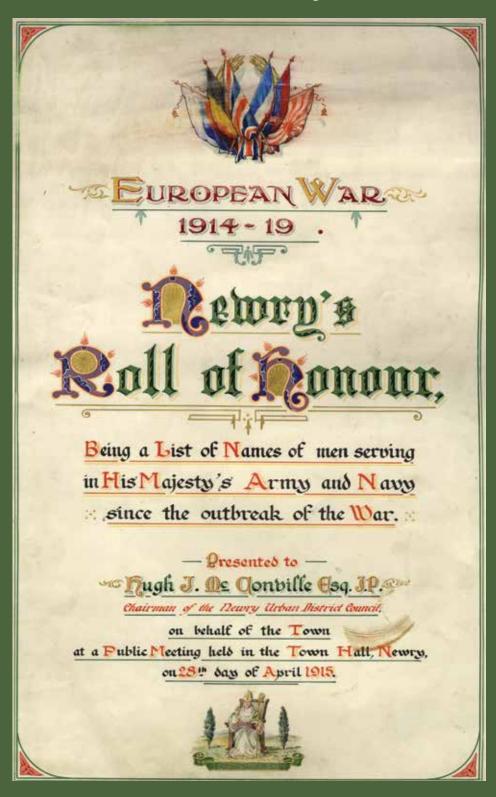
NEWRY'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Joanne Cummins and Greag Mac a' tSaoir





Foreword

Joanne Cummins and Greag Mac a' tSaoir, Museum Assistants at Newry and Mourne Museum are to be congratulated for producing an informative book which provides an unparalleled insight into Newry's role in the First World War.

It documents the fascinating human stories that lie behind some of the names listed on Newry's Roll of Honour, which was donated to the Museum by the Newry branch of the Royal British Legion in 2013.

Using a wide variety of research sources, the book masterfully explores diverse aspects relating to the Roll of Honour, ranging from an examination of why it was compiled, to its presentation to H.J. McConville, Chairman of Newry Urban District Council, on 28th April 1915 in Newry Town Hall.

Using contemporary newspaper accounts, the book brings into sharp focus how the course of war affected some of those who served. The theatres of war in which they fought are also examined, and in particular John Bannon's diary provides an invaluable source of information on his war service in East Africa.

This publication is an important achievement in facilitating understanding of local history and heritage and meets Newry and Mourne Museum's key aim to make its Collections accessible and relevant to the community and visitors.

Noreen Cunningham Curator Newry and Mourne Museum



John Bannon in the uniform of the Royal Irish Rifles. Courtesy of Patrick Bannon

Introduction

Newry's Roll of Honour was presented to Newry and Mourne Museum by the Newry branch of the Royal British Legion on 25th September 2013. The document contains an illuminated front page followed by thirty-two pages of the names* of those who served in the forces at the outset of the "European War". The document provides a snapshot of Newry citizens engaged in the war effort in the initial fervent months of the First World War.

An examination of Newry's Roll of Honour is constrained by some of its inherent limitations. While it is a rich source of information, this must be balanced against its inconsistencies and errors. This has required a closer examination in the light of secondary source material, which itself is difficult due to the destruction of the bulk of the military records in 1940.

In attempting to provide a context in which to consider Newry's Roll of Honour as more than simply a list of names, and in an effort to draw out the human stories, many other contemporary sources of information on Newry were examined. This is by no means an exhaustive account and an examination of the document in its wider context may yield more stories.

It is hoped this book illustrates the richness of the information held in Newry's Roll of Honour and also acts as a catalyst to unlocking the social history of Newry during this time.



Newry's Coat of Arms, as represented on Newry's Roll of Honour.

'The Pass at the Head of the Strand' Newry before the War

The Newry Reporter Year Book of 1913 describes

Newry as "a commercial and industrial town of much importance . . . it has a sea port, is situated in the centre of the main highway that leads from North to

South . . . from the surrounding heights, the appearance of busy industry – though unfortunately some of the tall smoke stacks to be seen no longer belch forth smoke, but stand waiting the capital to work them again".²

The hopes of an industrial revival were pinned on the scheme to develop the Newry, Keady and Tynan Railway, which it was hoped would open up a large part of south Armagh for Newry traders and the Port, and a deep water scheme to allow larger ships to make port at any state of the tide. A Private Member's Bill to promote the railway scheme, which depended on the compulsory purchase of substantial tracts of land along the proposed route, was passed in 1900 and the Newry, Keady and Tynan Light Railway Company was incorporated the following year. After a decade of inaction, interest in the scheme petered out and it foundered.

Newry had a good transport network. The Great
Northern Railway Company provided links to Belfast,
Dublin, Warrenpoint and Armagh. The London
and Northern Railway Company ran the branch
line between Newry and Greenore, from where the
steam packet service departed for Holyhead. Travel
time between Newry and London was less than
twelve hours. The Dundalk and Newry Steampacket
Company had a modern fleet carrying passengers and
cargo, and ran a twice weekly service between Newry

(Albert Basin) and Liverpool (Collingwood Dock), and a weekly service to Glasgow, via Ardrossan.

These transport links also facilitated the movement of migrant labour to England, Scotland and other parts of Ireland. Centres of industry such as Liverpool,

Coatbridge (Lanarkshire) and Garston (Lancashire) were well known to many Newry families.

In terms of Newry's maritime trade, coal, maize, flour, timber and building materials were all imported by locally owned companies such as Joseph Fisher and Sons Ltd., while exports included oysters, potatoes, hides, clover and grass-seed, granite, granite setts, macadam, flax, yarns, linen, cloths and fruit in season, including hundreds of tons of blackberries shipped each year.

Weaving and spinning were regarded as the most important manufacturing industries in the area. Maize crushing and grinding were carried out extensively at the Clanrye Mills, and two well equipped bakeries provided a considerable amount of employment. Industries such as tanneries and distilleries were in decline.

On the eve of war, entertainment was provided in the newly opened Assembly Hall adjoining the Mitchel Memorial Hall, Needham Place (now John Mitchel Place). A variety hall and picture palace, it was used by travelling theatrical companies for concerts and dances. There were many clubs and societies operating in the town: Newry Agricultural Society, Suffrage Society, Commercial Newsroom, Free Library and Working Men's Clubs; a large range

^{1.} A set piece welcome was arranged at Edward Street Railway Station on the occasion of the visit by Lord Wimborne, the Lord Lieutenant, to Warrenpoint in July 1915. In responding to the speech given by H. J. McConville he referred to Newry with the rather garbled phrase 'the pass at the head of the strand'. Reported in *The Newry Reporter*, 8th July 1915.

^{2.} The Newry Reporter Yearbook, 1913.

of church related organisations and brotherhoods as well as sporting clubs, such as tennis, hockey, cricket, rowing and rugby.

Overall the lot of the worker in Newry was not good. Employment was scarce and job security almost non-existent. For example, dockers were still subject to the stevedore system under which they were recruited casually on a day-to-day basis. Newry was one of the few ports in which the practice of paying them in the pub at the end of the day still applied.

The state of Newry housing was often in the forefront of local politics. Terence Ruddy, speaking in 1908 during his campaign for election as a councillor for the South Ward characterised housing in the area as "a disgrace to any civilised country". Improvements were underway with the Urban District Council of Newry (UDC) providing public housing, with a number of workmen's dwellings completed, and occupied by 1913, with "a goodly number of the slum districts in the town cleared of inhabitants". Sanitation was being well looked after, and the streets were in good order.

At the outbreak of the war in August 1914, 50,000 Irish soldiers were serving in the battalions of the regular British Army and its reserve. During the course of the conflict a further 135,000 went on to enlist, with three divisions: the 10th (Irish); the 16th (Irish) and the 36th (Ulster) being formed from Irish soldiers within the first months of the war. By the time the Armistice came into effect on the 11th November 1918, an estimated 35,000 Irish born

soldiers had been killed, including 4,000 soldiers from the 36th (Ulster) Division.⁵ This was not the first time that soldiers from the Newry area had participated in a European war, as the presence of a cannon outside the Town Hall, a trophy from the Crimean War, testifies.



Terence Ruddy stood as a candidate in the 1908 elections to Newry Urban District Council, seeking to represent the electorate of the town's impoverished South Ward. He was a popular figure locally and as leader of St. Joseph's Brass and Reed Band he played a prominent role in the social life of the town.

Newry and Mourne Museum Collection

- 3. The Frontier Sentinel, 11th August 1908.
- 4. The Newry Reporter Yearbook, 1913.
- 5. Terence Denman, Ireland's Unknown Soldiers: The 16th (Irish) Division in the Great War, Dublin, Irish Academic Press, 1992.

"WANTED, 10,000 Irish Volunteers" The Political Backdrop

Political tensions were growing in Ireland as a result of the Third Home Rule Bill. The Home Rule Crisis sharply divided the country, leading to the formation of the pro-Union Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and the nationalist Irish National Volunteers (INV). Both groups had armed themselves with guns brought in covertly from Germany. By the onset of the war Ireland was awash with volunteers drilling and undergoing rudimentary weapons training. The provision of uniforms, the cost of which was borne by the Volunteer himself, was a booming business and one gentleman's outfitters advertised in *The Frontier Sentinel*:

"WANTED, 10,000 Irish Volunteers to buy General Outfits at CAHILL BROS. Including LEATHER BANDOLIERS, LEATHER BELTS, HAVERSACKS, PUTTIES, VOLUNTEER BOOTS, VOLUNTEER BADGES, Irish Made".6

The presence in Ireland of around a quarter of a million volunteers suggested that the country would be a fertile ground for recruitment.

Ulster Volunteer Force

The Unionist population of Ireland had organised itself around the Loyal Orange Institution which, since the latter part of the 18th century, had been successful in providing a focus for the expression of Protestant culture. In the face of the second Government of Ireland Bill, popularly referred to as 'Home Rule', the populist nature of the Orange Order was strengthened by the political lobbying of the Unionist Clubs. These were reformed in response

to the election in 1910 of a Liberal government dependent on the nationalist Irish Parliamentary Party's (IPP) support. From this and other events it became evident that a third Home Rule Bill would be introduced and in all likelihood implemented. By mid-1912 there were 316 clubs, almost all in Ulster. They organised in support of Unionist candidates but also drilled and some promoted rifle classes.⁷

The intervention of Sir Edward Carson led to a hardening of the Unionist stance in the face of the third Home Rule Bill, with the notion of a separate Unionist entity in some of the Northern counties emerging as a preferred option. On 28th September 1912, 'Ulster Day', Unionists signed 'Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant', an oath to defend Ulster from Home Rule. Many of those listed on Newry's Roll of Honour were signatories, signing the Covenant in the Orange Hall on Downshire Road. Women signed a separate Declaration in the Scriptural School on Downshire Road. In all, the Ulster Covenant was signed by 237,368 men and the Declaration by 234,046 women. It sent a clear message of defiance from Protestant Ulster to Asquith's Liberal Government. Carson's increasingly belligerent entreaties to the Northern Unionists to arm themselves and resist Home Rule by force were openly rebellious. With the Conservative Party's support of the Unionists, it was a rebellion that the government did not dare challenge.

The term Ulster Volunteer Force was first used publicly on 22nd December 1912 by Colonel Sharman-Crawford addressing a meeting of the Bangor Unionist Club. County committees had

^{6.} The Frontier Sentinel, 1st August 1914.

^{7.} Timothy Bowman, 'The Ulster Volunteer Force 1913-1914' in Gabriel Doherty (ed.), *The Home Rule Crisis 1912-14*, Cork, Mercier Press, 2014.



Postcard produced by Unionists in 1912 as part of the Anti-Home Rule campaign. *Newry and Mourne Museum Collection*

been formed earlier in the month, and throughout 1913 recruiting was carried out. There were tensions between some local Unionist Clubs, who organised their own drilling, and the UVF. In Newry this came to a head in September 1913 when the local Unionist Club asserted its right to appoint UVF Commanders in defiance of the County Committee of the UVF.⁸ The same month Carson sent a circular to all the Unionist Clubs urging all eligible members to join the UVF. In October, Colonel R. H. Wallace made the same plea to members of the Orange Order.

By the summer of 1914 the UVF had incorporated a number of other paramilitary forces such as the Young Citizen Volunteers and the Enniskillen Horse⁹, and numbered about 110,000 men. A command structure had been put in place at its Belfast Headquarters, with officers coming out of retirement or being drawn from the ranks of the British Army. Sir Wilfrid Spender, who had been forced to resign from the British Army for signing the Ulster Covenant, played a central role in arming the Volunteers. Locally born officers such as the Earl of Kilmorey were also active in the UVF, and he became Military Secretary of the Belfast headquarters. Major Arthur Nugent of Ballyedmond, who had seen service with the Royal Fusiliers, became Commander of the UVF's 3rd Battalion, South Down Regiment. He recruited his son (later to receive a commission as a Lieutenant in the 5th Lancers at the outbreak of the war) as his Adjutant.

^{8.} Letter from J. A. Orr to Captain Roger Hall, 1 October 1913, PRONI D1540/3/12.

^{9.} The Enniskillen Horse was a force of 200 mounted men, formed by newspaper proprietor William Copeland Trimble to provide an escort for Sir Edward Carson on his visit to Enniskillen on 18^{th} September 1912.

^{10.} The Newry Reporter, 27th February 1917.

Though the headquarters staff may have been assembled from landed gentry and retired military officers, the local companies often had business owners serving alongside their employees.

Those with property, business and commercial interests feared that Home Rule would damage the industrial prosperity of the north of Ireland. They were well represented in the UVF with 2nd Lieutenant Joseph Annett Fisher^{ROH} and Corporal James Sinclair Fisher^{ROH}, both of the prominent Newry shipping family taking an active role in the Newry Companies¹¹, as did George J. C. Armstrong^{ROH}, (son of the local Justice of the Peace, George Armstrong) who, having enlisted as a Private in September 1914, rose by November to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

The organisation's rank and file membership was drawn from men from a broad range of age groups and backgrounds, but could count on a large number of ex-servicemen and serving reservists to drill and train its companies. Company Sergeant Major William 'Bill' Taylor^{ROH}, from James Street, who had seen service in both India and South Africa lent his considerable military experience as Drill Instructor to the South Down Regiment. His neighbour, William Morrow^{ROH}, who had fought in the Boer War was also an active member of the Newry Company.

These men were armed with a variety of weapons including the 20,000 or so rifles landed at Larne in April 1914, and it is clear that in the event of armed conflict breaking out almost every man would have had access to some sort of firearm. The effectiveness of these arms was questionable. A large number of

the rifles were the much despised, unreliable Italian Vetterli rifles¹². In some instances companies were still being armed in July 1914, when the 3rd South Down Battalion distributed 100 rifles to Volunteers in Rathfriland. It was hoped that the remainder of the battalion's 900 men would soon be similarly equipped.¹³

Many of the members of the Newry Company were fighting overseas from very early in the war. Fishers' shipping manager, Samuel Scott^{ROH}, a keen motorcyclist who had led the despatch section of the Newry Company before the war, enlisted in the Motor Cycle Section of the Royal Engineers. On his death in early 1916 flags were flown at half mast on the ships in Newry Port.

While many enlisted, many stayed at home, whether from the concern that they might be needed to defend the Union, or from more prosaic concerns. The rural companies were comprised largely of men employed in agriculture, and cows still had to be milked and harvests brought in.

By April 1915 the Most Rev. Dr. Crozier, Church of Ireland Primate of All Ireland, was entreating his clergy to co-operate with officers:

"...who will shortly be in your district in order to get into (sic) touch with the UVF all over Ulster, and by pointing out that the delay in sending out the Ulster Division is largely due to the fact that there are no reserves. Some 6,000 or 7,000 men are required at once that the Ulster Division may be complete with its reserves". 14

^{11.} Newry was part of the 2nd South Down Battalion area of the UVF. Quincey Dougan, writing in the *News Letter*, 22nd January 2013 identifies A, B and C Companies as being located within and on the periphery of the town of Newry. 'A Company' Commander was J. F. Agnew, with R. G. Mann and R. W. Fisher Half Company Commanders. 'B Company' Commander was J. Moore Boyle and 'C Company' Commander was Fred Ferris.

^{12.} The Vetterli rifle had been withdrawn from service by the Italian Army in 1887 and large numbers were available cheaply on the international arms market. Timothy Bowman, 'The Ulster Volunteer Force, 1913-1914', in Gabriel Doherty (ed.), *The Home Rule Crisis* 1912-14, Cork, Mercier Press, 2014.

^{13.} The Newry Reporter, 25th July 1914.

^{14.} The Newry Reporter, 8th April 1915.

By the following April, Recruiting Sergeant J. J. Hall of the 20th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, in an open letter to potential recruits was resorting to almost despairing entreaties:

"I appeal most strongly to the members of the UVF... to come forward voluntarily, and join the Reserve Battalion... especially the 20th Battalion... The camp at Newtownards is an ideal one. The course of training is anything but hard work, and the amount of latitude given to recruits is beyond the average". "Non-Commissioned Officers", he ends, "are both considerate and kind to new recruits" 15

A more sombre reality descended only a few months later in the wake of the Battle of the Somme and the focus turned to the fate of the members of the UVF who had committed themselves to the war effort. Meetings were held in relation to the establishment of a 'UVF Patriotic Fund' which aimed to support members who may be "maimed or so broken that they will be unable to provide for the support of themselves and their families". 16 The clergy encouraged their congregations to contribute to a central fund, dances were held, collections made and by mid-September £38,000 had been raised across Ulster. The aim was £100,000 and, to this end, it was decided to hold a day of commemoration, 'Forget-Me-Not Day', on 7th July 1917. The Newry Committee of the UVF Patriotic Fund, whose treasurer David Ferris' son, Surgeon Probationer David Henry Ferris^{ROH} had been killed at sea the previous year, managed to raise £55 from subscriptions in Newry.

Irish National Volunteers

On 25th November 1913 the Irish National Volunteers (INV) were founded in response to the formation of the UVF. It attracted followers of Sinn Féin, the Gaelic League and the Gaelic Athletic Association as well as members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). A Volunteer organisation was in place in Newry by early 1914. The initial membership in Newry was small and was drawn from Nationalists who had previously been involved in movements such as the Irish Ireland Society and the IRB. By the outbreak of the war though, the Volunteers were organised along an inherent fault line which coloured the attitudes of its members to the issue of recruitment.

The fundamental division in the INV came when John Redmond attempted to wrest control of the organisation from its founders, placing twenty five of his own nominees on the organisation's committee. Although this was met with a great deal of opposition, Bulmer Hobson, founder of the INV acceded to the demand for fear that Redmond, supported by the Catholic hierarchy, would use his influence to undermine the Volunteers. Amongst the list of nominees published by Redmond on June 29th 1914 was Father Frank O'Hare of Newry.¹⁷

A meeting was held in St. Colman's Hall which aimed to bring together the Irish Volunteers and the Redmondite Volunteers in Newry. The assembled crowd was addressed by Father O'Hare who warned the Volunteers against the influence of a 'nefarious' American-based organisation known as Clan na Gael which was under the control of a man named John Devoy. In the course of an earlier visit to the

^{15.} The Newry Reporter, 27th April 1916.

^{16.} The Newry Reporter, 19th August 1916.

^{17.} Bulmer Hobson, A Short History of the Irish Volunteers, Dublin, The Candle Press, 1918.



St. Joseph's Brass and Reed Band pictured c. 1928.

The band was closely associated with the National Volunteers and accompanied reservists and later new recruits to the Edward Street Train Station as they went off to training camps in preparation for service overseas.

Newry and Mourne Museum Collection

United States on a mission to raise funds for Newry Cathedral, Father O'Hare had been accused by Devoy, in the pages of the 'Gaelic American' of attempting to spread dissension amongst the Irish societies in America. He was reminded of this by someone in attendance. As a consequence the meeting broke up in disarray and the attempt to appoint a corps of officers representing both camps was abandoned. A subsequent meeting decided that the Redmondite supporters should come into the organisation under the existing officers.

Previous to these meetings Redmond's supporters in Newry had not become involved with the Volunteers in any great numbers, the organisation up to that point being comprised mainly of IRB members and others who held strongly Republican views. When the Redmondite followers started to join the Volunteers there was a rapid, sharp increase in numbers, culminating in a parade in the Markets where 500-600 men turned out, with all the Nationalist organisations in the town represented in their ranks.

At some point after this the Newry Volunteers were equipped with a consignment of obsolete Italian rifles and a parade at the Marshes was organised which featured about 300 armed men.

The Newry Volunteers were organised into five or six companies recruited broadly from the various local clubs: Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish National Foresters, Working Men's, Independent and so forth. Each company was drilled and trained by an exserviceman.

Redmond's speech at Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow, on 20th September 1914 in which he advocated enlistment, damaged the harmonious relationship in the Newry Volunteers, leading Redmond's followers to split off and re-constitute themselves as the National Volunteers. The original Volunteers continued on as the Irish Volunteers under the watchful gaze of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC).

A number of the National Volunteers were British Army reservists and were called up at the outbreak of the war, while others enlisted shortly afterwards. Writing in the immediate aftermath of the mobilisation of reservists, the *Frontier Sentinel* commented that:

"The Newry Corps has sustained a great loss through the withdrawal from its ranks of the British Army Reservists who have been 'called up' in connection with the European War. Much of the efficiency of the corps is attributable to the self-sacrifice and devotion of these men, who threw themselves into the good work wholeheartedly since its inception". 18

Amongst those who drilled the Volunteers was Lewis Grant^{ROH} (a postman whose route took him between Mayobridge and Newry), who along with Sergeant Rooney, drilled the 200 strong company of Volunteers which had been established in Mayobridge just before the outbreak of hostilities. This "splendid body of young men" made admirable advances in drilling and marching, giving "respectful attention" to the instructions of the two very capable instructors.

18. The Frontier Sentinel, 8th August 1914.

Lewis Grant rose to the rank of Company Sergeant Major (CSM) with the South Lancashire Regiment before being killed in action, aged thirty-four, on 24th April 1917, in the assault on Turkish forces at Dahuba (now in Iraq). His name can be found on the Basra Memorial. He had also served at the Western Front, the Dardanelles and Egypt. Described in The Newry Reporter as a member of one of Newry's most patriotic families, he was a son of Mr. P. Grant, foreman in the cabinet-making warehouse of Mr. J. J. McArevey, Newry. One of five brothers, four were engaged in the war effort. His brother Private Joseph Grant^{ROH}, Royal Irish Rifles was killed in July 1916; Jack Grant also served in the RIR, and Frank was engaged in munitions work in England. CSM Grant was awarded the Meritorious Medal, which was presented to his mother in Newry.19

The remaining National Volunteers could be counted on to muster for recruiting rallies and Paddy Casey, later to become Officer Commanding (O/C) of the Newry Company of the IRA noted that had he been of fighting age he would have gone to defend "poor little Belgium". He recalled how as a fourteen year old member of the National Volunteers he had travelled to Dublin to attend the large gathering in Phoenix Park in spring 1915. He characterized the meeting as a huge recruiting rally at which the Volunteers' drilling, like that of the UVF, was tacitly accepted.20 Overall though, the boost to recruitment that Redmond may have foreseen did not materialise with little enthusiasm evident amongst those that remained to take any personal part in what they saw as 'England's War'.

After the events of Easter Week 1916, in which the National Volunteers alternated with the UVF to provide a guard for Newry Post Office, the local branch foundered as an organisation. Following the release of the internees rounded up in the wake of the Easter Rising, a reorganised Volunteer organisation emerged. It drew its members from the ranks of the Irish Volunteers and young politically active men and women who came together round the Sinn Féin movement.

^{19.} The Newry Reporter, 23rd February 1918.

^{20.} Witness Statement of Paddy Casey, Bureau of Military History, WS1148.

"Newry Leads the Way" Recruitment

The nature of recruitment in Ireland changed dramatically during the course of the war, with the first fervent months seeing a rush to join 'the colours', after which events such as the sinking of the Lusitania in May 1915, England's response to the Easter Rising in April 1916 and the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 caused rates of recruitment to fluctuate.

The political situation in Ireland at the outbreak of war led to mixed reactions. Many men were reluctant to enlist while there was the possibility that trouble might break out at home. The first wave of men to leave the area comprised the large numbers of reservists who were called up immediately after war was declared. Orders for mobilisation on 4th August 1914 appeared in the local newspapers, with reservists ordered to join their regiments at camp on the next available train. This led to "remarkable scenes" at Edward Street Railway Station on the night of Wednesday 7th August. The Newry Reporter and The Frontier Sentinel both ran stories of the event as "Nationalists and Unionists unite for the Empire". Several local bands took part in marching the soldiers to the station where large numbers of reservists entrained to join their regiments in England and Ireland. Almost a thousand people were present to bid their friends, family and comrades farewell. The Frontier Sentinel claimed a "more enthusiastic or harmonious gathering Newry has never witnessed" but also highlighted the sorrow of soldiers (and breadwinners) leaving their families.

