficult to produce today never mind in the middle of a war. The battalion war diary is worth quoting in full for this day as it both summarises events and gives us an insight into contemporary attitudes,

"Dec. 25th L'Epinette. [Christmas Day] Without previous arrangement, but apparently by mutual consent, this has become a day of peace. No shots have been fired on our right or centre, but on the left there has been a little hostile sniping. Our men have been digging outside in front of their trenches whilst the Germans have buried some dead that lay between the two lines. Later, some consultations between the two sides took place in the open, both officers and men of each side being concerned. The enemy opposite us are the 139th Saxon Regt., and

consist largely of Landwehr and young soldiers. They appeared more numerous in the trenches than we are, and an Artillery officer and some artillery privates were with them. For the most part the men are small but of good physique and remarkably content and confident of victory"³.

Some of the other descriptions of the Germans were less complimentary and probably tell us more about contemporary prejudices than anything else. This is how an officer in the neighbouring 3/Rifle Brigade described Germans from the same unit; the officers were 'smartly turned out and clean' but says that the majority of the soldiers were 'fat sheep-headed little swine with the most diabolic Teuton expression imaginable'⁴. Not much peace and goodwill towards all men there then!

The fraternisation seems to have come to an end at about 1pm when both sides returned to their respective trenches to have dinner, the Germans playing the mess call on their bugles. Throughout the war Saxon units had the reputation of being the most easy going of the German units and the most ready to adopt a live and let live attitude on their front.

A different atmosphere seems to have prevailed on D Coy's front, under the command of Capt. Frederick Heneker, here the war went on much as usual. As quoted above the war diary records a 'little hostile sniping' on the left of the battalion and this detail is repeated in the regimental history. The troops opposing D Coy were Prussians who had a very different reputation to the easy going Saxons and were least likely to adopt a relaxed stance on Christmas or any other day. A source from D Coy confirms that fraternisation occurred further down the line with an estimate of between 300 and 400 men taking part and also mentions that the Rifle Brigade and North Staff's played football with the Germans. Interestingly, the Rifle Brigade source quoted above does not refer to football actually being played but does say that in shouted exchanges on Christmas Eve the Germans called out in Monty Python style 'Ve vill play ze football wid you tomorrow'⁵. There seems to be a lot of stories about football being played but it is difficult to tie down a creditable eyewitness account. The reality is that a ball may have been kicked around but what ever happened was well short of a match.

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



*Officers and men of 3/RB fraternising with Germans that day.
3/RB were in the trenches adjoining 2/Leinster.*

Sadly despite all the apparent bonhomie elsewhere in the line D Coy suffered 5 casualties. The D Coy source mentions two Leinsters killed and three wounded on Christmas Day. This is partially confirmed by 'Soldiers Died' which lists Private Jeremiah Harrington as being killed in action that day. Pte. Harrington came from Kenmare and had enlisted in Carlow. In addition Private James Carroll from Maryborough (Portlaoise) and Corporal William Rowe of Drogheda died of wounds on the 2nd January. We cannot be sure that these men were injured on Christmas Day but given that the battalion came out of the line on 26th December it is possible. Curiously the CWGC Debt of Honour Register does not appear to list Corporal Rowe.

Elsewhere on the Western Front there were 67 other deaths that day, some will have occurred in hospitals as a result of wounds. However, 9 men of the Coldstream Guards were killed in action a short distance south of Armentiers at Cuinchy and 5 men of the Gloucester's died in the same general area. So clearly the truce operated on a very localised basis.

There were attempts to extend the truce into the New Year, the initiative seeming to come from the German side. The Rifle Brigade source quoted above says of the period after Christmas;

'it has been an extraordinary week – the big guns shelling away at one another far over our heads,

day after day, but never a shot near our trenches. The understanding was only in the infantry. So we have really had a weeks armistice!'⁶

The regimental history goes further. On New Years night 2/Leinsters went back into the line at the Rue de Bois which they found to be peaceful but very wet. The Germans (a Saxon unit again) were only about 30 yards from the British front line and both sides set about making life more comfortable for themselves, according to the regimental history this extended to the Germans lending the Leinsters mallets to knock stakes in with. Finally to quote the history;

'Generals and brass hats fumed in their chateaux in the rear and peremptory orders were hurled at us to recommence trench warfare. Their position was rather like that of patrons of cock fighting who had found their own and opponents birds foregathering in friendship instead of getting busy with their spurs. Could anything be more exasperating to a true sportsman?'⁷

Even then the Saxons sent word across the lines to say that they would not fire if the Leinsters did likewise. This did not impress Capt Heneker, to whom the approach had been made, described as 'not a man to be moved from his duty'⁸ and after warning shots were fired the normal business of warfare was resumed.

There was never a repetition of the 1914 truce and the following year strict instructions were issued forbidding fraternisation. Whatever the inclinations of some of the troops on both sides if it is clearly fanciful to think that soldiers on either side would have spontaneously put down their arms and gone home. Too much blood had already been spilt for that but it has provided one of those might have beens of history down the years.

Sources.

1. The History of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment. Lt-Col F E Whitton CMG.
2. Ibid.
3. War Diary of 2/Leinsters. WO95/1612.
4. The Battlefields of the First World War. Peter Barton. Taken from a letter by 2/Lt Robin Skeggs, 3/Rifle Brigade.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. The History of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment. Lt-Col F E Whitton CMG.
8. Ibid.

The long & winding road

Ever thought of coming along on one of the coach trips? In this article Ian Lowe, who along with David Ball, organised the coach for Ledegem recalls the highlights of the journey.

A full compliment of 49 members and friends left London by coach on the Friday morning. The coach first picked up in Greenwich before travelling on to Victoria where the rest of the party was waiting. The extra pick up point proved popular with those from 'south of the river' and even allowing for the extra travelling we were on the way ahead of our scheduled 11am departure time. Despite the fact that many of the coach party were previously unknown to one another any ice thawed quickly and good camaraderie soon developed. Unfortunately as a result of the fire in the Channel Tunnel the number of crossings was reduced so some of the time gained by a prompt departure was lost through having to wait our turn. Never the less we arrived in Ypres more or less according to schedule and in plenty of time to attend the Menin Gate ceremony in good order. The remainder of the Irish members who had not travelled from London joined us in Ypres having made their way there independently.