Recruitment campaigns started immediately for what became known as 'Kitchener's Army'. Perhaps

surprisingly, there is little mention in the local papers regarding recruitment in Newry in the months after the outbreak of war. A small piece of 'Local War News' featured in *The Newry Reporter* in August 1914 states that:

"Recruiting would be brisk in Newry, presumably, if one is to judge by the pile of poster literature which is seen all over the place, if such a thing as a recruiting office was in the town. Both our local sergeants are away at present".²¹

Men from the UVF and the INV were encouraged to enlist. The 2nd Battalion South Down UVF, commanded by Captain Roger Hall, met in the Drill Hall at Sugar Island in Newry. On 22nd September 1914, in support of those members going to serve in France, they paraded to Edward Street Station. Their aim was to prove loyalty to 'King and Country'. Moderate Nationalists, who wanted Home Rule, were committed to the war effort by John Redmond, leader of the IPP. Speaking at Woodenbridge, he had urged them to enlist stating that "The interests of Ireland – of the whole of Ireland – are at stake in this war". By enlisting, they hoped that their show of support for the war effort would assure the implementation of Home Rule.

Recruiting was organised on several different levels, from national to local. In Ireland, responsibility lay with the Central Council for the Organisation of Recruiting in Ireland (CCORI), which became the Department of Recruiting for Ireland in 1915. A recruiting committee was established in Newry, with

21. The Newry Reporter, 13th August 1914.

local solicitors William Johnson (Chairman) and Alex Fisher (Hon. Secretary), at the helm. These two figures worked tirelessly throughout the course of the war. At times their zeal left them open to being ridiculed in the local press.

Although several members of his family had enlisted and his wife had attempted to qualify as a doctor in order to support the war effort,²² ill health prevented Alex Fisher himself from enlisting. As a consequence of this he pledged to help in any other way he could, organising and speaking at recruitment rallies and even taking ownership of *The Newry Telegraph* in January 1916 with the express aim of using it as a tool for recruitment. In an editorial it professed:

"... the energies of this paper shall be directed wisely and earnestly to fostering the patriotic spirit which has been displayed by all creeds and classes *in the district* . . . This part of Ireland has loyally responded to the call of King and Country. Newry and Bessbrook in particular have created records in recruiting that compare favourably with any other place in the United Kingdom. Everything that makes for the realisation of personal responsibility for the winning of the war shall receive our uncompromising support . . . On the winning of the war we are all absolutely united, and at present the war is the only thing that really matters. Let us therefore concentrate our thoughts and methods on ways and means to support the recruiting, economy and other campaigns". 23



Mr. William Johnson, Chairman of Newry Recruiting Committee. He received a CBE in 1920. (PRONI, D3809/1, McLaughlin Papers, reproduced courtesy of Denis Mayne)

William Johnson, a local solicitor, sat on several local recruitment committees and was also a member of the Executive Council of the CCORI. His brother, Captain A. E. Johnson was an internee at Ruhleben Camp in Germany. His sister, Miss C. Johnson, was of the Grange Street Military Hospital in Manchester. Another sister, Miss Margaret Johnson, resigned her position as principal teacher of the Domestic Science School in Lewes, Sussex to volunteer as a Navy and Army Canteen Inspector under the War Office.

^{22.} Letter from Alex Fisher to the editor in *The Newry Reporter*, 7th December 1918.

^{23.} The Newry Telegraph, 20th January 1916.



Mobile Recruiting Office of the Central Council for the Organisation of Recruiting in Ireland, June 1915. These vehicles were used at recruitment rallies around Ireland.

(PRONI, D3809/1, McLaughlin Papers, reproduced courtesy of Denis Mayne)

In a letter reprinted in *The Newry Reporter* after the end of hostilities, William Johnson was thanked by the secretary of the Irish Recruiting Council, who wrote:

"I am directed by the Irish Recruiting Council to convey to you their special thanks for the most valuable assistance which you gave in the recruiting campaign. Although the campaign did not attain the success which the council desired, yet they know the good which was achieved is due in a great extent the Council feel to your efforts on their behalf. In all parts of Ireland the Irish Recruiting Council received much assistance, but to very few are they more deeply indebted than to you". 24

The aim of forming local committees was to allow local representatives to use their power and influence to bolster recruitment at meetings and rallies. The idea for compiling a Roll of Honour for the Borough of Newry was first proposed by Alex Fisher at a meeting of the Urban District Council on 30th November 1914. The drafting of Newry's Roll of Honour and its public presentation were used as recruitment tools in themselves; honouring those who had already joined 'the colours' and encouraging further enlistment. It was hoped that the list of names would exceed a thousand by the time of its presentation.

In the local area, there was a unified approach to recruitment. The first six months of the war saw 'monster rallies' drawing crowds of up to 5,000.

24. The Newry Reporter, 26th November 1918.

Local and military bands provided patriotic music; regiments regularly visited the area on recruiting missions, bringing their own bands and marching around the town to draw people to the rally. The rallies often took place outside the Imperial Hotel on Marcus Square using the CCORI Mobile Recruitment Van. Local dignitaries, clergymen of all denominations and serving soldiers delivered rousing speeches, after which volunteers were enlisted by recruiting sergeants. As a Corporal in the Royal Irish Rifles, John Bannon^{ROH} was sent out on recruiting marches with band and drums, visiting Newry and district around late 1915. In his war diary he notes that he "only roped in one recruit, a man named Casey, who died sometime later". He was made Recruiting Sergeant and, in the early part of 1916, was sent round most of the towns of county Down recruiting for the Ulster Volunteers (Division), although he adds that he recruited quite a number for other regiments too.

Once enlisted, soldiers were sent to camps around Ireland, such as Clandeboye, Ballykinlar, Clonmel and Tipperary to undergo extensive training before being sent to England and from there to a theatre of war. Some battalions remained in Ireland and were used for recruiting purposes.

Clergymen played an influential role in recruitment; speaking from the platform at recruitment rallies, from their pulpits and through letters from church leaders appearing in the local papers, encouraging men to do their duty. At the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church in June 1916 it was

reported that the Church Roll of Honour contained around 18,000 names, including the names of 427 from the Newry Presbytery. The members of the Assembly were urged to do their utmost to encourage recruiting.²⁵

The duty to defend Catholic Belgium was a constant theme, thrown into focus by the oration of Father Timmerman, a Belgian priest who was a refugee in Warrenpoint. He featured regularly at recruitment rallies. His role was to relay Belgium's plight and the atrocities being carried out by the Germans, and at times he drew tears from his audience. Clergymen's wives and daughters were also prominent in the local papers, organising Red Cross activities, 'comforts' and fund raising throughout the war.

The old Linenhall Barracks in Newry were also used by the military with battalions from various regiments stationed there throughout the war. *The Newry Reporter* of 29th October 1914 reports an inspection of the Barracks by an officer from the Military Headquarters in Dublin, reporting on the readiness and suitability for the reception of troops:

"Already the rooms have been furnished for the reception of the men, additional beds being put in all rooms. Rooms were formerly equipped for seven men are now made ready for eleven and so even the upstairs corridors in the block are being got ready for sleeping accommodation. It is expected that the Barracks (which were last occupied by the Cornwalls) will accommodate one thousand men".

^{25.} The Newry Reporter, 6th June 1916.
26. The Newry Reporter, 23rd March 1915.

Whilst there, they took part in recruitment rallies and also provided the military honours for funerals of soldiers and sailors taking place in the district. In August 1915 after a request from the Newry Urban District Council, the 8th Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the Faugh-a-Ballaghs, were transferred to Newry from Tipperary in a bid to encourage recruitment. On a visit by Field Marshall Viscount French in March 1918 to inspect the troops of the 4th Battalion RIR, a delegation of local representatives expressed their desire to see more troops stationed in Newry, and, if possible, to have the town made a headquarters' station. William Johnson claimed that "their experience in the recruiting effort always proved the presence of military in the midst has a marked effect in obtaining recruits in the Newry area". 27 By August 1915 a recruiting office operated out of the Town Hall, the local papers reporting that 37 recruits had been attested in the Newry Recruiting Office in a week.28

Irish Regiments

There are over forty different regiments listed in Newry's Roll of Honour, amongst them regiments from England, Scotland and Canada. In theory it was possible to enlist at any recruitment office in Britain and request to join the regiment of your choice. In Ireland there were ten recruiting areas, each serving their own regiments. From Newry's Roll of Honour, the four most popular were the Royal Irish Rifles (216), the Royal Irish Fusiliers (165), the Royal Dublin Fusiliers (34) and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (24). At a combined total of 439, these four regiments account for around half of the total number of those on Newry's Roll of Honour.

Enlistments

Unfortunately, due to damage sustained in bombing during the Second World War, few service records survive for soldiers serving in the First World War. Information on enlistment is contained in the *Soldiers Died in the Great War* database.²⁹ Seventy-seven of those listed on Newry's Roll of Honour are recorded on it. The majority of those enlisting from this group did so in Newry. Of the fifty-two who enlisted in Newry, twenty-two joined the Royal Irish Rifles and sixteen the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Table 1: Record of Enlistments from the Soldiers Died in the Great War (SDGW) Database

Place of Enlistment (SDGW)	Number
Newry	52
Belfast	8
Dundalk	8
Dublin	2
Co. Down (other)	2
England	2
Scotland	3
Total	77

The final months of 1915 saw increasingly frantic efforts made to encourage recruitment, which had slowed down to the point where Irish regiments were being strengthened by English and Scottish recruits (later conscripts). In the aftermath of the execution of the leaders of the Easter Rising, Nationalist leaders who had initially encouraged enlistment withdrew their support, and after the carnage at the Battle of the Somme, recruitment slowed dramatically.

^{27.} The Newry Telegraph, 7th March 1918.

^{28.} The Newry Reporter, 19th August 1915.

^{29.} A list of over 660,000 British 'Other Ranks' who died during the First World War was compiled by the War Office and published in 80 volumes by His Majesty's Stationery Office in 1921. The dates covered for casualties are from and including 4th August 1914 to 25th March 1921. Details of each soldier's place of birth, residence and place of enlistment are included.

Although not introduced in Ireland, despite heated debate, the Military Service Act of 27th January 1916 brought conscription into effect for the first time during the war. In response to fears that conscription would be extended to Ireland, anticonscription protests were held in the town on 25th April 1918. Work in the local mills ceased and all the Roman Catholic and Nationalist traders closed their premises. The town was crowded with people throughout the day, with over 5,000 people signing an anti-conscription pledge.³⁰

Recruitment rallies were also disrupted by Sinn Féin. One such event occurred on 30th August 1918, during a lively recruitment meeting in Marcus Square. Attended by several thousand spectators, the Sinn Féin element of the crowd booed and groaned during a speech by Colonel Lynch, MP and sang 'A Soldier's Song,' ³¹ amongst others. There are conflicting reports in the local papers regarding the events of the evening, reflecting the ever widening political opinions of the local press. Despite the disorder however, *The Newry Reporter* claimed that upwards of thirty recruits had been obtained as a result of the meeting, ³² mirroring the general upsurge of recruitment as the war came to a close.

The Royal Navy

As a port town Newry had a long maritime history. Forty-nine names appear on Newry's Roll of Honour in the various branches of the Royal Navy, five of whom were killed. While large columns of the local papers were devoted to recruitment for the Army, little can be found regarding recruitment for the

Royal Navy, apart from a few entries appearing in late 1917 for the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Naval enlistments during the war totaled 407,360³³ compared to 4,970,902 for the Army.³⁴ This reflects the fact that the battles of the First World War took place largely on land. However, the fighting in Europe and other campaigns around the world depended on the use of the sea, for the movement of men and the supply of vital resources. Victory on land was made possible due to the Navy's superior fleet and command of the sea. As an island nation, Britain was dependant on imports of food and raw materials. It needed a strong navy to protect itself and its numerous colonies around the world. As a result, at the outbreak of war Britain's Navy was superior to that of Germany, whose strength lay in its Army.

At the outbreak of war the ships of the Royal Navy (RN) were fully crewed. This left 30,000 sailors such as Hugh Lynch^{ROH} of Queen Street (later Dominic Street) with no ships to serve on. As a result, the Royal Naval Division (RND) was formed. They were incorporated into the army in 1916. As well as manning the guns on warships, the Royal Marine Light Infantry (RMLI) also took part in land battles. Both groups saw action on the Western Front and Gallipoli. Four RMLI appear on Newry's Roll of Honour, two of which, Privates Thomas McAlinden^{ROH} and Thomas Roe^{ROH}, general labourers from Boat Street enlisted with the Chatham Division on 22nd March 1915.

The Royal Naval Reserve was made up of men who made their living at sea such as merchant seamen

^{30.} The Newry Reporter, 25th April 1918.

^{31.} Adopted as the national anthem of the Irish Free State in 1926, the song was written as 'A Soldier's Song' though over time it became popularly known as 'The Soldier's Song'.

^{32.} The Newry Reporter, 31st August 1918.

^{33.} www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar/service_records/naval_sr.htm

^{34.} Statistics of the military effort of the British empire during the great War 1914-1920, London, the War Office, March 1922.

and fishermen who could be called on in times of national emergency. Twelve are listed on Newry's Roll of Honour. The Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve was made up of men from all professional backgrounds such as David Henry Ferris^{ROH} of Windsor Hill, a Surgeon Probationer³⁵ on HMS *Broke* who was 22 years old when he was killed on 31st May 1916 at the Battle of Jutland, the only major naval battle of the First World War. He had previously served on HMS *Victor*, but was transferred on promotion to HMS *Broke* a month before his death. He was buried at sea and is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire.

In a speech made at the torchlight demonstration held in Newry to celebrate the Armistice, William Johnson conveyed the debt of gratitude owed to the Navy and the Mercantile Marine for keeping Ireland safe and free from want, stating "our Mercantile Marine have come into their own in this war", 36 and although none are listed on Newry's Roll of Honour, nine members of the crew of the SS *Dingle* (four from Newry) lost their lives when the steamer, carrying coal from Sunderland to Caen, hit a mine and sank off the coast of Kent on 20th February 1916. Only one crew member, Edward McParland from Newry survived, ³⁷ a stark reminder of the dangers they faced. After the war, the title 'Merchant Navy' was granted to the Mercantile Marine in recognition of their contribution.

Much was made of Newry's contribution to the war effort through the work of the Red Cross and other war charities, provision of comforts and war loan



James McGivern^{ROH}, a mariner from 28 John Martin Street, Newry. He enlisted as a gunner in the Royal Naval Reserve on the 14th November 1914. He served on HMS *Halcyon II*, HMS *Vivid* and HMS *Teutonic*, and was commended for his services in the rescue of sailors from the SS *Huntscliff* which foundered off Mizen Head in October 1918.

Courtesy of Southampton Archives

contributions.³⁸ Newry claimed to have the most recruits per capita of any town in Ireland.³⁹ The motto of the 'Frontier Town' in the recruiting movement had been 'Newry leads the way.'⁴⁰ In a speech made to welcome the Faugh-a-Ballaghs in August 1915, William Johnson claimed that the working classes of Newry had sent 70% of their number to join 'the colours' since the outbreak of the war.⁴¹ While at a recruitment rally in Newry in November of the same year, Alex Fisher claimed that if many more men were enlisted from the mills in Newry and Bessbrook the concerns would have to close down.⁴²

^{35.} Third and fourth year medical students who enlisted were given the naval rank of Surgeon Probationer. In the Naval ranking system all doctors carried a rank of 'Surgeon'. In practice a Surgeon Probationer would have carried out duties similar to those of a General Practitioner.

^{36.} The Newry Reporter, 14th November 1918.

^{37.} The Freeman's Journal, 28th February 1916.

^{38.} The Newry Reporter, 24th April 1919.

^{39.} The Newry Reporter, 29th April 1915.

^{40.} The Newry Reporter, 31st August 1918.

^{41.} The Frontier Sentinel, 7th August 1915.

^{42.} The Newry Reporter, 30th November 1915.



Sergeant Michael O'Leary, VC, with members of the 1st Newry Boy Scouts. An image of Sergeant O'Leary, "An Irish Hero" was used on recruitment posters instructing men to "join an Irish regiment today". *Courtesy of William McAlpine*

By 1917 it was claimed that over 2,000 had gone to fight from the Newry area, ⁴³ a fact echoed in a speech made by William Johnson in March 1918. ⁴⁴ The 867 names on Newry's Roll of Honour are a record of those who fought between the outbreak of the war and the end of April 1915. This is comparable with the statistic that in Ireland just over half of total enlistments were made in the first year of the war. ⁴⁵ *The Newry Reporter* of 12th November 1918 heralds the end of the war with the headline, "*Joyous Scenes in Newry*". Recruiting ceased and the Military Service Act was suspended. As the Hon. Secretary of the Recruiting Committee, Alex Fisher sent a telegram

to the Prime Minister on behalf of Newry "which led the way in Irish recruiting and war effort". ⁴⁶ A statement which makes it all the more puzzling that not only was Newry's Roll of Honour not completed, but after its presentation it seems to have been largely forgotten.

^{43.} *The Frontier Sentinel*, 14th April 1917.

^{44.} The Newry Reporter, 7th March 1918.

^{45. &}quot;Irish Soldiers of the First World War", www.taoiseach.gov.ie

^{46.} The Newry Reporter, 12th November 1918.

The Families Left Behind

There were a number of reasons why men chose to join 'the colours' in the First World War: patriotic duty or 'doing their bit' for the cause, seeking adventure, a family history of serving in the military or often a combination of factors. Economic reasons were a prime motive for recruitment, and at a time of hardship, joining the army was seen as a steady job with a pension and allowances for a soldier's family.

The large number of reservists living in Newry at the outbreak of war is testimony to the importance of the British Army in the local economy. At an Urban District Council meeting on 18th January 1915 it was stated that of the 639 names already collected for Newry's Roll of Honour just over half (356) were reservists. Close on half of those whose occupations we can identify on Newry's Roll of Honour were either mill workers or labourers, for whom employment was on a casual basis and wages were poor. Writing in 1917 The Frontier Sentinel saw the future for Newry in bleak terms, "Within a decade many of our most important industries have disappeared and today, outside the spinning mills, there is little employment for the women folk and far less for the men".47

Industrial relations were strained and disputes and strikes flared up throughout the war with sailors and dockers pressing for increased wages. The lack of jobs locally and the generally depressed levels of wages drove recruitment into the British Army, and many working class men from the area had served in India, China and South Africa. On discharge they were transferred into the Reserves where they were entitled

to a quarterly retainer which supplemented their weekly wage.

From at least mid-1915 onwards, the UDC lobbied for the siting of munitions factories in the town, using the town's strong recruitment record as leverage. The Town Clerk, William Cronin was tasked with contacting the local MP, J. J. Mooney to arrange for a visit to the Newry Mills by the Inspector of the Munitions Department, to meet with mill owners and other interested parties as to the suitability of the facilities in the area.

In September 1915 a conference was held in the Town Hall with Mr. Alex McDowell, from the Ministry of Munitions, Belfast who was accompanied by engineering experts. A substantial UDC delegation was augmented by the attendance of a large number of owners of mills and foundries in the area including Edward St., Drumalane and Newry Spinning Mills; Newry, Soho and Bessbrook Foundries and others. A committee was then formed with a view to establishing a munitions factory locally.

By October 1916 it became clear that despite the availability of premises on Buttercrane Quay, the difficulty in obtaining machine tools and steel for the manufacture of shells and shell cases meant that there was no foreseeable possibility of a munitions factory. Correspondence continued between J. J. Mooney and the Ministry of Munitions, until in February 1917 he reported that "... he could hold out no hope of a new factory being established".⁴⁸

^{47.} The Frontier Sentinel, 14th April 1917.

^{48.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, 19th February 1917, PRONI LA/58/2/CA/5.

Rural Economy

In contrast to the town, employment in rural areas was widely available. As the war progressed, and farm labourers in Britain were conscripted, labourers from Ireland migrated for better wages. This resulted in a scarcity of farm labour in Ireland driving wages higher. At Newry's last hiring fair of 1914 wages had been regarded as high, with workers also provided with free, if rudimentary, accommodation and meals. By mid-1915 these 'high' rates of pay were seen as an impediment to recruiting in rural areas. William Johnson, in a speech made in Kilkeel noted that high prices and improved wages would lead men in the area to "centre all their energies on the massing of material wealth to neglect of sending men to replace and relieve those in the firing line".

At the November hiring fairs in 1915 business was less brisk than the previous year with both labourers and farmers seemingly content to renew their agreements. These conditions made recruiting from the rural communities difficult, despite the presence of military bands and recruiting parties at the hiring fairs. By early 1917, with demand for labour exceeding supply, accustomed as they were to the higher seasonal wages being paid by English farmers, the wages being sought by farm workers were beginning to far outstrip the amounts their employers were willing to pay.⁴⁹

Separation Allowances

With the exodus of nearly a thousand men from Newry in the first six months of the war, considerable financial pressure was felt by the families and dependants left behind.

49. The Newry Reporter, 18th January 1917.

Before the war only the wives of those soldiers who had been married before enlisting were entitled to a 'separation allowance'. Shortly after the outbreak of the war the chief recruiting office for Ulster published the allowance rates for all ranks. A Private, on enlisting, committed to setting aside part of his wages, which was supplemented with a separation allowance when he went on foreign service. In the absence of any other income source this amount was supplemented by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Family Association. There were supplementary payments for dependent children up to a maximum income of £1 per week from all sources.

Rates of pensions for those injured in the war were also published with varying rates for those discharged as unfit for service on account of wounds, injuries or disease due to war service. They were entitled to more if their injury rendered them totally incapable of earning a livelihood. In the event of his death, a soldier's widow was also entitled to a pension with an additional sum for each dependent child.

By November 1914 the arrangements had been extended to cover all married soldiers and the rates of the allowances were also increased with a widow's basic entitlement increasing. Even these improvements left many families in a precarious financial situation and the allowances only dealt with soldiers' wives and children, there being no provision for soldiers who had supported elderly parents or other relatives. Serious problems were encountered by those trying to claim these allowances as the system struggled under the volume of applications. In

these instances the financial support provided by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, working out of the Trevor Hill offices of solicitor F. H. Mullan, was invaluable. They had access to grants from the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund and at their meeting on 20th November 1914 the committee noted that "a number of new cases were investigated and cheques were issued and granted".⁵⁰

A letter from Mrs. Lizzie Larkin, the wife of Private Henry Larkin ^{ROH} of Cornmarket, dated Monday 17th August 1914 illustrates the hardships faced by some families:

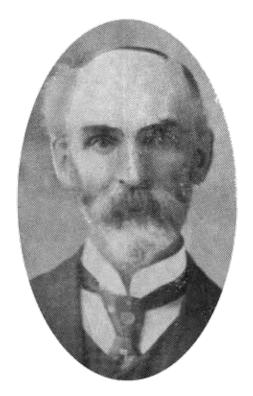
"Dear Sir.

My husband has been called to the Colours from the 1st Class Army reserve and is now away this nine or ten days which leaves me in extreme poverty being the sole support. And having four children ranging from 1 to 4 years I respectfully request you to send some money soon as I have not received any yet. If not soon forthcoming I will be compelled to go to the Workhouse as there [illegible] nothing else left for [illegible] I remain, dear Sir Most respectfully

Mrs. L. Larkin**51

Private Larkin was killed on 26th August 1916 in Belgium, just two months after his youngest daughter Annie was born.

Newry UDC, in response to a circular from the Local Government Board, debated what its responsibilities



T. P. Willis was a successful bakery owner and a staunch Unionist who represented Newry's North Ward. He was the first Vice-Chairman of Newry Urban District Council at its inception, later becoming Chairman for a period. Newry and Mourne Museum Collection

were in the case of its employees who had gone off to fight. W. F. Cunningham, who would himself later enlist, urged the Council to follow the lead of the public boards who were giving half pay to the families of serving soldiers, regardless of their income from other sources. T. P. Willis however argued against this course of action on the basis that it would leave families better off than they were before the outbreak of war. A compromise was finally agreed under the terms of which the Council would bring the amount being received by a soldier's dependents up to the level of their wages. The scheme also applied to any woman who had been entirely dependent on the soldier for her support, who would otherwise be destitute, and any children of his in her charge.

^{50.} The Newry Reporter, 21st November 1914.

^{51.} The service records of Private Henry Larkin are among the small percentage of those which survived the London Blitz. This letter, like many of the surviving documents, is burnt and, in part, illegible.

In late November the situation for dependants of unmarried soldiers was regularised with the implementation of a dependant's allowance. This extended the allowance scheme to any father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, granddaughter, grandson, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, grandson, or granddaughter who had been dependent on a soldier before enlistment, so long as he contributed a portion of his wages for their upkeep. This scheme was administered locally through the Pensions Office and was regarded as being full of red tape. To claim the allowance a claimant had to: (1) get the form at the post-office or police station; (2) send it to the regimental paymaster who then (3) sent it back to the excise officials or pension office of the district. (4) These officials investigated the case and ascertained how much the soldier had been contributing towards the dependants. (5) Then the Pension Officer reported to the Old-Age Pension Committee; (6) the Committee sat in judgment and gave its opinion. (7) This opinion was forwarded by the Clerk to the Committee to the Regimental Paymaster; (8) who checked the claim with the soldier's papers. (9) If the case was uncertain, or there was any dispute, the Paymaster referred the case to the Army Council (Finance Department) who gave a decision.

The Pension Office's reticence in granting allowances certainly did not help to encourage recruitment with Councillor Joseph H. O'Rorke noting at a meeting of the Council in December 1914:

"There are lots of cases in which they had refused to allow anything at all, and in some cases a mother wanted money as badly as a wife. If the Government wanted to induce men to enlist they should hold out all the inducements possible and see that the dependants were not deprived of what they were entitled to get according to the regulations".⁵²

The ineptitude displayed by the War Office came to be seen as one of the principle disincentives to recruitment with the Earl of Dunraven reflecting in the course of the House of Lords' debates on the 1918 Military Service Bill: "They say that voluntary recruiting in Ireland was so mismanaged by the War Office that it was practically put an end to. I agree".53

By early January 1915 the Newry District Old Age Pensions Committee had dealt with ninety five claims from soldiers' dependents other than wives and children, and had thirteen fresh claims to hand at their first meeting of the new year.⁵⁴ It was an issue which rumbled on with the implementation of a further Army regulation in mid-1915 which required a soldier to submit a form within a month of enlistment if an allowance was to be paid.

By November 1915 the ramshackle situation in relation to allowances had not improved, and Councillor James Grant brought it once more to the attention of the Council, highlighting:

^{52.} The Newry Reporter, 8th December 1914.

^{53.} Hansard, 18 April 1918, House of Lords Debates, Vol. 29, cc765-825.

^{54.} The Newry Reporter, 9^{th} January 1915.

"... the scandalous state of affairs existing as to the way the allowances to the dependents of men being distributed in Newry. Some people were being well paid and others were not being paid at all".

He noted that:

"a lot of men had joined the army, believing that their dependents would get so much, and they had the greatest difficulty in getting... anything more than 3 shillings and 6 pence, the amount contributed by the soldier while some only got 1 shilling and others practically nothing".55

Small wonder then that The Frontier Sentinel ruminated, "When the war terminates about two thousand Newry soldiers will return home. If well paid employment is not found for them they will want to know the reason why . . . The poor have suffered more than the rich through the war", continuing, in a thinly veiled jibe at Alex Fisher, "it is right that those who acquitted themselves so brilliantly as public speakers during the recruiting campaign should recognise that the poor have rights as well as duties". 56

Although the rates of allowances were increased slightly later in the war, the general financial situation for those at home became increasingly strained. The Board of Trade reported by January 1917 that retail food prices were 87% above pre-war prices, with the average increase in working class family expenditure since the outbreak of the war being estimated at 60%.⁵⁷

In a society where state financial support played no part in people's daily lives, the idea that some were receiving allowances raised people's hackles, and these recipients were subjected to intense scrutiny, and their morals called into question. Although there were no accounts from the Newry area, the local papers took an obvious glee in relaying tales from elsewhere of supposed drunken sprees which resulted in women being brought before the magistrates, who:

"... were determined to put down drinking amongst women, who were drawing separation allowances, for the use to which they were putting the money granted them by the state was a public scandal".58

In some cases, the complexity of the system was the cause of misunderstandings which brought the animosity of the community to bear on women like Annie Craven, stepmother of Bernard Craven^{ROH}. She was brought to Court for attempting to claim an allowance to which she was not entitled, and was fined 40 shillings, with 6 pence costs. The Chairman remarked that the penalty should have been greater as the defendant had got a deal more than 40 shillings by means of her fraud.⁵⁹ Bernard died from wounds at sea on 3rd August 1918, and is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial in Southampton.

^{55.} The Frontier Sentinel, 20th November 1915.

^{56.} The Frontier Sentinel, 14th April 1917.

^{57.} The Newry Reporter, 18th January 1917.

^{58.} The Frontier Sentinel, 21st March 1915.

^{59.} The Frontier Sentinel 30th October 1915.

Newry's Roll of Honour

The idea of producing a roll of honour for Newry was initially proposed by Alex Fisher at an Urban District Council meeting on 30th November 1914 where:

"It was decided that an effort should be made to obtain a return of all men from the Borough of Newry who have joined for active service in the Army or Navy, whether as volunteers, ordinary recruits or reservists".60

It was seen as a way of publicly honouring those who had already signed up and to encourage the prevalent "harmonious and patriotic spirit". It was also hoped that it could be used as leverage to bring war work to the town.

The Town Clerk, William Cronin was tasked with coordinating the collection of material, and called upon the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) to collect the names. This took place over the course of a number of weeks, with officers covering the entire town, going from house to house in an effort to retrieve the required information. The RIC, in addition to an in-depth knowledge of the town, had experience as census enumerators and were experienced at collating information.

Despite their experience the task turned out to be more difficult than first thought. Discussing the issue at an UDC meeting on 18th January 1915 Cronin reported that the RIC had had difficulty getting information. Some householders thought that the exercise had something to do with conscription, and there were difficulties convincing these people



Alexander Fisher, a local solicitor and member of Newry Urban District Council. He was a major driving force in recruitment, serving on various recruitment committees. Newry and Mourne Museum Collection

that the names were being taken to compile a local roll of honour. Nonetheless, by mid-January 639 names had been collected. In an effort to verify the information received, the families of soldiers and sailors were asked to visit the Town Hall to check that details of their relatives were present and correct. On 9th March a list of names was published in *The Newry Reporter*, again seeking to rectify errors and omissions, and also in an attempt to find further information such as soldiers' regiments in a bid to complete the document.

From mid-January 1915 to the presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour in April 1915, a further 228 names were added to the list, bringing the total to

60. Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, 30th November 1914, PRONI LA/58/2/CA/5. 61. *The Newry Reporter,* 19th January 1915.

867. This fell short of the expectations of some of the members of the UDC who had hoped the figure would exceed a thousand.

News of the Council's efforts had reached the trenches. The following letter from soldiers at the Front appeared in *The Frontier Sentinel* on 1st April 1915:

"Having received your letter, it is with pleasure we write to you, to say we are very pleased at the way you have worked with the Roll of Honour. We, one and all thank you and Mr. Fisher for your splendid action . . . As for our comrades who are at home, we all wish them a speedy return to our ranks, to give a helping hand for the good cause . . . We have also seen in the paper a very nice speech which Sergeant M'Call^{ROH} delivered. We all wish him a speedy return to the trenches and send to him our best wishes . . . ".

Paddy Connor^{ROH}, High St.; John Lavery^{ROH}, Castle St.; John Reilly^{ROH}, Chapel St.; A. McConville, Rooney Terrace; J. M'Call^{ROH}, Maginnis St.; P. Lopghlin (sic), High St.; J. Burns^{ROH}, Water St.; F. Hanna, Castle St.; F. M'Ateer^{ROH}, Chapel St.; W. O'Hare^{ROH}, River St.; J. Vint^{ROH}, High St.; J. O'Hare, High St.; T. M'Grath^{ROH}, Market St.; Sergeant J. Moneypenny^{ROH}, Castle St.; 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, British Expeditionary Force, France.

By the time of the presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour, fourteen of those listed had lost their lives; wounded soldiers had been sent home to recuperate while others had been taken as prisoners of war. Reporting on the occasion, *The Newry Reporter* 29th April 1915 writes:

"... in all the stir of the meeting, one could not help but think of other names on the roll, the possessors of whom rest in their everlasting sleep in the shallow graves of France and Belgium".

Criteria for inclusion

There appear to have been no fixed criteria as to who should be included on Newry's Roll of Honour, or where the geographical boundary for inclusion lay.

Both the Parliamentary Borough of Newry and the Urban District Council Area⁶² are referred to as boundaries. As well as containing men from the town of Newry, there are men from several townlands outside the town, as far afield as Meigh and Derrywilligan.

As members of the UDC had hoped that the number on Newry's Roll of Honour at the time of its presentation would exceed a thousand, it may be that those from outlying areas were used in an effort to boost numbers. Poor recruitment from rural areas is reported in the local papers throughout the war, which perhaps may explain why there are so few (sixty-one in total) from the surrounding rural areas.

In terms of the names on Newry's Roll of Honour, the list includes men born in Newry, but not living there at the time of compilation. There are, for example, twenty listed as being in Canadian regiments.

Similarly, there are those who are living in Newry at the outbreak of war, but who were not born there,

62. Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, 18th January 1915, PRONI LA/58/2/CA/5.

such as Co. Cork born Patrick Keenan^{ROH}, and some whose link to Newry is even more tenuous. Robinett Grandy^{ROH}, born in Portadown, had spent his entire life in Wales. He had enlisted as a career soldier with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Rhyl, and the sole pretext for his inclusion seems to be the presence in Newry of his grandfather, also named Robinett Grandy.

Although many women from the area volunteered for war service in a number of capacities for various organisations such as the Red Cross (the County Down Branch was inaugurated in January 1915), only Ethel Devenish Meares^{ROH} is listed on Newry's Roll of Honour. She is recorded at Bridge Street and is noted as being stationed at the Army Nursing Hospital Number 4. She was Sister-in-Charge, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Reserve). She had been on duty at the front since the beginning of the war and was mentioned in dispatches by Viscount French in June 1915. In January 1917 she was awarded the Royal Red Cross decoration, second class, and having been wounded in November of that year, was subsequently awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field.63

Many qualified nurses also volunteered for the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS) including Miss Cunningham, the charge nurse of Newry Union Fever Hospital. Most served in England and many saw service further afield in France, Malta and Mesopotamia. Several were decorated for their services.



Ethel Isabella Devenish-Meares was a daughter of Mr. J. L. Devenish-Meares, DL, JP, of Meares Court, Mullingar, Borough Surveyor of Newry from 1872 until 1902. Her brother, Arthur, was a well known solicitor in Newry. Two other brothers served: Captain Leycester Francis Devenish-Meares^{ROH}, South African Army Service Corps and Lieutenant William Lewis Devenish-Meares, New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

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The Roll of Honour in St. Mary's Church of Ireland (Newry) lists eighteen women, that of St. Patrick's seven. Many had family connections to the men also listed. Newspaper articles relating to women who saw service appear from mid-1915 onwards, after the presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour. However, two Steele sisters from Barrack Street are on the St. Mary's Roll of Honour. Their brother Andrew's obituary in *The Newry Reporter*, 15th December 1914 states that they were Red Cross Nurses, one in London and one in Australia, yet neither appear on Newry's Roll of Honour. In an inherently sexist era where women had yet to get the vote, it is possible that 'Have you any sons in the Forces?' was the

63. The Newry Reporter, 10th November 1917.

question being asked by the RIC as they went door to door.

Only two men associated with the Royal Flying Corps are recorded on Newry's Roll of Honour: Pte. William McCullough^{ROH}, Edward Street and Corporal Mechanic William Dalton^{ROH}, Chequer Hill (listed as Flying Squadron). At its creation in 1912 the Royal Flying Corps was a branch of the Army; its initial work was photography, reconnaissance and directing artillery. As the war and technology progressed its role became more explicitly combative.

Towards the end of the war, the local press reported aeroplanes flying in the skies over Newry during recruitment rallies, with members of the newly formed Royal Air Force making speeches and encouraging recruits to its ranks.

27			
Gell , fames .	William St.	Sorgt.	Royal hish Reyt, 1t Batton, 4410
German , James	Eastle St.	Stoker	Royal evary
Garland Patrick	High St.	-Dle	R. F. Mus. 2 Batte, 4 Dien., 5938
Gordon Patrick	21 market St.	Grot	
Gartlan, Robert 1	23 North St.	Ste,	Edy of Lordon Royal Regt, 1st Reserves
Grant Henry			K. Fr Hus, 2" Batter, 24 Der, 944)
	Clocks hill	So.	R. P. Rifles, 13th Do . Ulster Dir. 1134
Gartlan , Gerald J	Downshire Road	Captain	
Gray Thomas	pames St.	Me.	Do Ulster Lin,
Griffen Sydney	Mindsor Hill	Copt	Toronto kog , 3 balla , 1 thide , 10211.
Triffen . Philip	Sec -	20	R. Canadian Tragoons
Griffen John	20-	Leut.,	Highland Regt.
Golding , James	Cecil St.,	Stoker	Royal hary Mas Cornwall 4015
Golding John	20	Die,	R Garry Welly, 34 Coy, 12228
Gamble -11h H6	42. So	Gunner	Do 16" st 14437
Gogan John	Do	Sorgt-	R. F.R. 8th Batta, 15415
Grant Joseph	32. 00	Me.	De 41 De 6746
Gray , Robert.	so land St.	Gunner	R. February, 41668
Gray, William	20	Se	K Garron 20 . 3632
Gray Samuel	130	Ple	R & Listes , 13th Ballon , 19000
Good fellow, James	seriaginnis St.	LaCorpl	
Gordon Hugh	it John Martin St.	Ato.	5th Lancers, Asquela, 3014
Grant, Lewis	30	Sorgt.	South Lances Rogt . 6th Ser Batter , 4323.
Grant. Francis	Thomas St.		
		Stoker,	HIMS Prince of Wales, 1934 Mess
German, James	6 Hinl St	10	Roy naval Res. Hons Screathan
Gracey, etndiew	6 High St.	St.	North Staffe Nog!, 1st Patte, 1612
Gracey, Isaac	6 40	U SAMEON - YES	jor, Royal Engineers.
Gilliard, Thomas a.	. (3)	Corpl.,	
Gracey Land	Arthur St.	200	Royal Navy
Gracey, James	6	Pte.	R & Rifles
Griffen, John D.	Edward St.	Snirer	Cando Fild artly, 1 Man, 1 4 Vally, roly.
Gorman . Kenry	My magennesse.	100	Sout, Royal navy, 4549
Gellespie . Henry a.	6 Frever Hill	Leent ,	RAONE, 42 Fld amble, 14 Di
Grant, John	44 Rooneys Ferr	, De,	Princess Pals Li Lifty, Canada Son, 5118
Gray, Thomas.	31. John Mitchell St.	Do	Roy & Refles, 13th But , Wester Lov. 189
Gartland Datrick	Ellis's Row	20	R & Fus 24 de 5938
Gracey Isaac	Wigh St.		
Grandy Roberett		Sorge.	R. Welsh Hus, 1849attn. 4982
Gilmour John	-Castle St.	The.	Royal Engineer, 8th Batta, 18764
Gornley Edward	Do-		
Gorman Edward	30		
Green , Thomas	Helen's Leve		
Gracey, Arthur	High St		
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Newry's Roll of Honour was a working document, as these pages illustrate. As details were verified entries were ticked, duplicate names scored out and annotations made. Additional names were also included.

A Flroy, Peter 11 eleedham St. Mirale -R. D. R. 34 Batt, Bri Egydy Fee, 5430 M. Grane, poseph 16 Kiln St. Royal Fresh Reg. 3 MBatte. do Matter Patrick 5 Thomas St. do do 7. Fus. 3 N de chtinley John 16. Damolly Ple. Royal Mus. DO? Butto, Workflie School Box Memahon, Hugh 9 Noore's lane Highland Light Fifty. St. Mearthy, 16. Post St. -R. F. F. 2 " Bath, 5483 3. Glen Thill Matteer, P. 3" do D.Gy, 5943. do Milliam Milliam 54. Cowan St. do 13th do , 36 Din , 19115 of Conville, Joseph King St. Corpl. 15 Pake, M. W. Bryade, 5423 Manuff, John Town Hall Royal Engineers, -R. W. Dern. Sopher Marerey, \$18. Courtenay Bill 2. Luit. R. F. Refles, 3 Batts. el Grum. Larid 5 Baget St. Genner. R. gart, 16th Coy 14436 Alboy John 4th Batte, 6425 8. Chequer Hill R. FR. Les Corpt. McKeown Patrick 15 john martin st. Copt, R. FR. 14 Do 6182 -R. A Yus, 30 bo Mall, Daniel 6 Geed St. -Pte. 5414 Royal marine Lt . Infty . E. Co, Chathander, yel Malinden, Thomas. 2. Poatst do AGovern . Edward. 54 Chapel St. stoke Roy Raral Resource. 2 Dira. M. Lonald, Charles 60 do Mclenahan P. S Mis 1 King Own Hustars, 10 Res Regt, 11944. 46 Canal St. 61 Stream St. Mc Largue William de -Royl. A. Refles, 13 Batt, Wister Sir. 306 el Court, Peler Browns Id , Thigh & Da Just: 8 de, A.Gy., 13469. do McConville, Francis 2. de , 45 fem, 4869 46 Hilmorey St. do 00 50 M:Mahon, Hugh Highland It Inflry 10 Path. Quay St, do M.Mahon, Patrick Villiam St, do Royal munster Sus, 2-Batta, 8143. ell: Mahon, James do Leinster Fustrs, 14 do , 8358. do do Fish Guards, ell Cartan, John ellaryst. 2" do , 4896 Browns Yard. R & Fusiliers, 8th do . 13469 M. Court, Peter do M. Camley, John Castle St. Chapel St, M. Donald, Fames Royal Engineers chary st. oll belland, James of Chelland Patrick Farners do Chapel St. Myovern , James Micrum, John. 12 " manitota Gragoons, 45" Batts; & Cox, George's Lane Royal Field art, M. Gunness Edward Driver My Givern , Thomas Ple. R. F Jus. 3 Batter. 5964 Millinden, James Highst. do 2" be 5461 do Mall Robert Serge. 2" 00 6421 Meball James James 200 00 62.48do Ple el Call Daniel Rohn Yus, do 3 00 5414 Monville Francis do do R. Fr Fres, 10 " Porcegole. 4869 M. Carthy Robert Water St. do 2 ml Batta

Newry's Roll of Honour is transcribed here and presented exactly as it appears in the original document.

Newry's Roll of Honour has an illuminated front page with the flags of the allies, below which is written "European War 1914 – 19". Newry's coat of arms is included at the bottom of the page. The names are grouped by letter, but are not arranged in strict alphabetical order. This was done to facilitate the addition of further names. Some of the pages have additional annotations, where further information has been added.

The information contained includes name, address, rank, regiment / branch of service, battalion / ship etc. (sometimes including the divisions or companies) and service number. The quality of the information varies massively. For example, some entries will contain all the above information, while others will simply have a surname and initial.

It became apparent in the course of cross-referencing the information on Newry's Roll of Honour with the other available sources that the quality of the information was also inconsistent. There is a frequent misspelling of names and numerous transcription errors. The legibility of the handwriting is also difficult to decipher in places. It is as easy now to confuse the handwritten cursive script 'T's, 'I's and 'J's as it was then. Private Joseph McLoughlin's ROH Medal Index Card, for example, is identifiable from his service number but his initial has mistakenly been transcribed as 'T'.



William Cronin, Town Clerk of Newry Urban District Council, who organised the compilation of Newry's Roll of Honour.

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Alderdice, Gerald L.	5. Downshire Place,	Driver,	Hon. Artlly. Co., B. Batty., 2 nd Divn.,	607
Alderdice, Geo. Fredk.	5. Downshire Place,	Private,	Toronto Regt., 20th Battn., 2nd Candn. Div.	
Armstrong, Geo. J. C.	Downshire Road,	2 nd Lieut.,	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn.	
Armstrong, Thos. T. W.	Downshire Place,	2 nd Lieut.,	Manchester Reg ^t ., 13 th Battn.	
Atwell, W ^{m.} M.	98. Canal St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	18885
Allely, George	5. Canal Quay,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	18852
Allen, W ^{m.} F.	New St.,	Pte.,	R. Fus., (Frontiersmen) 25 th Battn.,	13530
Agnew, Henry	Mill Street,			
Alderdice, Frederick (D ^{r.})	Downshire R ^d .,	Pte.,	2 nd Canadian Contg., Toronton Batt.	
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Branagan, Arthur	9. Boat St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fusiliers, 1 st Battn.,	7351
Burke, William	Boat St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fusiliers, 1st Battn.,	6600
Brooks, W. J.	63. Chapel St.,	Pte.,	Roy ^l . Dublin Fus., 9 th Battn., D. Coy.,	17418
Boylan, Thomas	Chapel St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 3 rd Battn.,	17410
Burke, Christopher	15. Upp ^r . Chapel St.,	Pte.,	Munster Fus., 1st Battn.,	7343
Bannon, John	William St.,	Serg ^t .,	R. I. Rifles, D. Battn., 4 th Div.,	6433
Bannon, Thomas	William St.,	Seaman,	Royal Naval Reserve.	
Birdie, William	2. Nicholson's Crt.,	Gunner,	R. Field Artlly., D. Battery, 76th Brigade,	30663
Blake, Thomas	30. Hyde Market,	Pte.,	Roy ^l . Dub. Fus., 9 th Battn., D. Coy.,	17378
Boyle, Bernard	121. High St.,	Pte.,	8 th Hussars, 3. Troop, C. Squd ⁿ .,	2562
Blair, Joseph	2. High St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 3 rd Batt ⁿ ., 4 th Divn.,	5525
Blair, George	52. High St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 1st Battn., A. Coy.,	5524
Blair, Owen	High St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 4 th Battn.,	6374
Baxter, Albert	47. Water St.,	Gunner,	R. Garrn. Artlly., Div ⁿ . 108. H.B.,	38627
Boyle, James	Downshire Crt.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 4 th Battn., C. Coy.	
Burns, Patrick	7. Lindsay Hill,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fus., 3 rd Battn.,	5290
Burke, W ^{m.} Jas.	The Mall,	Pte.,	Inniskilling Fus., 12 th Divn.,	6559
Burland, Michael	7. The Mall,	Driver,	13 th Field Artll ^y . Corps,	28260
Byrne, John F.	Temple Hill Ho.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 8 th Battn., A. Div ⁿ .,	13465
Byrne, Thomas	Boat St.,	Private,	Royal Irish Rifles.	
Brown, Alexander	33 Lindsay Hill,	Pte.,	2 nd South Lanc. Regt., 7 th Brig ^e ., 3 rd Div.,	6913
Bull, George	Downshire House,	Captain,	R. I. Fus., 1 st Battn., 4 th Divn.	
Blake, Thomas	James St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 6 th Battn.	
Burland, John	20. John Mitchell St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles.,	2268
Burland, Joseph	20. John Mitchell St.,	Pte.,	1st East Yorks. Regt., Expty. Force.	
Burland, Michael	20. John Mitchell St.,	Driver,	Army Service Corp, 13 th Field Amblc ^e .	
Burland, Robert	20. John Mitchell St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 1st Battn., 8th Divn.,	6603
Bray, Patrick	Canal St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 8 th Battn.,	13464
Browne, David A.	83. Canal St.,	Pte.,	R. A. M. C.,	57833
Browne, George	Canal St.,		Canadian Contingent.	
Browne, John	Canal St.,	Engineer,	Royal Naval Engineers.	
Burns, John	16. Bells Row,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 4 th Battn., 8 th Divn.,	6581
Burns, Patrick	Pool Lane,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 3 rd Battn., D. Co.,	5294
Burns, Peter	Pool Lane,	Lce. Corpl.,	7 th Leinster Reg., B. Coy.,	1195