Saturday's event at IMOS and the ceremonies at Ledegem have been fully reported elsewhere, suffice to say that we arrived on time at each event.

On Monday morning despite a couple of very busy days everyone was up bright eyed and bushy tailed (even the sub-mariners among us) to visit two cemeteries and



Sean Cooke pays his respects to Pte Timothy Sullivan

the Island of Ireland Peace Park. First stop was Bedford House Cemetery where Arnold Gregory and the rest of the party paid respects to his uncle. We then went to the Peace Park where prayers were said and wreaths laid. The final stop was a special surprise visit to Wulvergem-Lindenhoek Road Cemetery where a number of Leinsters killed during the attack on Hill 63 in September 1918 are buried including Sean Cooke's great uncle, Private Timothy Sullivan. The visit was special as it was the first time that Sean had visited the cemetery and only the second time by any of his family. We still had time to return to Ypres for a quick lunch enjoyed by many in the open air before heading back to the Tunnel and similar delays to those experienced on the outward leg. Despite

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



Lunch in Ypres on Monday

these all were on their way home from Victoria by 8.30pm.

A special thanks is due to Eddie the driver who did a wonderful job of getting us to the right place at the right time throughout the weekend. Those of us who watched him reverse the coach out of the longest, narrowest cul-de-sac in Belgium have nothing but admiration for his skill. A discreet veil is drawn over how we got there in the first place!

The undoubted success of the weekend was down to the spirit of friendship and common purpose that brought us all together and made us work as a team. The organisers say 'thank you' for all your co-operation and for the many kind messages received afterwards. Your appreciation makes it all worthwhile.



Captured in a moment of compete sobriety at the IMOS lunch in Ypres, 11 October 2008, Ken Bryant prepares to model the latest design of head gear rumoured to replace the caubeen on a "Foggy" night!

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

A truly amazing Sunday in Belgium for the Leinsters

by Don Dickson

8

As a red dawn broke on Sunday 12 October 2008, a low lying mist lay over the ground of West Flanders, restricting visibility below 30 metres. In the town of Ledegem outside the Church of St. Peter, the town's flag, the British Union Flag, the Irish and the Belgium flags hung limp in the chilly air, waiting for the sun to break through and spread its warmth. Alongside the town cemetery and out of view of the church, the coach carrying the Leinster Regiment Association party commenced to disembark its passengers; waiting for them was a squad from the Salient Remembrance Detachment attired in the WW1 service dress of the 2nd Battalion Leinster Regiment, complete with 29 Division shoulder flashes. There too was waiting our band, the Pipes & Drums of the Emerald Society, London Metropolitan Police. Parade commander Colonel Peter Walton mustered the party into three ranks, and a quick drill rehearsal was embarked upon in readiness for the march into Ledegem whilst Pipe



Heads high and in perfect step

Major Dominic Murphy mustered the band.

Meanwhile over in Ledegem Town Hall, the Association's President, accompanied by the Association Chairman was being welcomed by the Mayor of Ledegem as they joined an early morning reception alongside other invited civic dignitaries, including Belgian government ministers, the First Secretary from the Irish Embassy and senior commanders from the Belgian Defence Forces.

At 0945 the Mayor led the party from the Town Hall to St Peter's church and the group assembled in front of the Civic War Memorial.



Colonel Walton briefs the Standard Bearers

Representatives from the Royal British Legion (Ypres) joined the group and placed the RBL Standard and Ledegem Town Standard alongside the war memorial. The townspeople of Ledegem and surrounding districts were by now gathering outside the church and along the pavements of the streets surrounding the church. At 10.00 hrs, as an expectant hush fell, the swirl of bagpipes could be heard in the distance and all eyes turned to the south, there, just visible as they emerged from the mist, came the Pipes & Drums. On and on they came out of the mist until the assembled spectators could clearly see the Association's Standard and behind, heads held high and proud, in perfect step came the Leinster Regiment Association marching to the spirited sound of Paddy McGinty's Goat, known to have been a favourite march of the 2/Leinsters.

The parade halted outside the

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

church and Colonel Walton presented the Regimental Association to the Mayor, requested permission to enter the Town of Ledegem and invited the Mayor to inspect the parade. Following the inspection Mayor Dochy welcomed the Regimental Association saying that it was an honour for the people of Ledegem to welcome the descendants of Leinster soldiers, especially those of the 2nd battalion who had fought to liberate the town in October 1918. Mayor Dochy continued by saying that although he knew the Regiment had been disbanded in 1922, the town of Ledegem did want to recognise the debt they owed to the Leinsters and that the Town Eldermen had decided to present to the Regimental Association, as custodians of the Regiment, the Freedom of the City, and thus forge forever a link between the Regiment and the town. Major General The O'Morchoe accepted the honour on behalf of the Association, and asked in turn that Ledegem accept a plaque of the Regimental Crest inscribed with the date to confirm the bond that now existed. The ceremony outside the church concluded with the laying of a wreath, by the Association Chairman Don Dickson, at the Civic Memorial to the war dead of WW1.

The second part of the events commenced with the Leinster Regiment call to parade by bugler Chris Harman, who was also attired in Leinster Regiment WW1 service dress. Father Marc Messiaen (St Peter's Church Ledegem) and Canon Ray Jones (St Georges Chapel Ypres) appeared at the church entrance and invited those assembled to enter. Mayor Bart Dochy led the guests to their places, and Colonel Walton marched the Leinster Regiment Association into their places in the church with the townspeople following. The Leinster Regiment Association's Standard and the Standard of Ledegem were presented to the Church Alter and placed in position by the clergy as the Service of Remembrance commenced.

Up to now my description of the events has been as a report, but it would be impossible to convey in a report format the service itself. A number of times throughout the day there would be occasions when emotion was ever present, and the church service was one of these. The Belgian choir of St. Peter's singing Londonderry Air in perfect English; the presentation, by Ian Lowe, to the church of the Book of Remembrance; a WW1 soldier's helmet, filled with the soil of Flanders Fields, being presented to the Alter as the Offertory; the reading by Betty McCaughey, niece of John O'Neil V.C. of the 2/Leinsters; the echo within the church of the Last Post, the Piper's Lament and Reveille; these sights and sounds I cannot convey in words, but for those present I am

sure they will be recorded in their memory for time eternal.

Back to the report and after the Service of Remembrance we quit the church into blazing sunshine. Gone was the early mist and in its place the sun shone down upon the assembled groups mustered to form the next part of the commemoration parade into the town. There waiting were a detachment from the Belgian Defence Forces based in Ypres along with Belgium's premier military band, The Guides; the Royal British Legion; the veteran associations from Ledegem and surrounding district; the town band, Harmonie St. Cecilia; Ledegem Fire Brigade, complete with big red fire engine!; and at the head of the parade mustered the Leinster Regiment Association, together with an invited contingent from the Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association.

The parade then marched off to the new march "Heroes of Ledegem" written for the occasion by Pipe Major Murphy, to the place where the town had erected a new monument to commemorate the 1918 liberation by the soldiers of the 2/Leinsters and the 4/Worcesters. Here waiting their arrival was Mayor Dochy, Maj General The O'Morchoe, The British Ambassador, the First Secretary from the Irish Embassy and other invited dignitaries. Colonel Walton brought the marching parade to a halt and assembled the Regimental Association in an arc around the new memorial as the Belgian Defence Forces commander positioned his troops. There then followed a speech from Mayor Dochy and the reply by the Association



The scene facing the new monument

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

10

Chairman, who surprised all, (including himself), by concluding his speech in Flemish as a gesture of remembrance to all the inhabitants of Ledegem that they too should be proud of their forefathers and never forget the sacrifices that they had also made. The new memorial was then unveiled by Thibault Dochy, the young son of Mayor Bart Dochy, and Jack Dickson, the great-great-grandson of Captain John (Jack) Dickson, 2/Leinsters and Green Howards; it seemed an eternity before the flag of Ledegem, that had been covering the monument, finally uncovered the stone but then at last it was done. Revealed was a magnificent stone table onto which was placed for all to read, inscribed in both Flemish & English, was the October 1918 story of Ledegem, the 2/Leinsters and 4/Worcesters. Furthermore, there on the left leg of the memorial, carved into the stone, was the Leinster Regiment's immortal mark, 40/10, a sign that "The Leinsters had been here!" It should also be reported that the Regimental Association had liaised with the Ledegem Historical Society to ensure that the description of the events that occurred in October 1918 was factually reported, and we are grateful to Ian Lowe for writing the description that now is integrated into the memorial.

Now followed the blessing of the memorial by the two clergy, a public Service of Remembrance and the wreath laying, when, as part of the ceremony, amongst the many wreaths laid were those of the Leinster Regiment Association; the Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters Association; Combined Irish Regiments OCA; the British Ambassador; the First Secretary at the Irish Embassy; the Royal British Legion; Betty McCaughey the niece of Sgt John O'Neil V.C. 2/Leinsters; Mary Sanders and her sisters Colette and Jacinta granddaughters of Sgt Patrick Hackett, 2/Leinsters.

Part three of our parade was upon us as the time came for the Leinster Regiment Association to exercise its new privilege, to march through the streets of Ledegem with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed! In this the Association forever owes a debt of gratitude to our Belgian friends, Leo Regemortels and the Salient

Remembrance Detachment, who paraded as 2/Leinster soldiers in WW1 service dress complete with Lee-Enfield with Bayonets fixed; without their support the Association would have been limited to colours flying and drums beating. What a sight the assembled parade now was, in fact it was so large that with over 400 persons in total about to march, the parade commander had organised a



The monument is unveiled awaiting the blessing

preset interval departure for each section. First off were the Leinsters with David Ball, escorted by the Salient Remembrance Detachment, parading the Freedom Scroll; then came the 4/Worcesters and they were followed by Mayor Dochy, Eldermen and dignitaries. The Belgian Defence Forces, Ledegem veterans and Societies, and Ledegem Fire Brigade set off at 3 minute intervals to space out the music from the three bands in the parade! On a glorious sunny day through the streets marched the parade with townspeople leaning from windows and waving flags; the parade temporarily halting from time to time as the various bands played their set pieces. At the front with heads high and a jaunty step marched the Leinster Regiment Association, who, as they marched to the invigorating tune Killaloe played by the Pipes & Drums, gave out the resounding challenge to the joy and appreciation of the townspeople who had been "tipped off" and were impatiently waiting to hear the men shout out the challenge!

Eventually the parade route end was reached and welcome respite from the sun was taken in the De Cycloon restaurant and mini conference centre for the reception and lunch. More speeches were made and commemorative gifts exchanged, amongst them the presentation by Pipe Major Murphy to Mayor Dochy of a music CD of the new march "Heroes of Ledegem" and a presentation, by David Ball to the community of Ledegem, of a replica set of medals, including a replica V.C. won by Sgt O'Neill

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

and Private Moffat during the liberation of Ledegem in October 1918. The lunch was a splendid affair with an abundant supply of wine and was topped off with a "march through" of the Pipes & Drums, who, had they not by then been approaching the time when they had to leave to catch their ferry back to UK, would have been hostage to the townspeople to play even longer!

Yet the day was not over and as the afternoon continued the celebrations moved to the nearby Lauwers Farm, where in a spotlessly clean and well prepared barn that had been turned into an auditorium, the Ledegem Historical Society presented a unique Sound & Vision spectacular of photography, poems and music provide by Irish Folk music group Morna. This for me was the second emotional event of the day as carefully selected original photographs of Ledegem during WW1, intermingled with contemporary photographs of locations of CWGC and specific headstones of Leinster Soldiers were presented alongside the works of WW1 poets recited in turn in Dutch & English; all to backing of soulful Celtic music. I rather suspect that at the end of the show there were not many dry eyes left in the audience as most people I could see where proclaiming they had something in their eye!

Now as the sun's rays once more turned to red as dusk fell over the early evening, the mood once more changed to a jolly atmosphere as Morna played their repertoire of traditional Irish folk songs. With a low price bar, courtyard barbeque of traditional Belgian sausages cooked over hot charcoal to keep us happy and fed, the socialising began that lasted well into the evening. Irish Music, Belgian beer and wine, with the occasional barbequed sausage, laughter and conversation it all contributed to the cementing of friendship between individuals.