Berry, J.	Mount Pleasant,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd Battn.,	4533
Bradley, G. P.	4. Pound St.,	Pte.,	Roy ^l . Field Artll ^y ., 122. Battery,	69738
Berry, Isaac	Mount Pleasant,	Pte.,	Lonsdale Battery., C. Coy.	13784
Byrne, Peter	21. Castle St.,	Lce. Corp ¹ .,	Leinster Regt., 7th Battn., B. Co.	
Boyd, John	Craigmore,	Pte.,	5 th R. Irish Lancers, 2 nd Cav. Brigde., 3 rd Div.,	3159
Berry, J.	Damolly,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 5 th Battn.,	4533
Beattie, John	Carnagat,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 7 th Battn.,	13176
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Burns, John	23. Upper Water St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd Battn., C. Coy.,	6353
Briggs, W.	Glassdrummond,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., A. Co., 5 th Divn.,	11520
Boyd, H.	44. Cowan St.,	Bombardier,	Royl. Artlly., Band Divn.,	14463
Boyd, John	Craigmore,	Pte.,	5 th Royal Irish Lancers,	3159
Byers, Richard	Cowan St.,	Pte.,	1 st Canadn. Contg ^t ., 5 th Battn., 3. Coy., 2 nd Brig.,	21554
Byers, John	Cowan St.,	Bombardier,	R. Field Artll ^y ., 42 nd Battn., 2 nd Bri., 6 th Div.,	22878
Bond, W ^{m.} N.	Marcus St.,	Pte.,	12th Battn. Coy. of London T. Force,	1735
Bond, Walter I.	Marcus St.,	Lce. Corp ¹ .,	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn.	
Boyd, W ^{m.} E.	Stream St.,	Pte.,	Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 2 nd Battn.	
Boyd, Joseph	Stream St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 4 th Battn.	
Baker, Robert	Talbot St.,	,	Royal Navy.	
Baker, Charles	Talbot St.,		Royal Navy.	
Brady, Allen	Dromalane,	Pte.,	Canadn. Cyclist Corps, A. Coy.	
Byron, John	19. Thomas St.,	Pte.,	Roy ^l . Irish Fusl ^s ., 8 th Battn.,	33493
Burns, Bernard	23. Upp ^r Water St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd Battn., C. Coy.	55175
Blake, Thomas	High St.,	Do	R. I. Fus., 9 th do	17378
Byrne, John	Water St.,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd do	6353
Burns, James	Market St.,		14.17.41.00, 2 40	0333
Balmer, John	North St.,			
Burns, James	Water St.,			
Bloomer, Francis	Mill St.,			
Bell, J.	TVIIII Ott.,	Lce. Corp ¹ .,	R. Inns. Fus., 5 th Battn.,	6958
Bell, Walter	Crieve,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Rifles, 4 th do	7511
Bell, Samuel	do	do	R. Inn. Fus., 2 nd do	7605
Bell, Albert	do	do	R. I. Rifles, 13 th do	18874
Burke, Francis	Mary St.,	do	Do Fus., 4 th do	11163
Byrne, Bernard	Castle St.,		Royal Navy.	11103
Burns, Peter	do		Royal Havy.	
Burns, Patrick	23. do			
Burns, Patrick	19. do			
Byram, James	do			
Burns, James	do			
Byrne, John	Hill St.,			
Bratty, J.	11111 01.,	Gunner,	R. F. Art.	
Burke, W. J.		Guilliei,	R. Innsk ^g . Fus.	
Baird, G.	Craigmore,		N. 11110K . 1 u.s.	
Byrne, John	8. Nicholson's Crt.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 7 th Battn.,	1644
Dyrne, John	o. menoisons CIt.,	1 15.,	K. I. KIIICS, / Dattill.,	1044

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Cartmill, Tho ^{s.} R.	113. Canal St.,	Pte.,	North Irish Horse, 3 rd Squadron.	
Copeland, James	Do	Trooper,	North Irish Horse.	
Copeland, John	Do	Sergt.,	Royal Can. Dragoons, B. Squd.,	510
Cully, Daniel	Bells Row,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 4 th Divn.,	7783
Crothers, Robert	16. Sugar Island,	Corp ^l .,	Do. 7 th Battn.,	13538
Crilly, John	Bridge St.,	Pte.,	20 th Hussars, 5 th Cavly. Brig.,	4781
Craven, Bernard	Queen St.,	Do	R. I. Fus.,	11871
Collins, Bernard	Kiln St.,	Do	R. I. Rifles., 4 th Battn.	
Curran, Thomas	Peters Place,	Do	Roy ^l . Ir. Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	11437
Curran, Joseph	Nicholson's Crt.,	Gunner,	R. G. Artlly.,	4169
Chapman, W.	Damolly,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	18889
Carter, James	20. Sandy St.,	Do	Do 4 th Do B. Coy.,	6762
Carter, Joseph	Do	Do	R. A. M. C., Div. 28.,	7684
Connor, Joseph	5. Bells Row,	Do	R. I. F., 1st Battn., 4th Divn.,	8823
Curran, T.	31. Boat St.,	Do	87 th R. I. Fus.,	7585
Campbell, James	64. Church St.,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 3 rd Battn.,	173543
Cunningham, W.	Bridge St.,	Stoker,	H.M.S. "Sheldrake", Roy. Navy.	
Cairns, W ^{m.}	Cloughenrammer,	Gunner,	R. Garr. Art., 11 th H. Brigade.,	14464
Clarke, Thomas	Craigmore,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 3 rd Battn.,	5468
Cowan, William	4. Cowan St.,	Do	R. A. M. C., Ulster Divn.	
Clarke, Tho ^{s.} J.	Crieve,	Do	R. I. R., 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	18909
Chambers, Edward	Penguin Place,	Do	R. A. M. C., Ulster Divn.	
Chambers, Robert	Do	Do	Do Do	
Copeland, James	21. Erskine St.,	Lce. Corp ¹ .,	R. Inniskg. Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	7638
Chambers, Thomas	1. Penguin Place,	Pte.,	Ordnance Corps, Ulster Divn.	
Cunningham, James	63. Boat St.,	Do	R. Dub ⁿ . Fus., 9 th Battn.,	17419
Cunningham, Mich ^{l.}	63. Do	Do	R. Irish. Fus., 2 nd Do	8353
Cunningham, John	63. Do	Do	Do 1 st Do	6590
Cully, Dominick	44. Kilmorey St.,	Do	Do 6 th Do	16961
Cleland, W ^{m.} Jas.	4. Basin Walk,	Corp ^l .,	North Ir. Horse, A. Squadn.,	1158
Cunningham, Charles	23. North St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd Battn.,	7615
Connell, Myles	22. Monaghan St.,	Corp ^l .,	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Battn., 27 th Div ⁿ .,	5650
Collins, Bernard	4. Church St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 3 rd Battn.,	9280
Carroll, John	7. Chapel St.,	Do, Baker,	Army Serv. Corps,	012304
Curlette, James	27. Jno. Mitchell St.,	Do	R. I. R., 1st Battn., North Down Div.,	6566
Connor, Patrick	High St.,	Do	Do 2 nd Do D. Coy.,	4574
Craig, John H.	Kildare St.,	Cadet,	Do 16 th Battalion.	
Curran, G.	Lindsay Hill,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fus., 2 nd Do	
Cunningham, Thomas	North St.,	Pte.,		
Craven, Bernard	do	Pte.,		
Crilly B.	Patrick's Place,			

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Crilly, Bernard	79. Castle St.,	Serg ^t .,	R. I. Fus., 7 th Battn.,	11868
Crilly, Peter	10. Hyde Market,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 1st Battn., 4th Div.,	5558
Connor, James	Boat St.,	Do	R. I. Fus.,	11071
Campbell, Owen	Quay St.,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 4th Battn.,	6386
Campbell, Edward	5. Do		Royal Navy.	
Cullen, Joseph	30. Mary St.,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd Battn.,	8839
Cullen, John	30. Do	Driver,	Army Serv. Corps, 3 rd Divn.,	30743
Cahill, Sen ^{r.} , Thomas	16. Hyde Market,	Pte.,	Royal Irish Rifles, 4 th Battn.,	6160
Cahill, Jun ^{r.} , Thomas	Do	Pte.,	Do Do	7168
Clair, James	Castle St.,	Do	Do 2 nd Battn.,	8349
Connor, Patrick	Do	Do	Do Do	4570
Connor, Joseph	Moore's Lane,	Do	Do 5 th Battn.,	4692
Carty, Edward J.	Market St.,	Do	R. Dub ⁿ . Fus., 7th Battn.,	16362
Cowan, James	High St.,	Corp ^l .,	Irish Guards, 1st Battn.,	3714
Craven, Bernard	North St.,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fusiliers.	
Cole, Patrick	17. Mountpleasant,	Do	Royl. Field Artlly., 30 th Battn.,	32084
Chambers, John	Penguin Place,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn.,	1058
Carroll, Robert	Postley Place,		Do Ulster Divn.,	
Connor, James	17. Church St.,	Do	R. I. Fus, 1 st Battn.,	6710
Campbell, John	64. Do	Do	R. I. Fus., 3 rd Battn.,	
Carroll, Jospeh	26. Do	Driver,	R. F. A., 30 th Brigde., 3 rd Divn.	69739
Courtenay, Patrick	James St.,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fusl ^s ., 1 st Battn.,	5972
Campbell, James	Pound St.,	Do	Do 4 th Battn.	
Connor, Patrick	Church St.,	Do	Do	
Clydesdale, Hugh	52. Cowan St.,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 5 th Battn.,	3630
Campbell, James	Arthur St.,	Do	Irish Guards, 2 nd Divn.,	4731
Casey, Henry	Church St.,	Do	R. I. Rifles., 4 th Battn.,	7519
Craven, Philip	Queen St.,	Do	Do 4 th Battn.,	6660
Caldwell, James	Monaghan Row,	Do	Roy ^l . Ir. Fusiliers,	10402
Cully, John	20. Monaghan Row,	Do	Irish Guards, 1st Battn.,	3615
Crozier, Robert	Mountain View Terr.,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Do	18923
Crozier, John	Do	Do	Do 13 th Do	18924
Cromie, Patrick	12. Cecil St.,	Gunner,	R. Garrn. Artlly., Siege Batty.,	13271
Cromie, Joseph	12. Do	Driver,	R. Field Artlly.,	31237
Campbell, Michael	4. Arthur St.,	Pte.,	Irish Guards, 1st Battn.,	4371
Connolly, John	Caulfield Place,	Gunner,	R. G. Art.,	10548
Conolly, Patrick	Do	Bombardier,	R. Garrn. Art.,	14440
Clarke, Henry	Do	Pte.,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	18910
Crossey, James	Collins's Court,	Do	Do 5 th Battn.,	11863
Crilly, Edward	24. Canal St.,	Do	Roy ^l . Scots. Fus., 6 th Battn.,	11952
Casson, Edwin	46. Do	Do	R. A. M. C., 16 th Divn.,	42043

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Crilly, Peter	Grant's Yard,	Pte.,	R. I. Fusiliers,	5558
Campbell, James	Downshire Crt.,	do	R. I. R., 1st Battn.,	6223
Copeland, W.			North Irish Horse.	
Campbell, T.			Roy. Ir. Fusiliers.	
Cowan, Robert	2. Cowan St.,			
Courtney, James	Hyde Market,			
Carney, Thomas	Mary St.,			
Crilly, Bernard	Hill St.,			
Collins, Michael	Church St.,			
Crozier, Harold	Sandy St., Presb. Ch.,			
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Delahunt, James	Boat Street,	Pte.,	Army Serv. Corps, 45 th Coy.,	28346
Delahunt, Patrick J.	Do.	Do	Cheshire Regt., 12 th Battn.,	13807
Delahunt, Hugh	Do.	Do	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Batt ⁿ .,	5872
Doran, James	Do	Do	Leinster Regt., 1st Do	8355
Doran, Francis	Do	Do	R. I. Rifles, 1 st Do	6284
Doran, Felix	Do	Do	Do 4 th Do	6667
Duffy, Robert	Chapel St.,	Do	R. I. Fus., 7 th Do	11883
Daly, John	Kilmorey St.,	Seaman,	Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. "Congo".	
Doherty, Bernard	Castle St.,	Gunner,	Royal Garrison Artillery.	
Doherty, Patrick	Do	Pte.,	Roy ^l . Inn. Fus., 2 nd Battn.	
Doherty, Hugh	Do	Do	" Dublin Fus., 2 nd Do	
Duffy, James	77. High St.,	Do	" Irish Fus., 1st Do	7782
Doyle, Michael	Do	Corp ^l .,	R. M. L. I., H.M.S. "Columbine",	13883
Doyle, James	Do	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fus., 3 rd Battn.,	6041
Dillon, Henry	Do	Pte.,	Do 2 nd Batt ⁿ , 4 th Div.,	7763
Devlin, James	Windmill Lane,	Do	Do Do 27 th Do	
Dunn, William	Cowan St.,	Serg ^t .,	Do Do	
Dodds, William	Do	Privt ^e .,	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn.,	18936
Dalton, W ^{m.} E.	Chequer Hill,	Corp ¹ . Mecahnic,	Flying Squadron,	721
Dickson, James	Catherine St.,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fus., 3 rd Batt ⁿ .,	259
Donnelly, Thomas	Bank Parade,	Do	Irish Guards 1st Do	3623
Donnelly, John	Maginnis St.,	Driver,	Roy ^l . Field Artillery.	
Donaghy, Peter	18. King St.,	Pte.,	Royl. Ir. Fusl ^s , 3 rd Battn.,	5672
Donnelly, Patrick J.	Needham St.,	Do	Royal Engineers,	56449
Dodds, James	Mullaglass,	Lce. Corpl.,	R. Ir. Fus., 1 st Battn.,	11073
Dodds, James	Cowan St.,	Pte.,	Do. 2 nd Do	10189
Donnelly, M. J.	Needhamn St.,	Do	Royal Engineers, Signal Sec.,	68757
Devonport, Robert	Mountpleasant,	Do	R. I. R., 1 st Battn.,	8599
Devonport, Emmet	Do	Do	Do	
Devonport, Samuel	Do	Do	Do	
Donaldson, William	5. Basin Walk,	Do	Army Pay Corps, N°1. Section.	
Duffy, John	30. King St.,	Chief Officer,	H.M.S. "La Marguerite", Transp ^t .	
Dodds, James	35. John Mitchell St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	10189
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Durkin, William	Warrenpoint Road,	Pte.,	Royal Marines, 12 th Do	16801
Daly, Edward	12. Kilmorey St,	Do .	R. Dubn. Fus., 4 th Do	19315
Dodds, William Jas.	Craigmore,	Do	R. Irish Fus., 9 th Batt ⁿ ., D. Co.,	14149
Dodds, George	Carnbane,	Do	N. I. Hor., A. Squad ⁿ ., 1 st Expd. Fce.,	865
Dougan, Bernard	6. Pound St.,	Do	Royal Ir. Rifles, 2 nd Batt ⁿ .,	6285
Doran, Hugh	32. Boat St.,	Do	Do 4 th Battn., Depot,	4510
Donnelly, Patrick	Thomas St.,	Do	Royal Irish Fusiliers.	1520
Dougan, Bernard	Mill St.,	Do	Do Do Rifles, 2 nd Battn.,	6285
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Downey, Patrick	Lindsay Hill,	Stoker,	Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Albatross".	
Dodds, G. R.	10. Cowan St.,		B. H. L. I.	
Durkin, Patrick	Warrenpoint Rd.,			
Drake, Henry	The Mall,			
Doherty, Thomas	Mary St.,			
Donnelly, William	North St.,			
Donnelly, Patrick	Maginnis St.,			
Dickson, James	Peter's Place,			
Dodds, George	Mullaglass,			
Dodds, W.	Damolly,			
Donnelly, Patrick	Bridewell Row,			
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Engelen, Francis	Kilmorey St.,	Pte.,	Leinster Regt., Cyclists Corp.,	1333
Edwards, David	(Prov ^{l.} Bk. of Irl ^{d.}) Hill St.	Do	Black Watch, 10 th Battn., Bristol Div.,	5987
Erskine, William	Canal St.,	Corpl.,	R. I. Rifles, 16 th Do	528
Ewing, Samuel Jas.	7. Helen's Terrace,	Do	Royal Engineers, 8 th Infty. Brigde., 3 rd Signal Sec.	
Evans, Michael	Castle St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	17341
Ewart, John	19. Cecil St.,	Pte.,	R. Inns. Fus., 2 nd Do	6714
English, John	Kilmorey St.,		Roy ^l . Horse Arty.	
Ewart, John	Monaghan Row,			
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Fitzpatrick, Bernard	27. Boat St.,	Gunner,	Royal Garrison Artlly.,	19510
Fearon, Thomas	Do	Pte.,	" Dub. Fus., 9 th Battn.,	17344
Feeley, James	3. Upp. Chapel St.,	Do	R. A. M. C., 19 th Field Amb. Batty., 16 th Div.,	42046
Freeburn, John	Mary St.,	Sergt.,	R. I. Rifles., 5 th Battn.,	4218
Fitzpatrick, John	11. High St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Battn., Expdy. Fce.,	5937
Fitzpatrick, Robert	11. Do	Do	R. I. Rifles, 4 th Do	6763
Fitzpatrick, Patrick	47. Do	Do	R. I. Fus., 3 rd Do	5853
Fearon, Bernard	99. Do	Do	Do 2 nd Do	6839
Fearon, John	28. Pound St.,	Do	Roy. Dubn. Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	7998
Fagan, Charles	John Mitchell St.,	Do	Roy. Irish Fus., 4 th Do	
Fagan, Patrick	Do	Do	Do 4 th Do	
Fagan, James	Do	Do	Do 4 th Do	
Fagan, William	Postley Row,	Do	R. Irish Rifles, 5 th Do	3609
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Forsythe, William	Sandy St.,		Do Ulster Division.	
Ferris, Joseph	Damolly,		Do Do	
Fearon, James	2. Pool Lane,	Gunner,	Royal Navy.	
Fisher, J. A.	Bridge St.,	Lieut.,	13 th Liverpools.	
Fisher, F. A.	Do	Captain,	R. A. M. C.	
Fearon, Michael J.	1. Thomas St.,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fus., 3 rd Battn., L'Derry Div.,	5386
Ferris, D. Henry	Windsor Hill,	Surgeon,	R. N. Vol. Res., H.M.S. "Victor".	
Ferris, John	Damolly,	-	Roy. Ir. Rifles, Ulster Divn.	
Ferris, Samuel	Do		Do Do	
Fisher, F. C.	Bridge St.,	Commander,	H.M.S. "Skirmisher", R. Navy.	
Fisher, J. S.	Dromalane,	Pte.,	Scottish Motor Amblee., Convoy 8th.	
Fox, William Jos.	Ashgrove,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 7 th Battn.,	18389
Fegan, James	87. High St,	Do	Do A. Coy.,	13529
Fegan, Charles	87. Do	Do	R. Dublin Fus., 9 th Battn.,	17422
Ferris, Joseph	Bagot St,	Do	North Irish Horse, Dep. Sqdn.,	1483
Fitzpatrick, Patrick	119. High St,	Do	R. I. Fus., 3 rd Battn.,	5852
Fox, George	Low ^{r.} Mill St.,	Driver,	R. F. Artlly.	
Feehan, Francis	Water St.,			
Feehan, Hugh	Do			
Flaherty, Patrick	North St.,			
Farrell, Patrick	Chapel St.,			
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Gill, James	William St.,	Segt.,	Royal Irish Regt., 1 st Battn.,	7710
Gorman, James	Castle St.,	Stoker,	Royal Navy.	
Garland, Patrick	High St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Battn., 4 th Divn.,	5938
Gordon, Patrick	21. Market St.,	Corpl.,	City of London Royal Regt., 1st Reserves.	
Gartlan, Robert J.	23. North St.,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fus., 2 nd Battn., 27 th Div.,	9777
Grant, Henry	Monkshill,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Do, Ulster Div.,	1137
Gartlan, Gerald J.	Downshire Road,	Captain,	Do 1 st Battn., 8 th Divn.	
Gray, Thomas	James St.,	Pte.,	Do Ulster Divn.,	
Griffen, Sydney	Windsor Hill,	Corpl.,	Toronto Reg., 3 rd Battn., 1 st Bride.,	10211
Griffen, Philip	Do	Do	R. Canadian Dragoons.	
Griffen, John	Do	Lieut.,	Highland Regt.	
Golding, James	Cecil St.,	Stoker,	Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Cornwall",	4015
Golding, John	Do	Pte.,	R. Garrn. Artlly., 37 th Coy.,	12228
Gamble, W ^{m.} H.	42. Do	Gunner,	Do 16 th Do	14437
Gogan, John	Do	Sergt.,	R. I. R., 8 th Battn.,	15415
Grant, Joseph	32. Do	Pte.,	Do 4 th Do	6746
Gray, Robert	80. Canal St.,	Gunner,	R. F. Artlly.,	41668
Gray, William	Do	Do	R. Garrn. Do	3632
Gray, Samuel	Do	Pte.,	R. I. Fuslrs., 13 th Battn.,	19000
Goodfellow, James	20. Maginnis St.,	Lce. Corp ¹ .,	R. I. Rifles., 4 th Do	6745
Gordon, Hugh	16. John Martin St.,	Pte.,	5 th Lancers, A. Squdn.,	3017
Grant, Lewis	Do	Sergt.,	South Lancs. Regt., 6 th Ser. Battn.,	7323
Grant, Francis	Thomas St.,	Stoker,	H.M.S. "Prince of Wales", N° 37. Mess.	

Gorman, James	Do	Do	Roy ^l . Naval Res. H.M.S. "Seviathan".	
Gracey, Andrew	6. High St.,	Pte.,	North Staffe. Regt., 1 st Battn.,	6662
Gracey, Isaac	6. Do	Serg ^t . Major,	Royal Engineers.	
Gilliard, Thomas A.	Craigmore,	Corp ^l .,	Roy. Munster Fus., 6 th Batt ⁿ ., 'C' Coy.,	2998
Gracey, David	Arthur St.,	•	Royal Navy.	
Gracey, James	Do	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles.	
Griffen, John P.	Edward St.,	Driver,	Cand ⁿ . Field Artlly., 1 st Bri., 1 st Batt ^y .,	40172
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Gillespie, Henry A.	6. Trevor Hill,	Lieut.,	R. A. M. C., 42 nd Fld. Amblce., 14 th Div.	
Grant, John	47. Rooney's Terr.,	Pte.,	Princess' Pats. Lt. Infty., Canadn. Div.,	51183
Gray, Thomas	31. John Mitchell St.,	Do	Roy. I. Rifles, 13 th Batt ⁿ ., Ulster Div.,	18991
Gartland, Patrick	Ellis's Row,	Do	R. I. Fus., 2 nd do	5938
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Grandy, Robinett	William St.,	Serg ^t .,	R. Welsh Fus., 13 th Battn.,	4982
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Gorman, Edward	Do			
Green, Thomas	Helen's Terr.,			
Gracey, Arthur	High St.,			
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Hughes, Peter	8. Mill St.,	Gunner,	R. Garr., Artlly., 3 rd Batt ⁿ ., Antrim Art.,	4090
Hanna, Thomas	1. Castle St.,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Rifles., 4 th Batt ⁿ .	
Hanna, Thomas	2. Do	Do	Do 4 th Do	
Hart, Felix	21. Market Sqe.,	Do	Do 4 th Do	7340
Holden, Edward	76. Cowan St.,	Do	Kings Liverpools, 3 rd Batt ⁿ .,	10341
Hooks, Francis	107. High St.,	Do	Irish Guards, 1st Batt, 2nd Div.,	3119
Hooks, Joseph	107. Do	Do	R. I. Rifles, C. Coy.,	6454
Hughes, David	3. Penguin Place,	Do	Irish Guards, 1st Battn.,	1495
Hendren, J. S.	2. The Mall,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 15 th Battn., 36 th Ulster Div.,	11969
Harshaw, W ^{m.} Jas.	4. North St.,	Do	Do 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	19020
Heaslip, Hugh	Castle St.,	Do	Do	
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Harvey, J.	Cowan St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Do	
Hunter, George	Mountpleasant,	Do	87 th R. I. Fus., 12 Coy.,	11425
Hunter, Henry	Do	Do	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	
Hegan, William J.	70. Stream St.,	Lce. Corp ¹ .,	A. Serv. Corps, Ulster Divn.	
Haveron, Peter	Pound St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 4 th Battn.,	7516
Hughes, John	62. Church St.,	Do	Do 7 th Do	3555
Hunter, Patrick J.	Merchants Quay,	Lc ^e . Corp ^l .,	Irish Guards, 4 th Battn.,	2709
Hunter, Edward Jos.	Do	Pte.,	Roy ^l . Irish Regt., 6 th Do	1856
Hadden, George	Canal St.,	Lc ^e . Corp ^l ., Drum	mer, R. I. Fus., 1st Do	10407
Heslip, William J.	1. Erskine St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fusl ^r ., 1 st Battn., 4 th Div ⁿ .,	6644
Hanna, Herbert	Aileen Terrace,	Lieut.,	R. I. R., 14 th Do Ulster Div.	
Harris, Cyril	Dromalane,	Corp ^l .,	Royal Engineers, Do	