And so as the moon in the night sky illuminated the fields around Ledegem the time arrived when our party had to embark upon the coach and return to the hotels in Ypres. Sunday 12 October 2008 will surely be remembered by all who were lucky enough to be part of the commemoration and festivities. Elsewhere will be made the thanks to the organisers, and I am sure that I am not wrong when I say that the success of the event is thanks enough for everyone who was involved, be they organiser or participant. Well done the Leinsters, and thanks to the people of Ledegem there is now a new page to be written for the Regimental History! **DD**



Betty McCaughey, niece of Sgt J O'Neil V.C., with her Guard of Honour outside the De Cycloon

A swift return to Ledegem

In November, David Ball returned to Ledegem with some friends (no, not to apologise) to visit the memorial and to say hello to Nick Soen, Chairman of the Ledegem Historical Society. David writes "With the help of our man in 'Wipers, Bart D'Hulster, I invited Nick and a couple of his colleagues, Hans Jacques and Huebert Vandromme to join me and our group at the service of remembrance in St George's Chapel, and then to the ceremony at the Menin Gate, which I am lucky enough to attend every year. I am glad to say they could all attend, and afterwards we all reminisced and chatted about the success of Ledegem."

Advertisement

For Books of Irish Interest



www.schullbooks.net

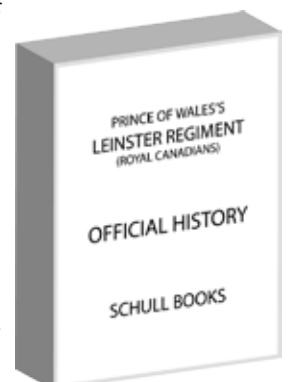
Purchase your own copy of the Regimental History and have a valuable resource. Three volume editions of the history may be purchased from Schull Books in Ireland.

Telephone

00 353 28 37317

email

schullbooks@eircome.net



LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association in Ireland.

The annual meeting of the Association that takes place in Ireland was organised by committee member Mr Noel Cullen and held



Business over and time for a quick lunch

on Saturday 12 July 2008 in the premises of the Irish UN Veterans Association HQ at Arbour Hill, Dublin. The meeting was attended by the Association President, Major General The O'Morchoe, and the committee in attendance were David Ball, Ian Lowe, Noel Cullen, Commandant M McGoona with the chairman Don Dickson presiding. The turn out for the meeting was excellent and members welcomed Col David Maitland Titterton, Chairman of the Combined Irish Regiments Old Comrades Association as special guest. The chairman expressed his pleasure in seeing so many family descendents of Leinster Regiment soldiers supporting the meeting. The Secretary presented the minutes of the prior meeting which were approved and the meeting moved through the agenda items. Members present then discussed the progress of the project for the new memorial in Birr and the plans for the trip to Belgium in October as part of the Remembrance Ledegem commemoration. The

Secretary then reminded members of the opportunity to attend the commemoration later that afternoon at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens Islandbridge, for the annual commemoration of the Irish dead of the Great War; and on the following day the National Day of Commemoration ceremony at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. Association members were also pleased to receive an invitation to attend, that evening, the Dublin Central Branch of the RBL. The meeting concluded with a buffet lunch provided by the Irish UN Veterans Association during which opportunities to socialise were seized.

Irish National War Memorial Gardens 12 July 2008

The weather was atrocious but the event was magnificent! Such was the description of the event hosted by The Royal British Legion Republic of Ireland. This annual ecumenical service of remembrance and wreath laying ceremony, in the year of the 90th anniversary of the end of WW1, was indeed spectacular. Those of us who fell into the organised spectators' category had seats within the arena and we duly assembled, taking our positions as the heavens opened and poured torrential rain upon the seated assembly. Umbrellas sprang up, in many cases adding to the misery of the seated as rain cascaded off the umbrellas onto the adjacent poor unfortunate. With the clergy and choristers duly soaked the rain eased off as the grand parade of Standards took place; there is certainly something that stirs the blood as standard after standard appears and marches into position before the war memorial. The President of the Royal British



*The Commemoration ceremony at Irish
National War Memorial July 2008*

Legion – The Republic of Ireland, Major General The O'Morchoe, then escorted the Officiating Clergy to the war stone and the service got underway. Again the heavens opened and the rain came down, out in the open the clergy and choir got even more wet, then fortunately the rain eased off a little for the Act of Remembrance. As the wreath laying ceremony commenced the rain redoubled its efforts to ensure everyone experienced a drenching,

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

that is until it was time for the wreath for the Leinster Regiment. The rain stopped, and everyone felt the warmth of the sun's rays as Secretary David Ball marched forward to lay the Association wreath. Now I do not know if the sudden appearance of the sun was a positive omen for the well being of the Association but as David returned to his place and other regiments went forth to lay their wreaths, the rain once more returned. As luck would have it, eventually the rain once more eased off as the paraded standards departed signifying the end of the ceremony. Throughout the ceremony the Band of 1 Southern Brigade, conducted by Lt. Col. Brendan J Power and the choristers of St. Patrick's Cathedral and Palestrina Choir, though undoubtedly very wet, never faltered and were a joy and pleasure to listen to. So yes the weather was atrocious but the whole event and Act of Remembrance was magnificently organised and that somehow made up for it; the pouring rain did not matter for it could only have been trifling by comparison to what those who fought in WW1 experienced. For those of us there, surely a small price to pay for the opportunity to commemorate our extended family within the Regiment who gave their lives for you and for me.

The National Day of Commemoration, Sunday July 13th 2008

Although this commemoration is on the day following the WW1 commemoration, it is somehow fitting that the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin (the sister to the Royal Hospital Chelsea) is the location for the ceremony that pays honour to all Irishmen and Irishwomen who have died in service during conflict. For those of us who live in the UK, the ceremony is far removed from the traditional Remembrance Sunday ceremony held every November in London. Yet its very difference makes it equally as poignant and no less important to the extent that it receives national TV coverage within Ireland.