Hughes, John	Kiln St.,	Pte.,	Cheshire Regt., 3 rd Battn.,	10015x
Hanna, Joseph	Crieve,	Do Do	Do 1 st Battn., 5 th Div.,	10015?
Hagan, P.	17. Thomas St.,	Do	7 th Leinster Reg.,	1966
Hanna, Joseph	New St.,	Do	2 nd Cameron Highld ^s ., 2 nd Battn.,	11848
Hamilton, John	Downshire Road,	Bandsman,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn.,	19013
Hunneford, William	61. Canal St.,	Pte,	R. I. R., 16 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	893
Hunter, Robert	Mountpleasant,	Do Do	R. Field Artlly., 112 th Battery,	63658
Hanna, Joseph	Crieve,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	19019
Hegan, Herbert	Water St.,	Do	Do 2 nd Do	1,01,
Howley, Patrick	do	20	2 20	
Hunt, Edward	25. Kilmorey St.,	Pte.,	Connaught Rangers, 6th Battn.	
Hegarty, William	North St.,	1 tc.,	Comfaught Rangers, 0 Dattii.	
Hanna, Boyd	Crieve,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	36718
Hanna, Thomas	1. Castle St.,	do	do 1 st do	6372
Hughes, James	Moore's Lane,	do	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Battn.	03/2
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Irwin, John	Mill St.,			
Irwin, R.	Talbot St.,		R. A. M. C.	
Irwin, S.	Do		R. Field Arty.	
Irwin, Alexander	Hill St.,		•	
Jones, John	Stream Street	Pte.,	R. Ir. Rifles., Ulster Divn.	
Johnstone, William J.	Barrack St.,	Lce. Corp ^l .,	Do 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	19037
Jones, John	Needham St.,	Pte,	Cheshire Reg., 3 rd Battn.,	10016
Jordon, Hugh	Chapel St.,	do	R. I. R., 1 st Battn., C. Co.,	8018
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Kelly, James	Castle St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus.	
Kelly, Patrick	High St.,	Do	Do 1 st Battn.,	6095
Kane, John	8. Water St.,	Do	Scottish Rifles, 4 th Battn.,	7494
Kane, George	41. North St.,	Do	87 th R. I. Fus., 6 th Batt., 4 th Div ⁿ .,	11461
Kearney, William	15. Church St.,	Stoker,	Royal Naval Reserve.	,
Kelly, Thomas	13. Upp ^{r.} Edward St.,	Pte,	R. I. Rifles, 1 st Battn.,	6375
Kelly, Patrick Jas.	Do Do	Do	R. Inns. Fus., 2 nd Do	7981
Kieley, Henry	Caulfiled Place,	Do	Irish Guards,	6198
Keane, Patrick	Do	Do	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd Battn.,	6866
Kernaghan, Benjamin	5. Canal Quay,	Corp ¹ .,	R. I. Fus., 5 th Do	11685
Kennedy, George	1. Erskine Place,	Farrier Serg ^t .,	R. Horse Artlly., II Batty.,	13470
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Kelly, C.	Water St.,	Coy. Sergt. Major,	R. I. R., 4 th Battn.,	4687
Kerr, Charles E.	Windsor Avenue,	Pte.,	"Black Watch", 6 th Do	2113
Kernaghan, Joseph	Stream St.,	Do	R. I. Fusiliers.	
Kernaghan, A.	Do	Corp ^l .,	Royl. H. Artillery.	
Kane, Henry	11. Mary St.,	Pte.,	Sappers & Miners, N°1. Sect ⁿ ., Battn., 8 th Div.	28477
Keenan, Patrick	Ballincollig,	Pte.,	R. F. Artlly. Co., 30 th Battery., Cork Div.,	32087
Kearney, James	17. Monaghan Row,	Sergt.,	Leinster Regt., 7th Battn., Ir. Brigde,	1196
Kelly, Peter	31. Cowan St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 4 th Do	6503
Kingham, David	Hill St,	Lieut.,	R. I. Fusiliers.	
Kelly, Thomas	North St.,			
Kearns, Joseph	Castle St.,			
Kelly, James	do			
Kelly, Peter	Church St.,			
Kelly, Lawrence	Cowan St.,			
Keenan, Patrick	Church St.,			
Kirwan, Henry	Hyde Terr.,	Sergt.,	R. A. M. C.	
Kean, John (D ^{r.})	Meigh,	Lieut.,	R. A. M. C.	
Kerr, James	New St.,			
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Larrissy, Thomas	40. Boat St.,	Stoker,	Roy ^l . Naval Res., H.M.S. "Vivid", Devonport Div.	
Larkin, Joseph	Patrick's Place,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 1 st Battn., 4 th Divn.,	7913
Langan, William	3. Castle St.,	Do	Do 2 nd Do 27 th Do	10720
Lavery, John	Do	Do	R. I. R., 2 nd Battn., 3 rd Divn.,	7345
Lundy, James	Moore's Lane,	Do	87 th R. I. Fus., A. Coy.,	5720
Lundy, William	Do	Do	R. Field Artlly., 114 th Heavy Battery.	
Lennon, John	80. High St.,	Stoker,	Roy. Naval Res. H.M.S. "Hussar".	
Larkin, Peter	Do	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 4 th Battn.	
Larkin, John	22. Do	Do	Do 1 st Battn., D. Co., Divn,	6702
Lynch, John	24. Ellis's Row,	Do	Do 1 st Do A Coy.,	9467
Littlewood, William J.	24. Sandy St.,	Bandsman,	Do 13 th Do Ulster Divn.,	19060
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Lundy, John	13. Do	Pte.,	Royal Dublin Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	6809
Lennon, Michael	Pound St,	Do	Do Irish Fus., 3 rd Do	5293
Lundy, Patrick	39. John Mitchell St.,	Do	R. A. M. C., 49th Fld. Amblce, L'rick. Div.,	41954
Lowry, James,	Downshire Road,	Do	Royal Irish Rifles, Ulster Divn.	
Livingston, William M.C.	Bank Parade,	Artificier Engineer	r, Royal Navy.	
Lee, Joseph	5. Maginnis St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 1 st Battn, 8 th Divn.,	6199
Larkin, Henry	Corn Market,	Do	R. I. Fus., 1 st Do 4 th Do	7771
Lynch, Hugh	Queen St.,	Seaman,	Royal Naval Div.	
Lynch, George	Do	Pte.,	Army Service Corps,	30604
Lynch, John	Do	Do	R. I. Rifles.,	9467
Locke, Ernest	Doran's Hill,	Segt.,	R. Inns. Fus., 1st Battn., 26th Bri., Indian Exp. Fce.,	
Locke, Richard	Do	Pte.,	Do 1 st Battalion,	9990

Leeson, W. C.	92. Hill St.,	Do	90th Winnipeg Rifles, 8th Candn. Infty., 2nd Brigde,	1652
Lynch, Patrick	16. Cecil St.,		Royal Navy,	6819
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Mullan, John	Do	Do	R. I. Fus., 6 th Do	12683
Markey, James	65. Do	Do	Do Rifles, 4th Do	6286
Martin, Michael	Georges Lane,	Corpl.,	R. I. Fus., 8th Battn., B. Coy.,	18139
Mooney, James	Castle St.,	Gunner,	Royal Field Artillery.	
Moneypenny, John	12. Do	Sergt.,	R. I. R., 2 nd Battn., 3 rd Divn.,	4576
Murphy, Francis	High St.,	Pte.,	Do 2 nd Do	6183
Murphy, Thomas J.	103. Do	Do	R. I. Fus., 2 nd Do 27 th Divn.,	5734
Murphy, Hugh	103. Do	Do	R. I. Rifles, 1st Battn.,	9179
Murphy, Michael	103. Do	Do	R. I. Fus., 3 rd Do	5234
Morgan, Joseph	33. Water St.,	Do	R. Dub. Fus., 2 nd Do	8575
Markey, John	Do	Do	R. Irish Fus., 1st Do	5932
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Moffit, Samuel	4. North St.,	Lce. Corpl.,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	19137
Martin, D. Stanley	Sandys Place,	Lieut.,	R. A. M. C.	
Martin, H.B.	Do		Canadian Contg ^t .	
Martin, John N.	Do	2nd Lieut.,	Army Serv. Corps.	
Marks, John	Cowan St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 13th Battn., Ulster Div.,	19134
Morrow, Thomas	Stream St.,	Do	R. Dublin Fus., 2 nd Battn.	
Marshall, Samuel	66. Do	Do	R. Ir. Fus., 87 th Battn., 4 th Div.,	7694
Marshall, Thomas	47. Do	Do	R. Inns. Fus., 3 rd Do 4 th Do	7454
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Morrow, James	3. Do	Do	Do 2 nd Do	7609
Morrison, John	30. Church St.,	Do	Leinster Regt., 7 th Battn.,	1194
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Moorehead, William	5. Do	Do	Do 7 th Do Do	14479
Moorehead, George	5. Do	Pte.,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	16885
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Mulligan, Joseph	Cecil St.,	Gunner,	Royal Garrn. Artlly.,	15184
Markey, Christopher	9. Collin's Crt.,	Pte.,	Do Innsk ^g . Fus., 6 th Battn.,	12464
Mackle, David	Catherine St.,	Do	Cameronians, 1 st Do	7337
Megaw, James	94. Queen St.,	Sergt.,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn.,	18224
Marley, George G.	Bells Row,	Lce. Corp ¹ .,	R. I. Fus., 4 th Do	8859
Moorehead, John	3. Sinclair St.,	A.B. Seaman,	Royal Navy.	

Morgan, John	New St.,	Pte.,	Irish Guards, 1st Batt ⁿ , 2nd Div.,	3622
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Matthews, Francis	Do	Do	Do 4 th Do	6583
Matthews, Bernard	Do	Do	Black Watch "A" Coy.,	1850
Mullholland, Michael	2. Nicholson's Crt.,	Gunner,	Roy. Field Artlly., A. Batty, 76th Bge.,	30662
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Stokes, Patrick	76. Kilmorey St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 4 th Battn.,	6588
Sheridan, Patrick	56. Mill St.,	Lce. Corp ^l .,	R. I. F., 8 th do	13471
Stewart, William	69. Castle St.,	A.B. Seaman,	Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Hildebrand", Nº 12. Mess.	
Smith, John	Moore's Lane,	Private,	R. I. R., 2 nd Battn.,	6715
Smith, James	38. High St.,	Corpl.,	Do 4 th Batt., H'wood Divn.,	6053
Sloan, Matthew	32. Low North St.,	Pte.,	R. I. F., 2 nd Battn., 27 th Divn.,	5933
Scott, John	Stream St.,	Lce. Corp ^l .,	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn.,	19196
Sterling, Robert	48. Hill St.,	Corpl.,	North Irish Horse,	824
Smartt, R. B.	Trevor Hill,	2nd Lieut.,	6 th (S.) Leinster Regt., 6 th Batt ⁿ ., 10th Div.	-
Smith, Samuel	64. Stream St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	19201
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Shevlin, John	1. Up ^r Edward St.,	Do	Do 6 th Do	10757
Scott, John K.	Caulfield Terr.,	Sergt.,	Do 13 th Do Ulster Divn.	
Smith, David	Erskine St.,	Do	Royal Scots, 7th Do B Coy.,	7303
Steele, John A.	16. Barrack St.,	Do	R. Garr. Art., 57th Coy.,	4279
Steele, John H.	16. do	Gunner,	R. Field Art., 97 th Batty.,	18612
Steele, William A.	16. do	Bombardier,	R. Garr. Art, 16th Coy.,	8121
Steele, Alexander S.	16. do	Drummer,	Duke of Wellingtons, 2 nd West Ridings Battn., Dep	^t . Div.
Steele, Thomas J.	16. do	Corp ^l .,	R. I. Fus., 8 th Battn., S.,	14848
Steele, Charles P.	16. do	Trumpeter,	R. Garr. Art., 86th Heavy Battn.,	32359
Steele, Lionel W.	16. do	Do	Do 23 rd Siege Brigde.,	39606
Smith, William	Bell's Row,	Corp ^l .,	Highland Lt. Infty., 11 th Battn.,	19589
Scott, James	New St.,	Pte.,	Royal Navy,	27845
Small, Francis	Poole Lane	Lce. Corp ¹ .,	R. D. F., 8 th Battn.,	17015
Short, Francis	29. Needham St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 4 th Battn., 3 rd Divn.,	6485
Smith, Norman	Doran's Hill,	Trooper,	11 th Hussars, 4 Troop, D Squadn.,	26459
Sheppardson, S.	13. John Mitchell St.,	Corp ¹ .,	R. I. R., 16 th Battn., N° I. Divn.	
Smith, Ross	Armagh Road,	Lc ^e . Corp ^l .,	Do 13 th Do 36 th Ulster Divn.,	19200
Sturgeon, Samuel C.	Moorvale,	2 nd Lieut.,	R. Field Art., 20 th Batty. (Res.)	
Scott, J. K.	Caulfield Terr.,	Serg ^t .,	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Battn.,	19208
Scott, Samuel	Bridge St.,	Corporal,	Royal Engineers.	
Steenson P.	58. Stream St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 8th Battn.,	3338
Smith, John	46. Kilmorey St.,	Do	Do 1st Do	6651
Sweeney, James J.	Grinan,	Do	Inns. Fus., 2 nd Do	8197
Smith, William	12. Needham Place ,	Do	Hon. Art. Co., "B" Battery.	
Stewart, Oliver	61. Canal St.,	Do	R. I. R., 16 th Battn.,	898
Smith, Patrick	46. Kilmorey St.,	Do	Do 2 nd Battn.,	6195
Scott, James D.	12. New St.,	1st Class Boy,	H.M.S. "Prince of Wales",	J.27847
Stokes, Henry	76. Kilmorey St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 7 th Battn.,	4511
Stokoe, James C.	2. Hillside Terrace,	2 nd Lieut.,	Manchester Regt., 14 th Battn.	
Stokoe, Harold N.	2. Do Do	do	R. N. Lancs. Reg ^t ., 9 th Do	
Smith, John	Castle St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 1 st Battn.,	6651
Page 29				
Smartt, William	Castle Street,			
Sullivan, M.	76. Cowan St.,		Roy ^l . Irish Regt.	
Smith, Patrick	Mill St.,			
Smith, John	do			
Smith, Patrick	High St.,			
Smith, John	do			
Shearman, Edward	do			
Sloan, Thomas	North St.,			
Small, Francis	Water St.,			
Smith, Cecil	Doran's Hill,		R. I. Rifles.	

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Treanor, Thomas	9. Boat St.,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 3 rd Battn., 5 th Divn.,	5989
Toman, Francis	Castle St.,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 1 st Do	8312
Thompson, John	63. Do	Do	Do 4 th Do	6584
Tumelty, Robert	3. Windmill Row,	Do	R. I. F., 86 th Battery.	
Taylor, Joseph	7. The Mall,	Do	Do 2 nd Battn., 27 th Div.,	8764
Thompson, James C.	60. Hill St.,	Do	Do 3 rd Batt., Kitcheners Army,	16804
Truesdale, Albert	Downshire Road,	Do	R. I. Rifles, 13 th Do	19221
Truesdale, J.	Cowan St.,	Do	Do 16 th Do	
Taylor, John	James St.,	Do	R. I. Fus., 1 st Do 4 th Div.,	5966
Turner, James	Cecil St.,	Do	Do 8 th Do	15208
Tumelty, James	Collins Row,	Do	Royal Sussex,	8680
Trainor, Patrick	Bell's Row,	Do	R. I. F., 1 st Batt.,	8112
Trainor, James	Do	Do	R. Inns. Fus., 1 st Do	10271
Trainor, Samuel	Do	Do	R. Irish Fus., 4 th Do	1775
Taylor, William	28. Cowan St.,	Do	R. I. R., 1st Battn., B. Co., 4th Div.,	11072
Taylor, G.	3. Postley Place,	Do	R. Inn. Fus., 5 th Brigde., 1 ^{st.} Army Corps,	7464
Truesdale, William	Carneyhaugh,	Lce. Corpl.,	R. Irish Fus., 5 th Battn.,	11577
Thompson, David	Ballinlare,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles., 13 th Battn., Ulster Div.,	19230
Trimble, Robert	Crowreagh,	Do	R. Innsk. Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	7615
Torley, Michael J.	39. Mary St.,	Do	R. Irish Fus., 3 rd Battn., 2 nd Div.,	6038
Torley, James	39. Do	Corp ^l .,	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd Batt., 3 rd 7 th Bri.,	6125
Treanor, John	2. Church St.,	Stoker,	Royal Navy,	3790
Toman, John	10. Chapel St.,	Do	Do Reserve,	D.4236
Thompson, William	63. Castle St.,	Pte, Gunner,	R. F. A., 17 th Batty.,	76640
Treanor, John	Needham St.,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fus., 3 rd Battn.,	5434
Toman, James	Chapel St.,	Stoker,	Royal Navy,	4236
Thornton, John	Chapel St.,	Pte.,	R. I. R., 3 rd Divn., D. Coy.,	6376
Thornton, John	Patrick's Place,			
Thompson, Horace	Crieve,	Sergt.,	North Irish Horse, A. Squadn.,	252
Tumelty, Robert	High St.,	Pte.,	R. Ir. Fus., 2 nd Battn.,	6100
Turley, Michael	Water St.,	do	do 2 nd do	6038
Taggart, Edward	North St.,			
Taylor, William			Royal Irish Rifles.	
Thompson, Bertie	Crieve,		·	
Torley, James	Bell's Row,	Corp ^l .,	R. I. Rifles., 2 nd Battn.,	6125
•		•		
Page 31				
Uprichard, Thomas, A.	12. Sinclair St.,	Pte.,	Roy ^l . Warwickshire Reg., 4 th Batt., U.I. Div.,	6319
Vint, James	18. High Street,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, 2 nd Battn., 3 rd Div.,	6253
Vaughan, Thomas	Craigmore,	Gunner,	R. Garr. Art.,	17304
,	3.4.5,			1/304

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Willerton, Robert	21. Market Sqe.,	Drummer,	Argyle & Sutherland Highlds, 2 nd Batt.,	728
Woods, Peter	111. North St.,	Pte.,	do do 1st Batt., 27 th Div.,	2122
Willis, William G.	Needham Place,	Lce. Corp ^l .,	R. I. R., 13 th Battn.,	19430
Wilson, Robert	Mount Pleasant,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, Ulster Divn.	
Wallace, Patrick	4. Corry's Square,	Lce. Corp ^l .,	Do 1 st Battn., 8 th Divn.,	8437
West, William	90. Canal St.,	Pte.,	Gordon Highlanders, 2 nd Battn.,	8926
Woolsey, Samuel G.	10. Erskine Place,	Qt ^r . Mast ^r Serg ^t .,	R. I. Fus., 1 st Battn.,	7544
Woods, Patrick	Queen St.,	Stoker,	Royal Naval Reserve.	
Weller, George	9. Bell's Row,	Corporal,	R. Ir. Fus., 5 th Battn.,	11897
Williamson, John	Damolly,	Pte.,	R. I. Rifles, Ulster Div.,	
Walker, Leonard	Windsor Hill,	Lieut. Command	er, H.M.S. "Achates", 4 th Destroyer Flotilla	
Weir, Thomas	Craigmore,	Pte.,	R. I. Fus., 6 th Battn.,	15889
Whiteside, Henry	Mullaglass,	Sergeant,	North Irish Horse,	426
West, Robert	Needham Place,		R. Inniskilling Fus.,	
White, J.			R. Irish Fus.	
Warner, W.				
Wright, Francis			Canadian Expdy. Fce.	
Wilson, J.				
Wauchope, George	Basin Walk,		Royal Navy.	
White, Patrick	Downshire Crt.,			

Annotations in lighter text.

"For a single glorious night" The Presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour

The Newry Reporter, Thursday 29th April 1915 reported on the presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour. It was an evening of patriotic music and rousing speeches entreating even more men to enlist. In attendance were soldiers home on leave whose names were recorded on it as well as the relatives and friends of the other soldiers and sailors listed.

The "monster demonstration" took place in the Town Hall on the evening of 28th April 1915, and "for a single glorious night we had Nationalists and Unionists joined on a common platform". All the bands of the town participated, including St. Joseph's Brass and Reed Band and the Victoria Fife and Drum Band. The Boy Scouts also took an active part in the musical programme. ⁶⁴ A cinematograph relayed emotive images during the songs and a short film, "A Daughter of Belgium" was viewed.

Mr. William Johnson announced to applause that the programme would be introduced by honouring "gallant Belgium". The Belgian National Anthem was sung in his native tongue by Father Timmerman, the audience respectfully rising to their feet. A number of Belgian refugees, staying in Warrenpoint were also present and joined in the singing. Father Timmerman then said:

"My Irish friends, I will speak only a few words.

After being here three months I am obliged to return to Belgium, but I cannot leave Ireland without thanking you all for your kindness to us.

(Applause) I hope you will continue this kindness towards our people who remain here, and that our

people will be able to go back to Belgium soon – very soon; (Applause) for I am confidently looking forward to our country being cleared of Germans after this great battle of Yser (Loud applause)".

Mr. H. J. McConville, JP, who chaired the event, was joined on the platform by other members of the Urban District Council, Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen, and numerous leading citizens of Newry. A telegram was read by Mr. W.M. Cronin, Town Clerk from Mr. J. J. Mooney MP for the Borough of Newry:

"With reference to the presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour. . . I would like to join you in paying any tribute that I can to the brave men who have already gone from the Frontier Town, and who, I well know, will worthily uphold the name and traditions of their ancient town".

The vice-chairman of the Urban District Council, Mr. Thomas P. Willis, then said that:

"... He had asked himself what was the motive behind this effort, and he had not far to seek for the answer. It was in the first paragraph of the promoter's circular: 'It is felt that the harmonious and patriotic spirit now prevailing amongst all classes of the community, brought about by the lamentable war should be encouraged and maintained by every possible means, and it is thought that this can best be attained by meeting publicly for the purpose of honouring our brave soldiers and sailors, who have made such a noble

64. The musical programme included "Suite Bohemia", "Tipperary", "The Marseillaise", "The Pacer", "Washington Greys", "The Dear Little Shamrock", "Land of Hope and Glory", "A Nation Once Again" and "God Save the King".

response to the call of King and country'.... He was conscious that he now addressed the relatives and friends of those brave men who were fighting our battles on land and sea, while we enjoy comfort and security at home, and he wished to say to them, and to those whom they represented; 'We are proud of our gallant soldiers and sailors and wish to gratefully acknowledge their heroic services'. (Applause) They knew that opportunity did not come to all for exceptional deeds of valour and heroism, but they also knew that whether in the trenches on the battlefield or on deck on the battleships all were as one man, and thousands of brave deeds were unknown and unrecorded . . . Never in the history of any war had the classes and the masses been so unified in one fixed purpose. From mansion to cottage, from village and city, from hives of industry and seats of learning and high-professions, from anvil and bench, from desk and counter, from the warehouse and the plough, what a combination of unexampled cohesion with one object in view - to defeat tyranny and defend liberty, life and justice to all mankind. (Applause) What magnetic power was it that had brought together, from North and South, East and West, and the lands beyond the seas, the most magnificent army that had ever met on the battlefield? One little word of four letters - 'duty'... (Loud applause)

It gave him great pleasure to present to the Chairman this Roll of Honour... It was a document that would go down through the pages of history and resound to the credit of Newry (Loud applause)."

The various clergymen then took to the stage. The Rev. Francis J. O'Hare expressed deep indebtedness to those:

"... who had formed and were forming the ring of fire that guarded their lives and liberties . . . (Applause) It was very satisfactory to find that the Frontier town had won its title to more than geographical prominence in the fact that it had sent to the colours a larger proportion than any other town in Ireland. (Applause) They heard little now, and they would hear less in the future, of the decline of the martial spirit in Ireland and of the dearth of recruits in this country. It was a very popular subject some months ago; but the world knows now that though it is 'a long way to Tipperary' from Mons and Ypres and Neuve Chapelle, yet in the bivouac of the dead, along the far-flung battle-line, in the hospitals of the wounded, aye, and in the streets of our cities, where men who had famished in the trenches were recuperating, thousands and thousands of young men, who had joined the army since the war began, had found it a short way from the Barrack Square to the firing-line, and they would be the pioneers of tens of thousands who would follow that lead. More than that it is little they know of Ireland who only Ireland know and if they read the casualty lists of English regiments they would find that many a Kelly and Burke and Shea would never answer the roll-call again. In reservists and in recruits, in Great Britain and in Ireland, Irishmen had spelt in service and in sacrifice that little word of four letters to which Mr. Willis had

referred. And if sacrifice be the test of sincerity, what better proof could Ireland give of her loyalty to her honour and to her delight in truth than this greatest sacrifice that her sons had made? (Applause)

Honour to whom honour is due, and tribute to whom tribute. It was in that sense and in that spirit and with that promise we made the presentation of the Roll of Honour . . . (Applause)"

The Rev. H. B. Swanzy, MC, Vicar of St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Newry, echoed the sentiments expressed, stating:

"The year 1915 would never be forgotten. Every great incident of these great days would be known when we were centuries in our graves, and there was no higher honour that any man could have than to have his name inscribed on such a roll to show that he was not afraid to do his duty, in the day when duty called. Almost 900 names! We were proud of those men, and more than that, we were proud of their mothers and their sisters and their wives, and those whom they hoped to call their wives who had let them go to the danger of the fight. But why were there not more than 900 names? Why were there not 1,000 names? Was there any young man there that night who had the arm to strike a blow and the brain to think and plan, and who was holding back? Was there any mother there that night who would not let her son go because he was her only son, and she loved him like herself? There was no prouder destiny for the son of any mother than to go out at the call of his

country to fight. We were honoured that night by the presence of the people who had come from the land of Belgium. (Hear hear) They had seen what we had not seen – dishonoured homes and blood stained fields, and murder done before their eyes. Our nation has sworn to avenge those things and to help them in their needs. The things that they had suffered we may suffer too, for the German nation was longing to do those deeds here. The best way in which the young men present could avenge insult to the womanhood of their race and the sanctity of their homes was to go out when they had the opportunity, which might not last long, and win honour for themselves and life for those they loved. (Applause) We are proud of the 900 who are doing so well. Let everyone else who had the power, give himself to his country now (Loud applause)."