The ceremony is held within the courtyard of the Royal Hospital and is a seated affair for spectators, with tickets being in high demand. Fortunately our Association Secretary David Ball has this well under control and tickets are available for Association members who wish to attend. Both the Taoiseach and the President of Ireland participate in the ceremony as do representatives of each of the Faiths that practice in Ireland, Jewish, Islamic and the Christian faiths of Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Greek Orthodox and Methodist. Smartly turned out Cadets formed the Guard of Honour and Trumpeters and Drummers of the Band of 1 Southern Brigade, Defence Forces School of Music attended the Act of Remembrance.

The commemoration ceremony is quite a lengthy affair and unlike the preceding day when spectators

were subjected to torrential rain, this event was bathed in glorious sunshine. Those with hats, berets and caubeens were afforded some protection but those who sported an uncovered head baked in the heat; the contrast with the day before did not go unnoticed! Now apart from the commemoration ceremony being quite unique, and the rather incidental matter of the weather, there is one other



Col David Maitland-Titterton (3rd left) and Mr. Noel Cullen (3rd from right) await the arrival of the Taoiseach at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham

significant difference between this ceremony and the UK Remembrance Sunday ceremony. After the ceremony the assembled spectators are invited to join the officiating party in a reception, at which copious amounts of Guinness, along with other beverages of the alcoholic and non alcoholic variety, are served. Old hands at this ceremony appear to be either first in the queue or they hang back for to be caught in the middle crush would not be a pleasant experience. Despite that the reception is a splendid affair with plenty of opportunity to explore parts of the Hospital building with all its past military connection, socialise with a wide variety of people, including representatives from embassies, Irish politicians and veterans of present and former Irish Regiments.

So what should you, the reader, take from this report? Might I suggest two things? First the Leinster Regiment Association has an active membership in Ireland and a key date in the Association calendar is the Dublin Weekend that includes all of the above. Second that wherever you live, the spiritual home of the Regiment is Ireland and, if you are not doing so yet, you should seriously consider coming along to these events this coming July 2009!

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Researching the Regiment



"H" Coy, 2 Bn Leinsters, photo courtesy of M McGoona

Many members who come along to Association meetings are familiar with the fact the two editors of this Journal are engaged in researching the activity of the Regiment during their spare time. Both have in the past freely given of their time to help other members discover more about the Leinster soldiers in their families.

What you may not be aware of is that weekly these two gents receive many requests from within and without the Association for help of a similar nature. Many of these requests are generated by the recent resurgence in TV programs such as "Who do you think you are?" and the like, so tend to be focused on family who served with the Leinsters during the Great War. So if you are thinking of doing some research into Leinster soldiers here are a few pointers.

In the past twenty-four months there has been a significant growth in making copies of certain documents available using the Internet. Many of these services are known as "subscription services", that is you pay money for a subscription that covers a period of time, and during this time you have access to the documents online. Some of these services can be accessed from Public Libraries for free, so it is worth investigating at your local library or County Record Office what is available. In addition some County Library Services provide "gateways" for their members to use the service from their home computers connected to the

Internet by broadband. For example residents of Buckinghamshire who are also members of the county library have access to The Times digital archive, normally a subscription service, from their home computer. The provision of documents online means that you may no longer have to make that trip to the National Archive in Kew, and with rising transport costs that can represent a considerable saving.

Like it or not, the ordinary rank & file soldier is rarely mentioned in generalised official documents unless something (out of the ordinary) happened to them. Commissioned Officers however do not follow this restriction; receiving the Royal Commission is documented from the very beginning so this can make tracing information somewhat easier.

So where does one start? Well that depends upon what you are trying to do, but if you are trying to find information about a WW1 soldier there a couple of jumping off points. If your soldier was a casualty and did not survive the Great War then the Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains an online database that you can search. Once you have located your soldier you will have certain information such as rank, regimental number, and where the soldier is buried. There may be other information such as place of birth, parents and former residence. What the CWGC database will not tell you is where your soldier died.

The next jump point is the UK National Archives medal index roll that maintains a database of all soldiers, casualties and survivors, who were awarded campaign medals. You can search the index for free at TNA but they charge to download a copy of the Index Card that gives details of the medals awarded. However if you have a subscription to the service Ancestry you may be able to see and download a copy as part of your subscription.

Once you have the basic information you can move onto the more tricky challenges such as finding more about his military career, where your soldier served, what battalion he was in etc. The first step is to see if your soldier's attestation documents and records survived. Many of the WW1 soldiers' documents did not survive WW2 when the repository was damaged in an air raid. Those that did survive are generally referred to as "The Burned Documents" indicating the fate of those that did not survive. The burned documents are being scanned and made available online through the Ancestry subscription service. You can however still request to see the original for free at the National Archives in Kew, providing you make a personal visit.

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

There are other “sources” that can be explored to find more information about your soldier. The Leinster Regiment has a very good Regimental History written by Col Whitton not long after the Regiment was disbanded. Whitton had access to many private papers that are no longer available and he used these to build his history of the Regiment. If you are fortunate, you may find a mention of your soldier in the History, but its greatest value is in telling you where your soldier was likely to be during in any given month. This holds true whether you are seeking a WW1 soldier or a pre WW1 soldier.

Sticking with the WW1 theme, for those interested in the soldiers who served in the 2/Leinsters, the book “Stand To!” written by F. C. Hitchcock, and published by The Naval & Military Press, is written in the style of a diary and covers the period 15 May 1915 to 25 December 1918. There are periods though when Hitchcock was away from the Battalion and during those periods he does not cover what was happening in the 2/Leinsters.

Other sources include battalion War Diaries (for WW1 only) and by provided you know the battalion that your soldier served in you can obtain a copy of the Battalion War Diary for the period in question. Be aware though that it is only very rarely that a soldier will be mentioned in a War Diary, and if mentioned in the War Diary that fact will already have been recorded by Whitton in the History. The value of the War Diary is that it may contain operational information not given in the History, and that operational information is useful when assembling a picture of what happened on a given day.

So having got your war diary, what next? Maps are next! There are two types of maps that can be useful; trench maps show the positions of allied and enemy trenches and the names of the trenches, positions of buildings, farms, railways etc., and strategic maps that show divisional and battalion positions on the front line.

By collating and evaluating the information you now have it should be possible to understand exactly where your soldier was on a given date and what he was doing there. This can make your tribute visit a much more memorable affair.

There are many resources available to you on the internet, including the possibility of downloading copies of the 1918 War Diaries as PDF files. The Editors have worked together to publish this list on the Association web site in the Family History section.



Your letters



SURVIVING GALLIPOLI

Pte Frederick Arthur Smith enlisted sometime in 1914/15 and was dispatched from his Hoxton home to Ireland to make up the numbers in the 6th Battalion Leinsters Regiment at Birr. The only son, with two sisters, his father would have liked him to be heir to his successful Carpentry and Shopfitting business but he chose to be an electrician by trade and I believe this new technology proved useful to the regiment.

Seemingly popular with the locals at Ferry Bank he was dubbed 'The Cockney Irishman' as he would always sing the Irish songs in the pub. He was sent to Galipoli in 1915, landing at Suvla Bay with the ANZACs. They were constantly under fire. On one occasion he and another soldier were sent out to save a wounded colleague whilst under machine gun fire, they returned him for treatment safely. On another occasion whilst charging forward with his colleagues he was wounded by a grenade. As there was no hope of a stretcher bearer he fought on and managed to avoid further grenades and machine gun fire, eventually crawling back to the trench for treatment. His leg was shattered and he was effectively out of the Gallipoli campaign - and he knew how lucky he'd been. I'm not sure about the rest of his military service I'm afraid, but I know he went home, married his sweetheart in 1919 and my grandad arrived in 1920! I'm grateful to my father as his information came from tape recordings made in 1974 just before he died.

Terry Frederick Smith

There was description of the Gallipoli engagement by the 6/Leinsters in the June 2008 edition of 40/10, thank you Terry for this personal recount, we are privileged to have received it.

More of your letters appear on page 18

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Discovering My Grandfather

2815 Sargeant Patrick Hackett, 2nd battalion
Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal
Canadians)

Mary Sanders



I had always known that my mother hoped I would visit my grandfather Patrick's war grave. Neither she nor anyone else in her family got the chance to go there. My grandmother never spoke about my grandfather. Their three children were under 4 years of age when he was killed and therefore had no real memory of him. Before my mother died in 1990 she had given me

the bare details of the regiment he had joined, his regimental number; that he had made the army his career; and that he had been a bombing instructor in the Curragh Camp. Mother also said that he had been killed at the age of 24, only four days before the Armistice was signed in 1918. Some time later in 1996, having lived and worked in the U.K. for over 20 years, I returned home to Ireland and settled in Wexford. Whilst sorting through some papers I came across this information again; then piecing scraps together I recalled a childhood memory of being taken by my grandmother, along with my older sister Anne, on regular visits to a grave in an old cemetery in Church Avenue, Drumcondra in Dublin. The problem was that neither Anne nor I could remember whose grave it was! Anne was dispatched to Church Avenue and discovered the grave contained all sorts of people with the surname Hackett so she took the details from the headstone. Subsequently Anne contacted the warden of the graveyard who was able to provide additional information from his records.

However I soon had changed priorities and nothing was else was done until 2006. In

preparation I started by devoting computer time to investigating what information I could get. I started with the CWGC Internet web site, then on to the National Archives in the U.K. finally I discovered the Leinster Regiment Association. At the same time Anne was up in Dublin practically living in the National Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Pearse Street and had been experiencing real difficulty in tracing my grandfather's birth certificate. It was the information that I discovered online that enabled us to confirm our grandfather was aged 28 when he was killed, not aged 24, and that he died 10 days before the Armistice was signed, not four days. Anne then set about tracing my grandmother's birth certificate. Grandmother had always been very definite about her age; however we subsequently discovered she was two years older! My sister was then able to go on and find our grandparent's marriage certificate, and subsequently the birth certificates for their three children. They had all lived at 12 Lower Sherrard Street in Dublin. During contact with the Leinster Regiment Association both Dave Ball and Ian Lowe were extraordinarily helpful in providing information, explaining the military terminology, and guiding me in terms of filling in some of the gaps. My grandfather was born and lived in Dublin and we were always of the opinion that our whole family came from Dublin. Ian Lowe raised the point that it would have been unusual for a man from Dublin to join the Leinsters who recruited mainly in the counties of Offaly and Laois because traditionally most Dublin men would have joined the Dublin Fusiliers. With this question at the back of my mind, Anne and I continued our research and when the 1911 Census details for Dublin were released we found our great-grandfather Hackett who had also been born in Dublin. So we still have not squared the conundrum why Patrick enlisted into the Leinsters?

Around this time I contacted my cousin in Liverpool (also named Patrick Hackett) only to discover that he had already been to Ypres and visited our grandfather's grave. [Editors note: Patrick Hackett had contacted the editor some years before this and the editor had provided him with detail of his grandfather, where he was buried and how he had died] However he had no birth, marriage or death certificates or other information on my grandfather, but he was able to put me in touch with Nick Soen of the Ledegem Historical Society in Belgium. Time to visit Ypres! Together with another sister Pauline, and her husband Bob, we met Nick and his colleagues in April 2007. This contact made the situation very 'live' for us as Nick took us around the Ledegem area and

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

illustrated what had happened on the morning of the 14th October 1918 when the Leinsters liberated the town. It was during this liberation that my grandfather was likely to have received his fatal wounds. Nick also took us to the site of the Duhallow Dressing Station where Patrick Hackett most likely died from wounds four days later. We then visited his grave in Duhallow War Cemetery and we were particularly taken with the location and that it is beautifully tended with the information and visitor's books so carefully minded. When you think of the utter devastation of the area in 1918 it was wonderful to see the grass and trees and hear the birds sing as if they were



From the left, Anne Jarvis, Mary Sanders & Pauline Dettmer

looking after the men who lay there. You will understand that this was a very emotional interlude for us. We could not help but feel sad at the thought that he had laid there for 89 years without visits from any members of his family – and then 5 visits in the space of 12 months! We were also really proud to find that our grandfather is buried alongside the only Belgian soldier in Duhallow.