The Rev. W. G. Strahan, BA, minister of the First Newry (Sandys Street) Presbyterian Church noted how people of different creeds and classes had come together to "express their pride" for the brave men of Newry. He spoke at length about honour, "which was superior even to duty" and was the force driving those who had gone to fight.

"Our town in some aspects might seem to be a decaying place. There were places that used to be occupied by busy factories and busy hives of employment that were desolate that night. On the other hand, however, there were signs of great vitality and great enterprise. . . there was nothing that had so thrilled him or raised his expectations

for the future as the fact that we have been leading the heroes as regards our numbers for Ireland. . . There was no class of us who had any qualms about being proud in this case. There was no class amongst us who was reluctant to express admiration of the bravery we had seen. And when honour was in such eminence we would like to see yet more join the forces and rally to the flag. (Applause) Quoting a remark which was made to him by a soldier from his old neighbourhood, 'We are all for our King and our nation now' he said that was the spirit that had given them hope. That was what was producing the sacrifices that were so noble and that was what was winning our admiration and raising our spirits (Applause)."

The Rev. Strahan also implored the wives and mothers to do their duty at home in looking after their children.

"... to show them self-restraint, devotion to duty, the maintenance of sobriety, and the standing staunch to everything that is right until the struggle was ended. To any young woman who might be holding back the man she loved ... he said: Throw your influence on the side of your King and country and against the might of tyranny that has done such damage in Belgium to your sisters there. Send forth those you love, and maintain towards them such a spirit of devotion and sacrifice that they will be upheld by its memory when they go forth at your bidding to face their country's foe (Applause)."

H. J. McConville, Chairman of Newry Urban District Council in accepting the Roll of Honour again acknowledged the fact that so many Newrymen had joined 'the colours'.

"The Roll, which contained almost 900 names, was no faked roll of honour. . . The Frontier town should be proud of every son who had joined the colours, because they are fighting our cause, safeguarding our shores, and our hopes and our prayers should go to these men. They deserved to be honoured for their bravery and courage in facing the foe. There might be some names that were not inscribed on the Roll of Honour, but if they were given to the Town Clerk he would be happy to put them there. He trusted that before long more young Newrymen would join the colours and have their names added to the Roll which would be preserved in the archives of the Town Hall for all time. In years to come, when we would be in our graves, the list would doubtless be perused with pleasure and pride by those who came after them. He cordially associated himself with all the remarks that had been made by Mr. Willis, Father O'Hare, the Rev. Swanzy, and the Rev. Strahan in urging all young men who were fit and able and of military age to join the colours, and put an end to Prussian militarism. That night was a very unique occasion. He did not think that such a thing had ever happened in the history of *Newry before, and he hoped and trusted that they* would never have occasion to go to war again. People of different religious persuasions were there that night all imbued with the one idea, namely to

put an end for all time to this spirit of militarism. He had great pleasure in accepting the Roll of Honour, which as he had said, would be kept at the Town Hall in memory of the men who had joined the colours (Applause)."

Mr. Alex Fisher thanked all those involved in the evening's events and in particular the Town Clerk and the RIC. The night was brought to a close with cheers for the men on Newry's Roll of Honour, the event described as "the biggest success ever witnessed in the annals of Newry Town Hall".

Cuttings from this article were sent to soldiers in France and elicited a response. The following letter from the soldiers of the Royal Irish Rifles appears in The Newry Reporter, 11th May 1915:

"Mr. John J. Kavanagh⁶⁵, Queen Street, Newry, has received the following letter (passed by censor) from 8839 Riflemen Joseph Cullen^{ROH} and J. McClelland^{ROH}, Royal Irish Rifles:-1st May 1915

... We thought it most kind of you in sending the cuttings from the paper. We hope that you are getting plenty of recruits to fight the Huns, and we are almost sure they will soon throw up the sponge. Our 1st Battalion had a glorious victory at Neuve Chapelle, and if some people only witnessed the cruelties they would be very glad to come out here. We lost our C.O., a few days ago. . . During the early days of the Campaign, any village which was passed through, after the Germans, you would see all the shops and houses looted and people

turned out on the streets, churches demolished and everything taken away. . . The under-signed Newrymen, serving in the Royal Irish Rifles (on active service), desire to heartily thank Mr. Alexander Fisher, Solicitor, Newry for his kindness in getting up entertainment for all our relatives in the Frontier town. Long live Alex., and may the smoke of poverty never blow up your chimney. Rifleman; Joseph M'Clelland^{ROH}, Joseph Cullen^{ROH}, John M'Keown^{ROH}, (Church Street), Francis Hanna, John Thornton^{ROH}, Joe M'Call^{ROH}, Lance-Cpl. O'Hare^{ROH}, Andy Kirkland, James Ruddy^{ROH}, John Smith^{ROH}, John Burns^{ROH}, Bugler Byrne".



65. John J. Kavanagh, son of an RIC Head Constable, is recorded on the 1901 Census as 'Law Clerk'. During the war he appears to have been employed as a letter writer and the local newspapers regularly reprinted the correspondence he received from soldiers at the front or in prisoner of war camps. He also corresponded with official bodies on behalf of soldiers' families in order to negotiate the bureaucracy involved in securing their allowance entitlements.

A Closer Look

Newry's Roll of Honour can be viewed as an important point of entry for further research on local participation in the First World War. With over half of all British Army service records destroyed in the bombing raids on London in 1940, it can prove difficult to obtain information on the soldiers and sailors who served. In almost all cases Medal Index Cards, which were stored in a separate location, survive for the soldiers. Although the information on these is rudimentary, it can give an insight into whether a soldier was transferred from his initial unit or was discharged due to wounds or illness caused by his service. Soldiers who were discharged due to wounds were awarded the Silver War Badge which indicated that they had been injured in the line of duty. Some record of those who were killed during the war is generally available, but for those who survived, information can be much harder to obtain.

Newry's Roll of Honour contains 867 names. At the time of its presentation three duplicated names had already been scored out, and an annotation "Add Hanratty (2)", made regarding the inclusion of additional names. During the course of the research it became apparent that a significant number of names had been duplicated. The method of data collection in which the RIC went from door to door asking family members for information resulted in a certain amount of replication of names. Daniel McCall^{ROH}, for example, appears twice, at two different addresses, his name being given by his mother in High Street, and by his wife in Cecil Street.

During the research for this book thirty six definite duplicates were removed to enable a more accurate analysis. Where any doubt remained, owing to a lack of information, the entry was left as part of the Roll of Honour. This reduced the number to 831 entries.

In an attempt to provide a fuller insight into the lives of those on Newry's Roll of Honour a number of other sources were consulted. In some cases, the paucity of information made this impossible.

The names were searched primarily on the 1911 census. In the instances where the person did not appear on this census, the 1901 was searched and, between the two, a total of 499 entries were found. They were also cross-referenced with information contained in *Newry's War Dead*, and any additional information included.

A volunteer, Jackie Dodds, working as part of Newry and Mourne Museum's Heritage Lottery funded First World War Project searched, transcribed and collated *The Newry Reporter* and *The Frontier Sentinel* for information relevant to the war. This invaluable resource enabled further, and in some cases more personal, information to be included.

When Newry's Roll of Honour was presented to Newry Urban District Council in April 1915, it was with the intention of including the names and information of all of those who enlisted throughout the war. However, no further names were added. The document therefore relates to the window between the outbreak of the war and the date of its presentation. It is possible that this was a working document, and there are anomalies in the information it contains. For example, Gerald Gartlan^{ROH} is listed as a Captain, but his promotion to that rank was not officially announced in the *London Gazette* until its edition of 6th September 1915 (although the effective date was given as 27th May 1915). Reporting his wounding at Fromelles in mid-May 1915 *The Newry Reporter* still referred to him as Lieutenant Gartlan,⁶⁶ although by August his promotion was presumably common knowledge and they referred to him as Captain.⁶⁷

TABLE 2:

Type of regiment into which soldiers on Newry's Roll of Honour initially enlisted.

Type of Regiment	Number
Irish	491
Artillery	60
Naval	46
Scottish	23
Overseas	21
Medical	18
Service	14
Cavalry	8
Flying Corps	2
Others	53
Unknown	95

A large number of regiments are listed on Newry's Roll of Honour. However, as casualties mounted, soldiers were often moved from regiment to regiment as battalions were decimated and soldiers redeployed. Many Irish soldiers found themselves assigned to the Labour Corps, where they were engaged in digging trenches, building military installations and burying the dead. These transferrals meant that a new regimental number would be assigned to the soldier, causing a degree of confusion when consulting military records.

Overleaf:

Map of Newry showing the geographical spread of those listed on the Roll of Honour.

Compared to modern day Newry, the map shows clusters of tiny streets, yards, entries and alleys in the town centre. It encompasses the boundary of the Urban District Council area of Newry.

Large concentrations of servicemen can be found in streets such as High Street, the area around St. Patrick's Church and the axis along North Street, Water Street, Castle Street and Boat Street. Some small streets such as Maginnis Street (twelve men from twenty houses) and Penguin Place (five men from as many houses) sent a disproportionately high number of soldiers to the front.

Source: Adapted from the 1903 Ordnance Survey map.

^{66.} The Newry Reporter, 20th May 1915.

^{67.} The Newry Reporter, 10th August 1915.

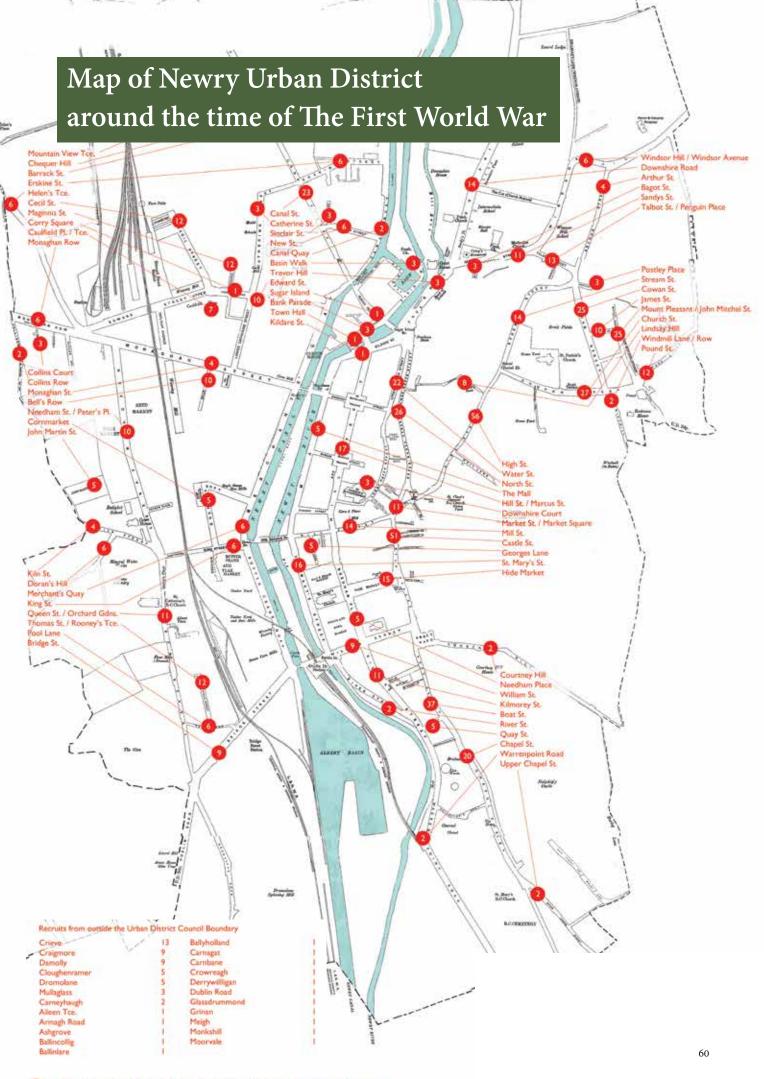


TABLE 3: Table showing the age of servicemen listed on Newry's Roll of Honour at the outbreak of war, 1914. These calculations are based on the 499 servicemen whose ages could be identified from the 1901 and 1911 census returns.

Age	Number	Percentage
15 - 19	36	7.21%
20 - 25	218	43.69%
26 - 30	94	18.84%
31 - 35	77	15.43%
36 - 40	33	6.61%
41 - 45	20	4.01%
46 - 50	12	2.40%
51 - 55	7	1.40%
Over 55	2	0.40%

The youngest soldier whose age can be definitely ascertained was James McGrath^{ROH} who was seventeen at the time of his death on January 12th 1915, the oldest was Company Sergeant Major William 'Bill' Taylor^{ROH} who died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, aged fifty five. The largest proportion, almost two-thirds, of the servicemen on Newry's Roll of Honour were between the ages of nineteen and thirty at the outbreak of the war.

TABLE 4: Table showing the religious makeup of the Newry area.⁶⁸

Religious Denomination	Newry 1911 Census	Roll of Honour
Roman Catholic	68%	59.5%
Presbyterian	17.5%	16.4%
Church of Ireland	10.5%	20.5%
Methodist	1%	1.7%
Other	3%	1.9%

Employment

Using the Irish Census records it was possible to gain an insight into the type of employment recruits were engaged in before the war. Labouring and other unskilled jobs accounted for just over half of those surveyed, with those in education or training accounting for a further ten percent as shown in the table below.

TABLE 5: Types of Employment amongst personnel recorded in Newry's Roll of Honour. These figures are based on information recorded on the 1911 census and from newspaper reports.

Type of Employment	Number	Percentage
Labourers	152	36.89%
Tradesmen	87	21.12%
Other unskilled workers	58	14.08%
In education	44	10.68%
Engaged in commerce	26	6.31%
Professionals	15	3.64%
Employed in agriculture	13	3.16%
Marine occupations	9	2.17%
No occupation listed	4	0.97%
Medical	2	0.49%
Military	2	0.49%

^{68.} The religion of 531 (just under two thirds) of those listed on Newry's Roll of Honour can be established from census records, from reports in the local newspapers and from the presence of individuals on rolls of honour made by the various religious denominations.

Some employers, such as the Post Office, were committed to encouraging recruitment. By 1914 the Post Office was the biggest economic enterprise in Britain and the largest single employer of labour in the world, employing over 250,000 people.⁶⁹

At the outbreak of war, every male employee was sent a letter from the Postmaster General encouraging him to enlist. The Post Office had its own infantry battalion, the Post Office Rifles, made up of postal staff. Staff from the Post Office were also deployed in the Royal Engineers, their expertise with telegraphy equipment in demand to keep lines of communication open in the field. The Post Office was also used to distribute recruitment forms, and later also organised the circulation of ration books and the payment of Separation Allowances.

The Post Office Roll of Honour, which was displayed in the Post Office in Hill Street from 18th July 1916, contained the names of 24 members of staff and subofficers of Newry District, five of whom appear on Newry's Roll of Honour. This represented 61% of the entire staff (or 80% of the staff of the Post Office who were eligible for military service), a percentage much higher than any other office, including Belfast.⁷⁰

Those listed on the Post Office Roll of Honour were: Mr. J. J. M'Guigan, S. O. Kelly, P. J. Donnelly^{ROH}, P. L. Calter, C. F. M' Coy^{ROH}, T. P. Magee, J. Short, A. Doogan, P. Hannigan, P. McCreanor, E. Mullen, J. Boyle, W. O'Brien, M. Donnelly, L. B. Grant^{ROH}, J. Moorhead, A. Hill, P. Rice^{ROH}, J. M'Allister^{ROH}, T. D. Norton, S. R. Wilson, L. A. O'Hagan, D. Bicker and H. E. Hanna.⁷²

The war had an impact on the postal service in the town. Two meetings of the Urban District Council in early November 1914 discussed the issue, with the UDC corresponding with the Postmaster Mr. J. P. O'Hagan regarding the proposed restrictions in the local postal facilities as a consequence of the war. Before the war the town was served by two morning and two evening deliveries. The decision was made to carry on with the two morning deliveries at 7.00am and 9.30am and to dispense with the two evening deliveries, so that the people in the town would get their mail first thing in the morning. This reduction in service caused much consternation. *The Frontier Sentinel*, 14th April 1917 commented:

"The Post Office has done its little best to reduce the town to the status of a village. Newry is now only a sub-office, and visitors marvel at the meagreness of the service. Banbridge, a less important town, is in no way handicapped by the postal service, because the public bodies in Banbridge kicked against attempts to restrict it. Newry public bodies did not kick. It would be undignified, considering that the empire is at war".

In March 1915 three members of staff of Newry Post Office: Messrs. McAllister ROH, RiceROH and Hanratty who had volunteered for the Post Office Rifles were presented with safety razor shaving sets from the staff of Newry Post Office before leaving for London.

Sapper P. J. Donnelly^{ROH}, Royal Engineers (AK Cable Section) from Needham Street was a telegraphist

^{69.} www.postalheritage.org.uk/explore/history/firstworldwar

^{70.} The Newry Reporter, 13th July 1916.

^{71.} The spellings 'McAlister' and McAllister' were used interchangeably at the time of the First World War with the former being noted on the Roll of Honour and the latter appearing in some contemporary newspaper accounts. The family now spells the name McAllister.

^{72.} It is possible that a further five names from the Post Office Roll of Honour also appear on Newry's Roll of Honour. They are J. J. M'Guigan, J. Boyle, M. Donnelly, J. Moorhead and H. E. Hanna.

^{73.} The Newry Reporter, 30th March 1915.

in the Newry Post Office. The twenty-four year old died in the 13th General Hospital in Boulogne on 11th July 1916 from injuries he received on the 30th June. He had been shot in the leg, sustaining multiple fractures, leading to amputation. He was the first of the Postal Engineers to be killed, a week before the Post Office Roll of Honour was to be unveiled.⁷⁴ He was awarded the Military Medal.



Private John McAlister enlisted in the Post Office Rifles in March 1915 and saw action on the Eastern Front (Russia). He is pictured here (back row, second from right) with the outdoor staff of Newry Post Office. On his return he resumed work in the Post Office, retiring in 1948. A founding member of the Union of Postal Workers and Secretary and founding member of the Royal British Legion in Newry, he died in 1968. *Courtesy of the McAllister family*

74. The Newry Reporter, 22nd July 1916.



Private John McAlister (first left, front row) in Bessbrook, 1915. Courtesy of the McAllister family

"Fed Up with Home Soldiering"⁷⁵ A Newry Soldier in Africa

Seeing the world was often cited as a reason to join the army and it is no surprise to learn that the soldiers and sailors of Newry's Roll of Honour travelled and fought in a variety of locations. Although the majority served on the Western Front, a few went farther afield, to the Balkans, Russia, Egypt, Africa, Asia and Australasia. The war diary of John Bannon^{ROH}, parts of which have been excerpted below, gives a perceptive view of the war in East Africa. The war in Africa was essentially a guerrilla campaign devised by the Germans to divert forces from the Western Front.

John Bannon^{ROH} from William Street was an Army reservist with the Royal Irish Rifles prior to the war, working as a van driver for Mr. J. J. McArevey of Hill Street. Upon mobilisation he set off for Newtownards from where he was sent on patrolling duties to Grey Point Fort (where he was promoted to Lance Corporal), then on to Holywood (where he was made full Corporal) and given the job of drilling the recruits and going out on recruiting marches. At the end of 1915 he was sent to Carrickfergus (where he was made full Sergeant). After attending a course on Platoon Drill with the Coldstream Guards in London and a spell in Dublin for a course on 'bombing', John Bannon was given the role of Recruiting Sergeant and was sent out with Corporal James Fitzpatrick, also from Newry, to recruit for the 'Ulster Volunteers' (Division).

Frustrated by the lack of action, he made repeated attempts, which were refused, to be drafted to France, his value as a recruiting sergeant being deemed more important.

As a member of the British Army, he was involved in street fighting during the Easter Rising in Dublin in 1916, after which he successfully applied to be a Drill Instructor in "any part of Africa".

John Bannon set off from Belfast on 23rd May 1916, as part of the King's African Rifles. The journey was uncomfortable and stressful with almost everyone, himself included, being seasick for the first few days. He was angered by the preferential treatment given to officers, who were well fed throughout the journey, while the men were half starved. Travelling via Port St. Vincent, Cape Town and Durban, he finally disembarked in Mombasa in British East Africa (now in Kenya) on 2nd July.

He travelled to the army headquarters in Bombo, Uganda, where he was first made Acting Sergeant Major, then Regimental Sergeant Major, training native troops (Askari). He developed a friendly relationship with the natives, learning their language. He had nine locals to look after him, caring for his equipment and his house, cooking his food, carrying water and running messages. When in the field, he had a groom to look after his mule and four boys to carry his kit.

Most of John Bannon's time was spent on patrol, monitoring the Germans. On 6th August 1917 in his first major engagement, the regiment drove out the Germans from Mwemba Boma; one of many victories he noted against German encampments. The style of fighting was different to that employed on the Western Front, with ambushes and guerrilla tactics

75. Taken from the transcript of the War Diary of John Bannon, Newry and Mourne Museum

common. Other regiments of the King's African Rifles would combine forces to capture the larger German encampments.

Lack of food and water was a constant issue, with rations continually supplemented with locally found food. In one instance, they attacked a German camp simply to get access to a nearby water source, in another they ate two horses they found dead in a German camp.

Disease was ever present, and during his time in Africa John Bannon contracted malaria, dysentery and Spanish flu (the latter hospitalising him for over seven weeks). While disorientated by the effects of dysentery he accidentally ventured into enemy lines during a fight and, having been misidentified, was almost hit by a 'friendly' explosive.

Animals and insects were another constant annoyance and threat, especially scorpions, crocodiles and lions, who circled their camps at night. Although he did not lose any of his men to them, he records an incident where a lion came charging into camp, causing panic and uproar. Crocodiles were a danger when crossing rivers, which itself was a dangerous feat, often taking hours to get everyone across, equipment often being lost in the process. In early 1917 he met another Newry man, Paddy Calter (Royal Engineers) from Newry Post Office, who was working in the Radio Station in Dar es Salaam (now in Tanzania).

On 14th November 1918, as the regiment prepared to attack a German camp at Kasama (now in Zambia), they met two German Askaris with a large white flag and a message to the British commanding officer stating that the war was over and that an armistice had been signed. He noted in his diary: "We nearly went mad with joy".



John Bannon in the uniform of the King's African Rifles. His diary related that upon opening the box containing his Colonial kit, he stated "I thought I was to be in Africa for the rest of my life". The box contained "six khaki shirts . . . eighteen pairs of socks, mosquito boots and net water boots, deck shoes, three pairs military boots, bath towels, folding bed, table, bath and dozens of other articles". Courtesy of Patrick Bannon

On 15th November 1918 John Bannon was chosen to go into Kasama to the German Camp to relieve the Allied prisoners. They were in a terrible state, and he recorded in his diary: "They had hardly any clothes – only what they stood in and their boots were tramped off them". In January 1919 he was part of a group who went into a concentration camp near Nairobi (now in Kenya), which held British Non-Commissioned Officers, where he was appointed Camp Sergeant Major.

He left Africa for England on 6th April 1919 and arrived home in Newry on 25th April, having been away for almost three years. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery in the field, with which he was presented in Victoria Barracks, Belfast by General Hacket Payne. He was granted six months leave on full pay, but after a month he left the army.

John Bannon's brother Thomas Bannon^{ROH} joined the Navy in November 1914. Initially Thomas was sent to the Royal Naval barracks, HMS *Pembroke* in Chatham, until mid-March 1915, when he was posted to HMS *Hebe*, a submarine depot ship servicing submarines along the east coast of Britain (Humber and later Leith). He remained there until he was demobilised on 31st January 1919. There is some confusion over Thomas Bannon's death, as he is listed in *Newry's War Dead* as a casualty of the war. However, after moving to America he died at sea in March 1923.

Although there are only two Bannon brothers on Newry's Roll of Honour, another three were in the armed services. One was killed in France in 1917, a second was badly wounded in France in 1918 and another was discharged having enlisted under age.



Headquarters Company 1/4 Kings African Rifles featuring Regimental Sergeant Major John Bannon, DCM (seated middle row, second from right).

Courtesy of Patrick Bannon

'Ready To Leave At A Moment's Notice'⁷⁶ The Overseas Contingents

As well as regiments from Britain and Ireland, Newry's Roll of Honour also contains names of men who enlisted in regiments from farther afield. Along with soldiers from Australia and South Africa, twenty soldiers from Canadian regiments are recorded.

Canada, as a self-governing dominion of the British Empire, was automatically at war. By the end of the war 619,000⁷⁷ Canadians had enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) for service overseas, a huge contribution from a country with a population of just under eight million in 1914.⁷⁸ At the outbreak of war, Canada saw the same surge in recruits as Ireland. Information from available attestation papers shows that many enlisted at Valcartier, Quebec, the main training base for the First Canadian Contingent in 1914.

Between 1900 and the outbreak of the First World War, almost three million people emigrated to Canada, with British immigrants making up around a third of the total.⁷⁹ The Canadian government provided incentives such as free passage to Canada and 160 acres of free farmland.⁸⁰ Immigrants were drawn by good job prospects in the rapidly growing Canadian economy.⁸¹ As a result of immigration, the First Canadian Contingent was 70% British born.⁸²

The Griffin family from Newry emigrated to Canada in July 1913 after the death of their father Mr. J. G. Griffin. Three brothers, John^{ROH}, Philip^{ROH} and Sydney^{ROH} are all listed on Newry's Roll of Honour, fighting for Canadian Forces. A younger brother, Victor enlisted later and was killed in September 1916.

76. A letter from Private Charles Rigby^{ROH}, No. 2 Company, 28th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, reprinted in *The Newry Reporter*, 1st May 1915, states that the Canadian troops were 'ready to leave at a moment's notice'. 77. This figure may have included numbers of US residents who, unable to enlist in their own country, made the journey to Canada to enlist.

78. Canadian War Museum www.warmuseum.ca

The Rigby family are another Newry family that feature prominently, with three members appearing on Newry's Roll of Honour: two brothers, Charles^{ROH} and George^{ROH}, sons of Joseph Rigby of Talbot Street and their cousin, Frederick^{ROH}. Both Charles and Frederick (who was severely wounded) fought for the CEF, while George was in the Royal Irish Rifles. Two more brothers of Frederick's also enlisted: Edwin fought for the CEF and Frank, who was in the Royal Flying Corps, was killed on 15th September 1917, aged eighteen.

Charles Rigby^{ROH} sailed for Canada from Liverpool aboard the *Dominion* on 20th April 1911, arriving in Quebec on 3rd May. Travelling in steerage, his destination was noted as Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is listed on the 1911 Irish Census as a clerk⁸³, and worked in Canada as a member of the district passenger staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Regina, Saskatchewan. For three years he was also on the staff of the Manitoba Free Press.⁸⁴ Private Charles Rigby attested for the 2ndCanadian Expeditionary Force on 24th October 1914 in Regina, aged 26 years and 2 months.

He wrote frequent, patriotic, letters to friends and family members in Newry which were eagerly reprinted in the pages of *The Newry Reporter*, giving its readers an insight into life with the CEF at the front. Charles Rigby's Company was still in Canada by mid-April 1915, anxiously and impatiently waiting to leave for England.⁸⁵ By August the Company had arrived at Dibgate Camp in Kent, giving Lance Corporal Rigby an opportunity to visit Newry on

^{79.} Citizenship and Immigration Canada www.cic.gc.ca

^{80.} www.british-immigrants-in-manitoba.com

^{81.} Citizenship and Immigration Canada www.cic.gc.ca

^{82.} Canadian War Museum www.warmuseum.ca

^{83.} The 1911 Census was taken on the night of 31st March.

^{84.} The Newry Reporter, 5th August 1915.

^{85.} The Newry Reporter, 1st May 1915.

leave. ⁸⁶ That same month he was allowed to visit his wounded brother George, who was in a London hospital recuperating from a broken left arm and four shrapnel wounds. ⁸⁷

By the end of September Rigby wrote from "somewhere in Belgium" where he had had his first experience under fire when eight shells burst over his billet. He also lost one of his chums and wrote about the "stay at homes", going on to describe the havoc wrought by the Germans.⁸⁸

Writing from Flanders on 7th January 1916, having just recovered from a very bad cold, he talked of the rain and mud, and feeling the damp, a change from the dry cold climate of western Canada. He also mentioned having had "our first smell of German gas" and the large number of rats in the trenches. These experiences did nothing to diminish his evangelical patriotism, and he continued:

"... believe me, it's a great life and as I have often said before, I would not have missed it for anything; the food is good and that's the main thing. Tell this to the slackers".89

His letter also mentioned his battalion's New Year's Eve turkey dinner, followed by a concert attended by the regimental band. He noted that they had been sent 'comforts' from Canada and mentioned seeing a lot of well known Newry boys, such as Allen Bradley^{ROH} and Hugh Martin^{ROH}, who were both with the CEF.

Charles Rigby, in common with other Newry-born soldiers in the CEF, appears to have visited the town on leave on a number of occasions. By mid-February 1916 he was back in Newry for a week's leave after almost six months active service, bringing souvenirs in the form of German shells, shell cases and pieces of shrapnel. Again he spoke about the destruction of towns and villages by the Germans.⁹⁰

A few months later in November, Sergeant Charles Rigby who was by that time attached to the Headquarters Staff of the CEF arrived in Newry on ten days leave. 91 Not long after this his letters ceased to appear in *The Newry Reporter*.

His cousin, Frederick Rigby^{ROH} gave a contrasting perspective on life in the trenches. In a letter to his brother, published in *The Newry Reporter* on 20th March 1915, Private Rigby wrote that he had been in France for over a month, three weeks of which had been spent in the trenches:

"We have had a very rough time since we landed here, but we don't object to this as we knew when we joined we were not coming to a picnic. I have not had my clothes off for the past few weeks; this feels a bit odd at the start; but you get used to it through time, the only things we had time to change were our socks; these, I might state, are one of our principal items in a game like this, so I can do with all of them you send out".

He talked about the ruin and desolation of villages and towns, and about how he had tried to use his French on some of the natives, only understanding

^{86.} The Newry Reporter, 5th August 1915.

^{87.} The Newry Reporter, 19th August 1915.

^{88.} The Newry Reporter, 5th October 1915.

^{89.} The Newry Reporter, 15th January 1916.

^{90.} The Newry Reporter, 17th February 1916.

^{91.} The Newry Reporter, 28th November 1916.

half of what they said as they spoke a mixture of French and Flemish.

"Our first trench was about 700 yards from the Germans; but our present one, which is labelled 'Duck Your Nut Avenue', is only 75 yards from them, so I guess we take jolly good care to duck. We have been through some pretty tough fighting lately, and have lost some men killed and wounded; but we are handing the goods out in fine style to the Germans. Phil Griffin ROH from Newry is in my company, so we can get an odd chat.

I can see we are up against a very tough proposition here (harder in fact than any of the people in England recognise), but, notwithstanding this, and the fact we are feeding principally on bully beef and biscuits (owing to our transport not being in proper working order yet), our spirits are keeping in wonderful form.

The English and Irish regiments here are very well treated; they get a good variety of food, and also get a warm bath and a change of clothes after a spell in the trenches. I suppose we will all get the same later on when things get into working order. If we don't we will pinch a few of the baths".

In his letters he asked for copies of newspapers to be sent out as the soldiers only knew what was going on in their own area, and wanted to find out how the war was progressing on other parts of the line. He also asked for the address of another Newry soldier, W. Bond^{ROH}, so he might try and arrange to see him.

"With Credit to their Kith and Kin" The Families

Newry's Roll of Honour provides an insight into how the First World War affected families in the town. With a strong military tradition in some Newry families, together with the recruitment drive, there are many instances where men from the same family are listed on the Roll of Honour. Examples where at least three family members occur include the Burland, Cunningham, Griffin, McKeown, Moody, Moorehead, Murphy, O'Neill and Rice families.

The Steele family from Barrack Street was a military family and six brothers and their father are listed. All survived the war. Other families recorded on Newry's Roll of Honour were not so lucky. Three Devonport (Davenport) brothers from Mountpleasant enlisted: two, Privates Robert^{ROH} and Emmett^{ROH} of the Royal Irish Rifles were killed in action in France just over two months apart in 1915. Four Mallaghan brothers from Cloughenramer are listed; Privates John^{ROH} and Samuel^{ROH} of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers were killed within a week of each other at the Dardanelles (now in Turkey) in April 1915. Lance Corporal William O'Hare^{ROH} and his brother Seaman Robert O'Hare^{ROH}, from River Street also died within a month of each other in March 1918; William was killed in action fighting with the Royal Irish Rifles and Robert, a member of the Royal Naval Reserve was accidentally drowned in the dock at Dunkirk.

Four Doran brothers from Boat Street are listed, three of whom were killed. Francis^{ROH} was killed in action in March 1915, Hugh^{ROH} in August 1916 and Felix^{ROH} died from his wounds almost exactly a year later. All three were Privates with the Royal Irish Rifles fighting

on the Western Front. Only their brother James^{ROH} returned.

The Taylor family from James Street lost both a father and son; Company Sergeant Major William Taylor^{ROH} of the Royal Irish Rifles was killed in action on the first day of the Somme offensive. His son, Private John Taylor^{ROH} of the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Machine Gun Corps) was killed in action, in Belgium, a year later in October 1917.

The following is an excerpt from an article about CSM Taylor that appeared in *The Newry Reporter* on 22nd July 1916:

"He lost his life while stopping to tend to Major H. A. Uprichard in the latter's dying moments, and in connection it is worthy of note that Major Uprichard in a letter to Mr. F. H. Mullan, of Newry, on the 15th of March last penned these words; '... There is no one to touch Taylor, he is the cheeriest and best Sergt-Major, not only in the battalion, but in the brigade.' The news of Sergeant Major's death was heard of with deep regret in the town of Newry, to which he belonged, and in which he had many friends and acquaintances. The deceased, who was over 50 years of age, was an old soldier. He served for several years in India, and he took part in the South African war. Subsequently he was employed in the Clanrye Mills and, later in the seed store on Sugar House Quay. Upon the outbreak of the war he, although over military age, responded to the call of King and country by joining the Co. Down section of

92. Speech by the Rt. Hon., The earl of Kilmorey at a recruiting rally in Warrenpoint, reported in *The Newry Reporter*, 8th July 1915.

the Ulster Division, to which he was a valuable acquisition. Prior to the war he was the leader and drill instructor of the South Down Regiment of the Ulster Volunteer Force . . . "



Company Sergeant Major William Taylor. Aged 55 when he was killed in 1916, he was the oldest known serviceman listed on Newry's Roll of Honour to die. *Courtesy of John Taylor*

Five brothers from the McCall⁹³ family, a family of labourers originally from High Street, served as soldiers during the First World War. Four are listed on Newry's Roll of Honour: Daniel, James, Joseph and Robert. Their youngest brother, who is not listed, Lance Corporal William McCall of the Royal Irish Fusiliers was awarded the Military Medal in January 1917.



Private John Taylor, son of William Taylor. He was killed in 1917.

Courtesy of John Taylor

93. All references in Newry's Roll of Honour and contemporary newspaper accounts use the spelling 'McCall' but the name was also spelt 'McCaul'. The 1901 Irish census recorded the family using this variant.

Sergeant Robert McCall^{ROH}, "a well known and popular young Newryman", was shot through the left arm and was back in Newry on leave just prior to the presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour. He related his many exciting experiences at a recruitment meeting held in early April 1915.⁹⁴

Private Daniel (Dan) McCall^{ROH} saw action in the Dardanelles, the Balkans, Egypt and France, and was posted in Germany after the Armistice. He enlisted early in the war, only returning to Newry once in early 1915, having been wounded. It was then that he married Bridget Mulligan. He did not return home again until 1919, his wife barely recognising him.⁹⁵

A letter appeared in *The Frontier Sentinel* on the 22nd April 1916, from the recently promoted Lance-Corporal (Daniel) McCall. Writing from the Balkans he stated that all the boys are well, and wished to pass on their deepest regrets to the families of their chums, R. Kerr and E. J. Cunningham, who were drowned on the SS *Dingle*. He went on to say that they were having the best of weather and that they had had some sports on St. Patrick's Day.

Returning to Newry after demobilisation he was given a pension which he collected from the Post Office in Sugar Island. Work was difficult to come by and Dan had a variety of jobs; he was night watchman on building sites and also worked in the Newry Workhouse and on the Canal. He had nine children with Bridget, six of whom survived into adulthood.⁹⁶



Daniel (Dan) McCall of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. The photograph was taken in The Empire Studio in Valletta, Malta.

Courtesy of Molly Lawless

Dan McCall served as a committee member of the Royal British Legion (RBL). At their annual meeting in October 1939 he made the case for jobs for exservicemen in war work. The Chairman of the RBL, Major McCallum stated that ex-servicemen would have a steadying effect on the community as they knew what to expect and were prepared to do their bit. PD During the Second World War Dan McCall worked for the American Army, running their camp canteen and, along with a number of other First World War veterans, he was involved in Civil Defence work in Newry, having meetings at his home in St. Clare's Avenue. During his lifetime he suffered from ill health due to the effects of gas and malaria contracted during the war.

^{94.} The Frontier Sentinel, 10th April 1915.

^{95.} Interview with Mrs. Molly Lawless (née McCall).

^{96.} Interview with Mrs. Molly Lawless (née McCall).

^{97.} The Newry Reporter, 28th October 1939.

^{98.} Interview with Mrs. Molly Lawless (née McCall)

"He Would Not Be A Soldier Bold", The Deserters

It is a commonly held belief that soldiers and seamen who deserted were dealt with harshly by the military authorities. The system of military justice did not directly mirror the civil system. In the case of minor misdemeanours punishments such as confinement to barracks, loss of rank or forfeit of pay could be administered in summary fashion by a soldier's immediate superiors. For more serious offences, which might include acts which endanger a soldier's comrades, abandoning a post or desertion, the administration of justice was by court martial. This was the military equivalent of a civil trial, albeit with more restricted rights of representation of the defendant and a different concept of due process. During the course of the First World War close on 300,000 soldiers were court martialled. The punishments which could be meted out included imprisonment, penal servitude and field punishments which entailed shackling the prisoner for a number of hours, in some instances to an artillery piece. For a large number of offences the sentence was death. In all 3,080 British soldiers were sentenced to death. Most had their sentences commuted but 346 soldiers were executed, about two thirds of these for desertion.

In practice, desertion was an umbrella term used to refer to a range of offences from a soldier leaving his post, failing to return from leave or to barracks, or wilful and permanent desertion. The bulk of desertions happened when the soldiers were at home, or from camps or barracks close to home, and the Newry newspapers frequently carried stories of deserters being apprehended as they passed through the town's busy Edward Street Railway Station.

While desertion was regarded as a serious offence, not just by the military authorities, but by the civil authorities and the general public, some desertion seems to have been almost casual in nature. In some instances it was the behaviour of high-spirited individuals who were ill equipped to deal with the routine of military life. In other cases there is a tangible sense of desperation to the deserter's actions.

From the outset of the war, the local press reported on desertions by soldiers listed on Newry's Roll of Honour: James McGuigan^{ROH}, James Smith^{ROH}, Owen Blair^{ROH}, Patrick Fitzpatrick^{ROH}, James Campbell^{ROH}, Thomas Blake^{ROH} and Patrick Lynch^{ROH}. The Newry Reporter's edition of 22nd October 1914 reported that James Brown and John Lavelle had been charged at a special Court in Canal Street Barracks with having assisted James McGuigan^{ROH}, a Private in the Royal Irish Fusiliers, to desert from his regiment. The deserter apparently had been concealed by Lavelle on a canal boat. Lavelle was found in possession of his uniform. In a pattern that was to be repeated throughout the war McGuigan was remanded pending the arrival of an armed escort. Once returned to their regiment they would be dealt with by the military justice system.

Barely a week later, *The Frontier Sentinel* reported on the arrest of James Smith^{ROH}, a reservist serving in the 4th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles who had deserted along with another soldier named Carroll from the same battalion. They too were brought before a special court and remanded pending the arrival of an armed escort.

99. The Newry Reporter, 29th January 1916, reported the exploits of deserter Patrick Fitzpatrick of Church Street under this headline.

On occasion these soldiers were determined to desert and their military escorts needed the assistance of the RIC and the general public to detain them. The case of Owen Blair^{ROH} from High Street, a Private in the 4th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, caused quite a stir with *The Newry Reporter* 11th May 1915 reporting:

"Blair was arrested on Friday by Constable Colligan, who had him remanded for escort. The escort duly arrived on Saturday morning, and conveyed the prisoner to Edward Street Railway Station to go to Belfast by the 1.30 train. While at the station Blair, was permitted to go to the lavatory, where he entered a penny in the slot cubicle. He then climbed up the wall and got away – there is no roof on the lavatory – taking across town in the direction of Lindsay Hill. The police were appraised, and Sergt. Curran and Constables McCollum and Kelly started in pursuit, the chase being joined in by several hundreds of townspeople. Blair, who displayed great agility, climbed the high walls surrounding a garden at Lindsay Hill, and he was captured by the police while on the top of one of these walls. He was again taken to the station, where it was found an absentee from the same regiment had given himself up. To prevent further trouble, Sergt. Curran handcuffed the two together and the escort got them safely to Carrickfergus".

An anonymous RIC constable writing to *The Newry Reporter* in the same month, countered William Johnson's chiding that more police officers should have enlisted in the forces. He pointed to the fact that the RIC's workload had been dramatically increased

by, amongst other things, "attending to the military authorities' orders re-absconding deserters".¹⁰⁰

The Constabulary certainly had their mettle tested in the attempts to detain Patrick Fitzpatrick^{ROH}, a Private in the Royal Irish Fusiliers, who hailed from High Street and who as *The Newry Reporter* colourfully put it:

"... had apparently tired of soldiering before he had seen active service. . . Sergeant Curran and Constable Colgan set out to unearth the *quarry* – *a proper word to use, as it developed* into a man-fox hunt before it ended. The Sergeant and his satellite went to Patrick's house, and, unfortunately on the way to the door had to pass the window. The brave warrior bolted like a rabbit with a ferret at its heels out by the back door and into the garden an arid plot lying between Church Street and Abbey Yard – probably with the idea of sanctuary. The police were no fools enough to follow up the chase, and the Sergeant called the pack off. Returning to the barracks a wily plot was laid, wherein Constable Cowan and Constable Colgan were to beat up the game gardens, while the Sergeant waited to bag the quarry at the house. The Constables 'worked' the ground in the way that trained sleuths are supposed to do, but only came up with Patrick when they entered his back door, and found him sitting in the kitchen. No sooner had Patrick seen the police than he gave a yell, and jumping up knocked down three women in the kitchen in his struggle to get out. He got clear of the trap and with the three policemen in full pursuit he rushed by Meeting House Lane to the fields and thence to the Abbey

100. Letter to the Editor from 'A NEWRY CONSTABLE' reprinted in *The Newry Reporter*, 22nd May 1915.

Grounds. Doubling back he re-traced his steps, with the police in full cry, and giving the field a nice circle or two over the same ground, he was run into as he endeavoured to escape through the back door of a High Street house into the public street again. He was brought to the barracks, where another Patterson was waiting. He was Private Joseph Patterson of the Munsters, also under arrest for desertion. Joseph had been at Suvla Bay and had seen a lot of service, and, he knowing Patrick evidently had a fine lark out of him while the two waited. Joseph like Othello, told of 'hair-breadth escapes in field and flood'. To the great discomfiture of Patrick, who began to shake with fear. He actually became so agitated that the barrack furniture vibrated in sympathy to his nervous quivering. As Patrick's spirits went down those of the philosophic Joseph's went up, until in the end the stories were quite fit for publication as 'Stories of the Battlefield'. Both were brought before Mr. J.E. Connor, J.P. and remanded to the Bridewell pending escort".

Equally strenuous in his efforts to evade military justice was James 'The Wart' Campbell^{ROH}, from Pound Street, a Private in the 4th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, who, in late February 1916 felled his escort and made his escape while being brought from the Bridewell in Kilmorey Street to Edward Street Railway Station, en route to Armagh. He was re-arrested in bed a few weeks later. On the way to the barracks, on this occasion, he provided his captors with an exciting time. Simulating a fit he lay down convenient to Thompson's public-house in Church Street and in his struggles he smashed one of the panels of the

door by kicking. His antics there, however, were but the prelude to a further and prolonged struggle with the police, in the course of which he shed almost all his clothing, arriving at the barracks with scarcely anything on but his shirt and boots, the former of which was badly torn in the encounter.

The Wart's tragi-comic exertions were as nothing compared to the desperate measures resorted to by Thomas Blake^{ROH} of Hide Terrace. Blake enlisted on 1st December 1914. By July 1916, with reports of the slaughter at the Battle of the Somme filling the newspapers, he was determined to desert and absconded from Dunree Camp on Lough Swilly and returned to Newry. His arrest was effected with the greatest difficulty for the officers involved. His desperate attempt to escape from the military escort sent to bring him back to camp was recounted in cinematic detail by *The Frontier Sentinel*, which reported on 29th July 1916:

"Snatching the bayonet from the scabbard of one of the escort, he defied all and sundry to arrest him and Monaghan Street, Needham Street, and King Street, were the scenes of great animation created by his behaviour. At seven o'clock he made a dash for Mill Street, followed by hundreds of people and then escaped from the eyes of the multitude via the Mall. A consultation between the escort and the police was held in the Hidemarket Barracks and soon Sergeant Fitzpatrick, Sergeant McHugh and all the available police were scouring Castle Street, North Street, Water Street, and the approaches leading there to. At Mill Street corner, Margaret

Square, and other strategic points vast numbers of people assembled, and the town appeared as *if military operations of the utmost importance* were being carried out on a large scale. Local characters, including Patsy Hanna, helped to relieve the 'tension' now and again by indulging in scenes of their quaint performances. At last it was announced that Carlyle Entry, leading from Water Street to North Street, was the centre of activities and thither the populace sped. Blake assumed the defensive here when pressed by a large body of police and soldiers, and making his way to the upper regions of a house and discarding the bayonet, he entered on a bombardment of his pursuers with jampots and anything that came handy. Two shots were fired at him, but he was uninjured. Eventually, the house was entered by police and soldiers and with difficulty Blake was taken [from there] handcuffed. The tussle then entered on a fierce stage, and the captors had warm work in bringing their quarry to the Canal Street barracks. At the Stone Bridge he submitted to the inevitable and walked along easily, but indulging in much re-criminative language towards the lock-up, after which the multitude dispersed".

At his Court Martial at Clonmany Camp, Co. Donegal on 4th August 1916 Blake was sentenced to 84 days imprisonment. After this he was sent to the front and wounded, suffering a dislocated left knee and chronic neuralgia.

Private Blake's aversion to military life continued unabated and, in May 1917, he was tried at a second

Court Martial for absenting himself from Luddan Camp, Buncrana, Co. Donegal, without leave and for the theft of four blankets. On this occasion he was arrested 'on suspicion', still in uniform, in Newry eleven days later. On this occasion he was sentenced to the humiliating 'Field Punishment No. 2', in which he was shackled for two hours a day, three days in every four. Undeterred by these punishments the remainder of his record shows him railing against military authority: convictions for absenting himself without leave; for insolence and for throwing a water bottle at a Sergeant Major. On his discharge in early 1919 he was however granted a pension of eleven shillings per week.

In some instances deserters exhibited a certain sense of grim determination. This is perhaps most evident in the case of Patrick James Lynch^{ROH}, a Royal Naval Reservist from Edward Street who, *The Newry Reporter* asserts on 14th March 1916, had been absent from the Navy for nine months when he was detained in McAvoy's lodging house in Castle Street. The circumstances of his detention make sad reading:

"When the police entered the house they could not find [Lynch], though they searched every apartment. On reaching the attic they noticed a hole in the ceiling and became suspicious, they called for a ladder to search the space between the ceiling and the roof. Immediately Lynch, covered with the dust of ages, put his head through the hole and said he would surrender. He had been using the novel hiding-place for some months when a policeman appeared in the street. He was brought before Mr. Arthur M'Cann, JP and remanded to the Bridewell, pending the arrival of an escort".

"... there are 12 of us here from Newry" Prisoners of War

Many families who feared that their loved ones had been killed in action would have breathed a sigh of relief on hearing that they were being held as prisoners of war. Germany, through the agency of neutral Switzerland, regularly provided lists of service personnel captured to the British Red Cross Society in Geneva. Families could take comfort in the stories filtering back that the Germans treated their prisoners respectfully. For example, Robert Paul from Bessbrook, a Private in the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, was taken to the Friedrichefeld Camp in Wesel where he writes of his captors:

"They were very nice to me, and got me dressed and gave me a bed to lie, and I got plenty to eat. I could not be looked after much better if I had reached my own side". 101

By 30th June 1916 the Germans were holding 23,350 British prisoners, including 721 officers and although prisoners were sometimes exchanged, the bulk remained in German custody.¹⁰²

Germany was divided for administrative purposes into twenty five Army Corps Districts and almost all of these contained Prisoner of War Camps where captured enemy troops were detained. These *Kriegsgefangenenlager* were divided into *Offizierlager* (for Officers), *Mannschlaftslager* (for enlisted men) and *Lazarett* (military hospitals for the wounded). Although men from Newry were scattered throughout Germany, Irish prisoners were concentrated in the camp at Limburg an der Lahn in the Coblenz district.