Another member of the Ledegem Historical Society Hans Jacques very kindly

took us to the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines and we were very pleased to see this memorial dedicated by the people of Ireland (North and South) to all those men who lost their lives in the 'Great War'. With the help of Chris Lock of Flanders Battlefield Tours we took a day out to visit as many as possible of the other war cemeteries and the locations of the major battles. We came back home after this much extended weekend in Ypres feeling as though we had visited another world. It was a humbling experience to see those vast and numerous war cemeteries and to realise just how many men, including our own grandfather, had lost their lives in such an awful war and that they had left behind widows and children who lives would become even harder in the future.

Anne and I continued our involvement with the Leinster Regiment Association by attending the meeting of the Association in Dublin in July 2007 and the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at The Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge in Dublin. We also visited Birr in September 2007 for the launch of the Leinster Regiment Resource Centre at the Library, and then saw the wonderful stained glass window tribute to the Leinsters' installed in the church there. We made our way to the site of the Crinkill Barracks and could not believe how extraordinarily large it had been. We really hope that the great work of Sean Cooke and Ian Lowe

and others will pay off soon in getting the council to agree to erect an appropriate monument. It is only fitting that the Leinsters' should be properly remembered at their home base.

We continued our research into understanding our grandfather's involvement in the Leinsters' but because the records were burned in 1940, *[Ed. The repository was hit by a bomb in a WW2 air raid]*, we were very disappointed to realise that we will never see his Army Service Record. However we do know that he was already a regular soldier in the army prior to the start of the war, and that he served in France and Belgium right up to when he was killed in action in October 1918. At least we were able to locate his Medal Record but unfortunately we don't have my grandfather's war medals. It seems they disappeared when my grandmother's house was cleared out after she died!



The former Hackett home in Dublin

The release of the information from the 1911 Census of Ireland for Dublin has been fantastic in aiding my research. *[Ed. Ireland's National Archives elected to provide free online access to the 1911 Census of Ireland and commenced the project by releasing the census for Dublin].* We now have a lot more detail relating to Patrick Hackett,

and also his parents William Hackett and Mary Cleary. This Census also helped us locate his grandparents Lawrence Hackett (born 1843) and Catherine Walsh and his great-grandfather John Hackett – although we don't yet have their birth certificates. We now need to find out where they were born and, if it is Tullamore or Birr as we suspect, we also want to understand why the family moved from there to Dublin. No doubt the famine had something to do with it. With recent

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

guidance from Sean Cooke I have written to his contact at the Co. Offaly Historical Society and we are hoping they will be able to assist us in tracing these ancestors.

Through our research activity we feel the connection between our grandfather Patrick Hackett and the Hacketts in the grave in Drumcondra is not that elusive any more and we like to think that we are getting closer to discovering the connection. No doubt we will close the Hackett book when we achieve that.

To close this chapter on my story, together with our other sisters Colette and Jacinta, Anne and I have just returned from a 5-day trip to Ypres, the highlight by far being REMEMBRANCE LEDEGEM Sunday on October 12. What a day! We were overwhelmed by the generosity and hospitality of the people of this small town who, together with the Leinster Regiment Association, worked so hard to produce what resulted in a remarkable remembrance day. It involved a huge programme of events throughout the day and evening. It was so enjoyable, and it is a day I will never forget!

Your letters

Joseph Boyce, Pioneer Sgt.

My Grandmother and her family lived in Dublin city centre on Prouds Lane just off Stephens Green. One day the Black and Tans raided the house looking for Joseph Boyce (my great grandfather) who they found and arrested thinking him to be a member of the IRA. He was sent to Kilmainham jail and was locked up with other prisoners. While he was there the other prisoners had full respect for his rank. He was released when it was discovered he was a member of the British army. Many years later before my Great Grandmother died (in the 1970's) she was approached by a chap on Stephens Green informing her that he was Joe Boyce, the man who should have been arrested all those years ago, and that he wouldn't be alive if it wasn't for the fact the got the wrong man on the night in question. Needless to say I think he might felt my great grandmothers walking stick. My great grandmother Celia Boyce was also mentioned in the history of Irish women for her part as a mid wife in the York street area of Dublin around the same time. -emailed by Julie and Ciaran

Your letters

Dear Ian,

I hope you are well, and have recovered from the trip to Ypres and Ledegem. I must say that congratulations are due to you and all the guys who put so much work into Remembrance Ledegem. It really was a splendid day, and one I will not forget. My sisters and I enjoyed it hugely, and want to extend our grateful thanks. We were flabbergasted with the huge programme, and the way everything went so well. It was a huge achievement!

Mary Sanders.

My sincere thank you to everyone who made our trip to Ledegem such an experience, one, God willing I will never forget. There used to be an old TV show in America called 'Queen for a Day.' Thanks to David, wearing the VC, MM and other medals that my Uncle John O'Neill so gallantly earned, made me feel like a 'Queen', not only at Ledegem but also at Westminster Abbey and Cathedral.

To those of you on our coach, John and I had never been with all of you before but God willing would so enjoy repeating the experience.

Thank you David and Friends.

Betty and John McCaughey

Dear Don,

Months ago you kindly emailed me with routes to go along to find my Grandfather. I haven't had much luck to be honest, but I am still pursuing certain other avenues.

However, searching some old stuff in my attic, I came across the attached photograph. I have no idea who is on it, but presume because I have it that my Grandfather is! The only one it could possibly be is the extreme right of the middle rank, with the moustache. The build would also be correct.

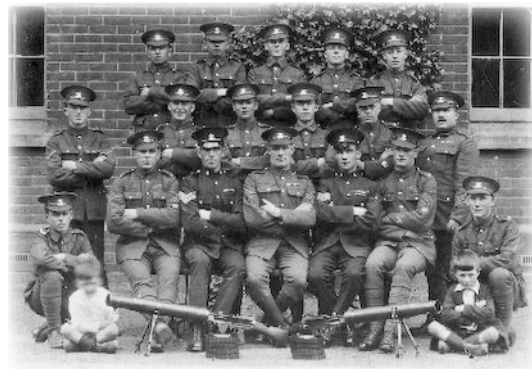
With his rank in 1921 in Colchester, the good conduct stripes would point to this being him also.

How does this picture tie up with regards to cap badges etc?

Hope this is of some interest to you.

Kind regards

Vic Joyce



Well Vic, the cap badge is correct and the 2 battalion were in Colchester from Nov. 1919 to May 1921 when they went to Silensia, then and again from 29 March 1922 until disbandment. As for the rest of the soldiers in the photo, perhaps others can help?

Liverpool Heroes

An example of one way the Association works to fulfil our objectives.

On Sunday, 17th August 2008 a Drum Head Service was held in Abercromby Square, Liverpool when a bronze sculpture and memorial was unveiled commemorating the life and deeds of Captain Noel Chavasse, VC and Bar, MC, RAMC, medical Officer to the 10th Battalion (Liverpool Scottish) King's Liverpool Regiment, and fifteen other men who received the Victoria Cross and were born in Liverpool. Capt. Chavasse, son of the second Bishop of Liverpool, was the only man to be awarded two Victoria Crosses during World War 1 and died on 4th August 1917 of wounds sustained in Flanders.

Ian Lowe, John Walsh, and John Earl attended the ceremony on behalf of the Leinster Regiment Association in honour of Private Edward Whirlpool VC of the 3rd Bombay European Regiment (109th Regiment of Foot which was incorporated in the Leinster Regiment on its formation in 1881) Private Whirlpool, who was born in Liverpool, was awarded this distinction for bravery during the Indian Mutiny in 1858.

The event was attended by over 700 people including the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, The Deputy County Lieutenant, Brigadier General Raymond Romses of the Canadian Army, members of the Chavasse family and relatives of the other recipients of the Victoria Cross named on the memorial. Also present were representatives of the existing and former Army regiments and Corps of the men named, the Royal Navy, Royal Navy Reserve and Liverpool University.

The service was conducted by the Rev. John Williams MBE, Chaplain to the Armed Forces and the Venerable Paul Chavasse OC. Music was provided during the event by the Band of the 4th Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment (TA) and the pipes and drums of the Liverpool Scottish. The Funeral Oration of Pericles was read by Mrs Ann Clayton, the biographer of Noel Chavasse. The Memorial was unveiled by Thomas and Charles Chavasse, nephew and great nephew of Noel Chavasse.



*John Earl & John Walsh
alongside the bronze sculpture*

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

The Memorial is appropriately located in Abercromby Square where the Bishop's Palace was located and to which the Chavasse family moved in 1900. Noel graduated from Oxford University in 1908 and subsequently read medicine at Liverpool, qualifying in 1912 and joining the TA branch of the RAMC being attached to the Liverpool Scottish.

Noel Chavasse was awarded the MC for recovering wounded from no-man's land near Hooze in June 1916. He won his first Victoria Cross in an action near Guillemont on 8/9 August 1916 once again for rescuing wounded while under fire. On the 31 July 1917 on the opening day of 3rd Battle of Ypres the Liverpool Scottish took part in the initial assault on the German held area in the vicinity of Wietje. Early in the action he was hit in the head by a shell splinter but refused to go back for treatment continuing with his duties repeatedly going out under heavy fire to treat and rescue wounded men resulting in the award of a Bar to his Victoria Cross. Noel Chavasse was wounded again on the 2nd August and died of his injuries on the 4th. He is buried in Brandhock New Military Cemetery near his batman who was also mortally wounded in the same incident.

The bronze sculpture comprises of three figures displayed on an oblong base, the sloped sides of the base include tributes to the fifteen Liverpool born Victoria Cross winners. Captain Chavasse is portrayed straining under the weight of a wounded soldier whose body and arms are extended across the sculpture in cruciform shape. A stretcher-bearer contorts his body to assist the lift and his concern for his comrade's injury is apparent. The close contact of the figures, which almost seem to be welded together, echoes the compassion and camaraderie of soldiers.

The sculptor Tom Murphy, a local man has a long history of producing memorable pieces in Liverpool, the Shankly statue at Liverpool FC, that of Dixie Dean at Everton, John Lennon at the airport and Captain Johny Walker at the Pier Head.

John Earl.

LEINSTER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

Subscription Renewals

Renewal of subscription will be due in January and all members are requested to pay their subscriptions promptly.

Why not take the worry out of having to remember to pay by taking out a Standing Order? With a Standing Order, once the instructions is accepted by your bank it will last until you cancel the payment.

An application form is available from the Membership Secretary.

If you prefer to pay by a cheque drawn on a UK bank, please send your remittance and Membership Card to this address.

Sheila Dickson, Fir Trees, 12 Fryer Close, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1RD, UK

Your card will be updated and returned to you.



The editors, Don
& Ian, wish you
a wonderful
Christmas!

The Quartermasters Store

Item	Price
Blazer badge	£10
Caubeen (Cap) Badge	£ 5
Association Tie	£8
Key Fob	£5
Leinster Hackle	£5

To purchase any of these items send your order together with a sterling cheque for the correct amount made out to the Leinster Regiment Association, to

Eddie Bryant (Leinster QM)
24 Maxwell Road
Fulham
London SW6 2HR

Advertisement

Visiting Ypres in 2009?

No visit to Belgium is complete without experiencing the sensation of Belgian chocolate and no visit to Ypres is complete without stopping off and saying hello to Carl Vandaele, master chocolate maker whose family have run their shop since 1891 and were one of the first to rebuild in 1921. You can find Carl and his delicious assortment of chocolates in his shop in the Market Square. Just look for the old TEA ROOM sign that dates back to his family's



original 1921 shop.

**PÂTISSERIE CHOCOLATE
VANDAELE**

**GROTE MARKT9
8900 IEPER**

*Leinster Regiment Association
members are especially welcome*

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President: Major.General The O'Morchoe CB CBE

Chairman: Don Dickson, MBA, FIHEEM, MCIM

Vice Chairman: Comdt Mick McGoona

Secretary: David Ball Esq.

Membership Secretary: Sheila Dickson

Military Protocol: Colonel Peter Walton

Quartermaster: Eddie Bryant Esq.

Association Historian: Ian Lowe Esq.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE AND ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION TO

Don Dickson, MBA, FIHEEM, MCIM
Fir Trees, 12 Fryer Close, Chesham, Bucks, HP5
1RD, UK

Email: don@the-dicksons.org

Where to find out more?

Visit the Associations website at
www.leinster-regiment-association.org.uk

 **The 40/10**

Journal of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) Regimental Association