Private Charles Cunningham^{ROH}, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, was one of those detained at Limburg an der Lahn and he was an eager correspondent whose postcards home frequently gave news of other Newry prisoners held there. Writing to *The* Newry Reporter in February 1915 he informed its readers that "there are 12 of us here from Newry" 103. He entreated the residents of Newry to send parcels with cigarettes, tobacco and underclothing, which prisoners from other towns had been receiving. His pleas did not go unanswered. In May, The Newry Reporter reprinted his letter of thanks to Mrs. Arthur McCann. He acknowledged the receipt of socks, cigarettes and newspapers from the Newry Work Guild and reassured readers that parcels would get through provided they were sent "in a strong box well labelled". From his correspondence, and that of James Dickson^{ROH} from Catherine Street, a Private in the 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, to Mrs. Hall of Narrow-Water, we know that these 'comforts' were shared between the Newry prisoners of war. 104

Other prisoners did not have time for letter writing. In a postcard dated 30th January 1917 James Dodds^{ROH} from Mullaglass, a Corporal in the Royal Irish Fusiliers, wrote that he had just arrived back at Döberitz Camp, near Berlin after close on two years attached to a work detail building a railroad.

The provision of 'comforts' to prisoners was the focus of much energy on the home front. Individuals, such as the Rev. Moore, Rector of St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, sent parcels to prisoners, but it was local organisations which were at the forefront of

^{101.} Letter reprinted in *The Frontier Sentinel*, 18th September 1915.

^{102.} Speech of Mr. Foster in Parliament reported in *The Newry Reporter*, 27th July 1916.

^{103.} The Newry Reporter, 6th March 1915

^{104.} From letters from 'Dot' Rose, reprinted in the *Frontier Sentinel*, 10th June 1915; from James Dickson, reprinted in *The Newry Reporter*, 9th March 1916 and from Michael Blair reprinted in *The Newry Reporter*, 25th May 1918 we know that the Newry POWS were Charles Cunningham^{ROH}, James Dickson^{ROH}, Blair, 'Dot' Rose, a Private in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Thomas Murphy^{ROH} from William Street, a Rifleman in the Royal Irish Rifles, his neighbour Patrick McMahon^{ROH}, a Private in the Royal Munster Fusiliers, Private Murray of the Irish Guards, Private Sweeney^{ROH} who had, before the war, been a water bailiff on the Halls' Narrow-Water estate, Bobby Gartlan^{ROH} from North Street, a Private in the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, Tommy McKeown^{ROH} from Chapel Street, a Private in the 7th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, Paddy Magill^{ROH} and Bertie Whitfield.

co-ordinating the efforts. The Newry Work Guild, the local branch of the Royal Red Cross Society and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association brought the concerted energies of middle class ladies to bear on the provision of 'comforts' to both troops at the front and prisoners of war. Ladies such as Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Gartlan, Mrs. Von Stieglitz, Mrs. Slipper and her daughters, were all keen to contribute to the war effort in whatever way they could. As the war progressed these efforts were increasingly centralised in an attempt to ensure that no soldier or prisoner was left wanting while another had a surplus.

By January 1916 the Irish Women's Association had allied itself to the Prisoners of War Help Committee and was forwarding, via Switzerland, many thousands of parcels. These contained:

"... two boxes which contain always 4 lbs. hard biscuits, such as "Rations and Cabins"; 1lb. tin of vegetables; 1lb. tin of milk; 1lb. tin of beef or mutton; compressed soup; Worcester sauce; 1 tin of fish; 1lb. tin of jam or dripping; half lb. each of tea and sugar; one tin of fruit or cocoa; coffee or cheese; mustard; salt; two pieces of soap; 50 cigarettes or tobacco."105

Co-operation between these groups led to improved efficiency, with the Prisoners of War Help Committee reporting in June 1916 that 98% of parcels sent from Berne were being acknowledged by their recipients. 106 No system, however, could be perfect and in a letter to a Newry girl in September of that year, Corporal Davies of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry who had been stationed in Newry before the war, still complained bitterly that parcels sent to them were so delayed that when they received them the contents were useless.107

^{105.} The Newry Reporter, 13th January 1916.

^{106.} *The Newry Reporter*, 10th June 1916. 107. *The Newry Reporter*, 2nd September 1916.

"It is my Painful Duty . . . "108 The Missing and the Dead

At least ninety-six of those listed in Newry's Roll of Honour died as a result of the First World War. Ten of these are buried in Newry, four dying after the Armistice. Not all of those who died were killed in action, many succumbed to illness and disease, in part caused by the terrible conditions they had to endure, with dysentery, meningitis, influenza and pneumonia cited as causes of death. In all just under 12% of those listed on Newry's Roll of Honour lost their lives as a result of the conflict.

Table 6: Causes of Death of Newry's Roll of Honour Servicemen

Cause of Death	Total
Died	12
Died of wounds	16
Killed in action	58
Drowned	2
Unknown	8
Total	96

Source: Statistics from Soldiers Died in the Great War^{109} database and newspaper reports.

Where there was a body to inter or where the death in action of a soldier was witnessed, the next of kin received the news on a standard Army Form B 104-82 sent by the British War Office informing them where, when and how they died. Officers' next of kin received the news via telegram.

If there was no clear evidence that a soldier had been killed in action, they were reported as 'missing'. The following letters and newspaper reports regarding

two soldiers from Newry's Roll of Honour highlight the anxiety that families of missing soldiers faced.

Hugh Murphy^{ROH}, a Private in the Royal Irish Rifles was reported as wounded and missing on the 13th March 1915 (later listed as his date of death). In May, having "heard no tidings for the past nine weeks" the family received a communication from the Infantry Record Office in Dublin that "so far as is known" he was still serving with his regiment at the Front.111 By October his parents still had not received any further news and appealed "for news from any of his companions in the Regiment concerning him."112 Matters had still not been finalised by May 1916 when a letter from the War Office stated, "The question of the official acceptance of the death of Rifleman Murphy will soon come before the Army Council, and it is hoped that a definite decision may be communicated shortly. A separate reply will be sent on the question of Mrs. Murphy's allotment."113 The last sentence alluded to the fact that families of missing soldiers only received allowances for a period of twenty-six weeks from the date on which they were reported missing, and no pension could be paid until such time as the missing soldier was accepted as dead.

Mrs. Hamilton of the Scriptural School, Downshire Road learnt the news that her son John (Jack) ROH was missing in a letter from the Rev. C. C. Manning, M.A., a Church of Ireland Chaplain with the Ulster Division:

108. Taken from the first line of Army Form B. 104-82 informing the next of kin of a soldier's death: "It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of ____.".

109. Originally published in 1921 The *Soldiers Died in the Great War* database, based on regimental records, contains information such as place of birth, place of residence, place of enlistment and former regiments.

110. A soldier's next of kin received notification that he was missing on Army Form B. 104-83 which was at pains to point out that a report of missing did not necessarily mean the soldier was dead and that he may have been held as a prisoner of war. It noted that information on prisoners of war often reached the prisoner's family by unofficial means before the news was relayed through official channels. In the event that news was received, the family was asked to forward the letter on to the War Office.

111. The Frontier Sentinel, 22nd May 1915.

^{112.} The Frontier Sentinel, 2nd October 1915.

^{113.} *The Newry Reporter*, 27th May 1916.

"British Expeditionary Force, France, 18-7-1916. Dear Mrs. Hamilton,

Your letter of the 15th inst., received this morning. I visited the ---- Battalion of the Royal Irish this afternoon, and as a result of my inquiries I deeply regret to inform you that your son, Rifleman J. Hamilton, No. 19013, is reported missing. This does not necessarily mean that your son has been killed; he may be a prisoner. Sympathising with you in your natural anxiety and painful suspense, and praying that God may strengthen and comfort you.

Yours sincerely,

C. C. Manning, C.F.

P.S. – Some few missing men have been found in hospital. – C.C.M.". 114

Returning to the story in late September *The Newry Reporter* noted:

"We regret to announce that Private Hamilton, Royal Irish Rifles, who has been missing since the 1stJuly last, is now reported killed. His brother Bombardier Thomas Hamilton^{ROH}, Royal Field Artillery, was killed in action on the 9th May, 1915".¹¹⁵

The same edition also published part of a letter written on 19th September to the Rev. William Moore, B.D., rector of St.Patrick's Parish Church, Newry, from the Captain of Private Hamilton's Company:

"Mrs. Hamilton of the Scriptural School, Newry, has written to me asking for news of her son, Jack. I much regret to say that he has been killed, and I cannot understand why his mother has not been notified. I did not like to write to her and break the news so suddenly, and I would ask you to undertake this task for me. I can find out very little about him, but you will understand how difficult it is to get a clear story out of the turmoil of that dreadful time. It is terrible to think that his mother has been kept in the suspense for such a long time to receive such news after all. Will you please tell her how sorry I am for her, especially as she appears to have lost another son a year ago, and how I regret not being able to give her any information as to how he died".

The Shevlin brothers were the only sons of Teresa and Patrick Shevlin (who worked in T.P. Willis' bakery) from Upper Edward Street. Private James Shevlin of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers was nineteen when he died on 12th September 1914. About seven weeks after he enlisted, he developed pneumonia and died in Cork, where he was buried with military honours. Although he enlisted and died before the presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour, his name does not appear on it, while that of his brother John ROH (Royal Irish Rifles) does. Sadly, John died from malaria on 7th October 1916 and is buried in Salonika Military Cemetery in Greece.

Private John McGregor^{ROH} of the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers was thirty-three when he died on 26th February 1916 in the Newry Union Infirmary from

^{114.} The Newry Reporter, 27th July 1916.

^{115.} The Newry Reporter, 28th September 1916.

^{116.} The Newry Reporter, 1st October 1914.

meningitis (also known as 'spotted fever'). Described as a well-known old Newry soldier¹¹⁷, he had been treated in the 12th General Hospital, Rouen for shell-shock, and in a letter to his mother and sister said that shells bursting so near him had shattered all his nerves. He was then admitted to the West-End Hospital in London, which specialised in treating diseases of the nervous system. He had only returned to Newry a fortnight before his death. He was buried in St. Mary's Roman Catholic (Old Chapel) cemetery with military honours provided by the 4th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, stationed in the town's Barracks.¹¹⁸

There were impressive scenes at the military funeral of Private James McGrath^{ROH} of the Royal Irish Rifles. Having developed frostbite while on active service, he died in the Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool on 12th January 1915, aged 17. He was an active member of the National Volunteers before enlisting. His remains were brought back to Newry on the SS *Iveagh*. Hampered by bad weather, the boat was delayed and the funeral was postponed for a day. He was buried with full military honours in the Old Chapel cemetery in the town. His brother Thomas ROH also served with the Royal Irish Rifles.

Many died from their wounds. John Beattie^{ROH}, from Carnagat, had been an employee of the Bessbrook Spinning Mill. He had enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers shortly after the outbreak of war, and was sent to Salonika, where he was severely wounded, sustaining a fractured spine caused by shrapnel. He was admitted to hospital on 10th October 1916, and

died in the King George V Hospital in Dublin on 27th January 1918. His remains were brought back to Newry by train and he was buried in St. Patrick's Church of Ireland churchyard.¹²⁰

The Grim Reaper visited all classes equally. Corporal Charles Ewen Kerr^{ROH} of the Black Watch, son of local Councillor Robert Kerr lost his life in France in September 1916. The Council passed a resolution of sympathy and Councillor Kerr was moved to write to express his thanks for their consideration:

"Badentoy" Newry 14th October, 1916

Dear Mr. Cronin

Will you be good enough to convey to the members of the Urban District Council of Newry, the grateful thanks of myself and my family for their very kind resolution of sympathy in the great loss we have sustained by the death of our dear son Charles in this cruel war.

He did a man's part, and gave his life freely for us, that we might be saved from the brutal tyranny of the Huns.

I desire also to thank you sincerely for your personal sympathy in conveying the resolution. Yours very truly Robert Kerr²¹

Ten of those listed on Newry's Roll of Honour were killed during July 1916 making it the worst month for deaths. Five of these were on the 1st July alone, the first day of the Somme offensive. Consequently, the

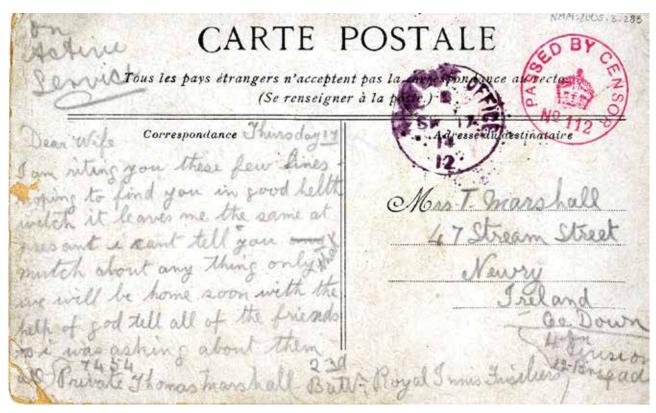
^{117.} The Frontier Sentinel, 19th February 1915.

^{118.} The Newry Reporter, 29th February 1916.

^{119.} The Newry Reporter, 19th January 1915.

^{120.} The Newry Reporter, 31st January 1918.

^{121.} Minute book of Newry UDC, 16th October 1916 PRONI, LA/58/2/CA/5.



Postcard sent by Private Thomas Marshall^{ROH}, 2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, to his wife in Newry in December 1914. Due to censorship regulations it does not contain much detail. By 16th May 1915, he was reported as missing. The casualty letter (overleaf), was sent in response to an enquiry by the Rev. Moore, of St. Patrick's Parsonage, Newry. The War Office stated that Private Marshall had been missing since 16th May 1915 and no further information was available. In an attempt to find out what happened to him, his photograph was placed in the war news section of a Belfast newspaper, stating '... His wife ... would be glad to hear from any of his comrades concerning him.' Private Marshall's date of death was subsquently confirmed as Sunday, 16th May 1915

Newry and Mourne Museum Collection

Thiepval Memorial to the Missing contains the most names from Newry's Roll of Honour of any memorial or cemetery, with ten names recorded on it.¹²²

The months of May 1915 and March 1918 account for seven casualties each, the latter due to the 'Spring Offensive', Germany's last attempt to end the war with a massive attack on the Western Front.

122. The names of Walter P. Bond^{ROH}, Henry Clarke^{ROH}, Robert Duffy^{ROH}, John Hamilton ROH, Patrick Kelly^{ROH}, John Marks^{ROH}, Michael Murphy^{ROH}, J.K. Scott^{ROH}, Francis Short^{ROH} and George Wauchope ROH from Newry's Roll of Honour are recorded on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

Casualties Form letter E.

Any further letter on this subject should be addressed to—

The Secretary,
War Office,
Alexandra House, Kingsway, London, W.C.,

and the number below quoted. Note.—Personal enquiries should be made at the War Office in Whitehall. WAR OFFICE.

LONDON, S.W.,

19" July 1915.

(C 2. Casualties.) Ser 41038

In reply to your enquiry of the 27" June, 1915 I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that (Regimental No.) 7454 (Rank) Private (Name) Thomas marshall. 2 nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers has been reported in a casualty list which has reached this office as missing since the 16th may, 1915 It is regretted that no further information is at present, available

This is the latest information regarding this soldier which has been received.

I am, however, to point out that, as stated in the public press, any further enquiry of this kind should be addressed to:-

The Officer in Charge of Records,

Infantry Record Office,

who is in possession of the latest and fullest information obtainable respecting soldiers of this regiment.

I am.

Sir Your obedient Servant,

Rev. W. Moore, St. Patrick's Parsonage Newry.

Ru Brade



John Beattie^{ROH} (on right). Fatally wounded in October 1916, he died 27th January 1918. *Courtesy of Martin Grant*

John Beattie^{ROH} with nurses in hospital in Dublin. *The Newry Reporter*, 10th October 1916 quoted from a letter written by the matron of the Military Hospital in Malta to John Beattie's mother: "*His courage commands the admiration of all who see him, and you may be proud, in the midst of your anxiety, to be the mother of such a brave man". Courtesy of Martin Grant*



"In the event of my death ..." Soldiers' Wills

Often a last poignant reminder of a soldier who would never return was his will. Soldiers were encouraged to make wills because, in the event of their death, it simplified the settling of their affairs, but it was not obligatory.

Each soldier was issued with a pocket service book which included pages on which the soldier could make his will. These varied somewhat over the period of the war, but the most commonly used was a blank page entitled 'Will', which the soldier completed in his own words. Other, pre-printed, forms recorded the name, rank, regiment and regimental number of the soldier, the name and address of the person to whom he wished to bequeath, and his relationship to this person, and the names of witnesses. Where the wills were not witnessed, as required by the Wills Act, 1837, they are known as 'Informal Wills' and most of the wills are in this category 124.

Where the soldier's body was recovered, the 'Will' page would be torn out and forwarded to the War Office by his commanding officer, generally with a brief note confirming it had been extracted from their pocket service book.

The wills were normally concise and functional. Joseph Bell^{ROH}, whose will is signed and dated 5th August 1914, the day after war was declared, almost made it through the war, dying on 21st March 1918. His will states simply:

"In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to my mother, Mrs. Sarah Bell, 14 James Street, Newry, Co. Down, Ireland."

Private John Burns^{ROH}, who made his will using Army Form B. 243, left his estate to his mother Annie Burns of 16 Bells Row and appointed his uncle, Philip Sourley as his executor. His will, made at Sunnylands Camp in Carrickfergus on 25th June 1915 was witnessed by a Corporal and a Company Quarter Master Sergeant. Three months later he was missing presumed dead. It was only in March 1917 that the will was recognised as valid by the War Office. The same pattern of having a formal will witnessed by two Non-Commissioned Officers can be seen in the case of James Vint^{ROH} of 18 High Street who made his will while training in Palace Barracks, Holywood during November 1914 using Army Form B. 243.

Peter Murphy^{ROH}, of Mary Street wrote his intention to leave his entire estate to his mother on the example page of the will form in his pay book rather than on the intended sheet but his will was accepted as valid in much the same time frame as the others. Many of these Newry soldiers had, in reality, no legacy to bequeath beyond the pension to which their widows would have been entitled in the event of their death and talk of leaving 'the whole of my property and effects' was essentially rhetorical.

While most servicemen willed everything to their mothers or wives there were exceptions. William Taylor^{ROH}, of 28 Cowan Street was a Private in the Royal Irish Fusiliers with the regimental number 10072. He bequeathed everything to Private James Fraser, whose regimental number 10071 would suggest that they enlisted together.

^{123.} The standard form of words in the informal wills made by soldiers began: "In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to . . ."

^{124.} Over 9,000 wills made by Irish soldiers of the First World War are held in the National Archives in Dublin, where they were transferred from the Probate Office. These have been digitised and can be viewed online at soldierswills.nationalarchive.ie

"A small token of gratitude" 125 Home Coming

On 23rd April 1919, almost four years to the day after Newry's Roll of Honour was presented, the Town Hall was, once again, the venue when Newry's returning heroes were welcomed back with a home-coming celebration. Over 600 discharged and demobilised soldiers and sailors from the district attended the event, dubbed "a right royal Cead Mille Failthe" (sic). 126

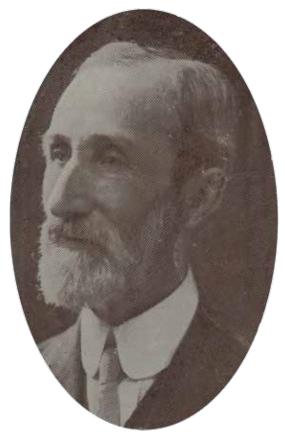
Reported by *The Newry Telegraph* on 24th April 1919, the event was organised by Mr. William Johnson, with the cost of entertainment for the evening being met by Mr. David Ferris, Mr. Robert Kerr, J.P. (both of whom had lost sons in the war), Mr. Frank Fisher, JP, and the Rev. H. B. Swanzy. Messages were sent from the Queen Mother, the Viceroy Lord French and the Lord Chancellor who wrote "*There is nothing that is too good for them. I rejoice to know that you and others are interesting yourselves in their future welfare*".

Tribute was paid to those who had made the supreme sacrifice, and just as at the presentation of Newry's Roll of Honour, members of the clergy played a key role in the night's proceedings; the Rev. Moore commenting that "some of those present were maimed and mutilated, wounded and weakened, disfigured and disabled by shot and shell, and poison gas". During the proceedings a Military Medal was presented by H. J. McConville to Corporal William Poacher^{ROH} for bravery at the Front.

To loud applause, a speech made by Mr. Robert Kerr, JP, marked the event "as a small token of gratitude for all you have done for us, your townsmen invited you

here this evening to partake of their hospitality, and to convey to you their very best wishes for your future welfare and prosperity".

A concert, followed by a dance, was held. H. J. McConville, William Johnson and the St. Joseph's Brass and Reed Band were just some of those who contributed to the musical entertainment.



Robert Kerr represented Newry's West Ward. He was a supporter of the introduction of conscription in Ireland. His son, Charles Ewen Kerr ROH, a Corporal in the Black Watch, was killed in action in September 1916. He resigned from Newry UDC, citing ill-health, in late April 1918, dying a fortnight later.

Newry and Mourne Museum Collection

125. At a homecoming event for servicemen, reported in *The Newry Telegraph*, 24th April 1919, Mr. Robert Kerr, JP, marked the event "as a small token of gratitude for all you have done for us".

126. *The Newry Telegraph*, 24th April 1919.

"Take No Further Action" Post-War Newry

Despite the apparent concern for their future welfare and prosperity, returning soldiers found that Newry (and Ireland) was a different place from that which they had left at the outbreak of war. The ending of the First World War went unmentioned in the minute books of the UDC. Fundamental changes in the political situation in Ireland had taken place, while employment and housing continued to prove as problematic as before the war.

On a national stage, the 1918 parliamentary elections saw a landslide victory for Sinn Féin who had declared an Irish Republic and began operating an independent government (An Dáil Éireann) in Dublin. The Irish War of Independence, fought between 1919 and 1921, impacted heavily on Newry and its surrounding area. The Government of Ireland Act, 1920, split Ireland in two, and the Northern Ireland Parliament came into existence in 1921. In December 1921 Newry Urban District Council refused to recognise the authority of the Northern Parliament and pledged their allegiance to An Dáil Éireann¹²⁸. In January 1922 Patrick Lavery was elected to become the first Sinn Féin Chairman of Newry Urban District Council. The Council ignored circulars sent from the Belfast Parliament, instead sending minutes of meetings to An Dáil Éireann. This was to change on Saturday 22nd April 1922 when the Town Hall was occupied by Special Constabulary belonging to the Northern Government and the Council was dissolved. Major James Hanna-McCormick was appointed as Commissioner to perform the duties of the Council. One of his first acts was to rescind its resolutions repudiating the

authority of the Government of Northern Ireland.¹²⁹ He continued in power until January 1923, when at the inaugural meeting of the reinstated Newry Urban District Council, a resolution was passed that:

"... the vast majority of the inhabitants of the town of Newry are strongly opposed to the partition of Ireland, and they desire to be relieved at the earliest possible date from the authority of the Belfast Partition Parliament..." 130

The polarisation of the two communities in Newry deepened with the realisation that the Boundary Commission was not going to recommend the inclusion of Newry in the newly established Irish Free State.

Throughout the War of Independence, the tensions between the Nationalist and Unionist communities occasionally became apparent. Although the Council's pre-war social housing scheme had named streets after Nationalist figures John Mitchel and John Martin, the proposed renaming of some streets in the town in late 1919 proved controversial. When it was suggested as part of a programme of street renaming that Needham Place be renamed John Mitchel Place, a letter from solicitor Hunter Moore protested "that the renaming of Needham Place would be an insult to the Kilmorey Family". The proposed renamings, which were contingent on the support of two-thirds of the local residents, went ahead. On 1st December, a meeting of the UDC unanimously resolved:

"That the new names agreed to this day for certain streets be put up in Irish as well as in English characters". 132

^{127.} Throughout the immediate post-War year the Legion of Irish Ex-Servicemen asked the Urban District Council for assistance and in almost every instance the UDC's response was to "take no further action".

^{128.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, entry for 19th December 1921, PRONI, LA58/2/CA/6.

^{129.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, entry for 15th May 1922, PRONI, LA58/2/CA/6.

^{130.} Resolution passed at the first meeting of the re-convened Newry Urban Council on 23^{rd} January 1923, reported in *The Frontier Sentinel*, 27^{th} January 1923.

^{131.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, entry for 17th November 1919, PRONI LA58/2/CA/6.

^{132.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, entry for 1st December 1919, PRONI, LA58/2/CA/6.

This was not universally accepted and, during October 1920, bilingual name signs on the Armagh Road and Windsor Avenue were surreptitiously removed.

During 1919 the UDC had declined the offer of a German Field Gun, two rifles and two helmets from the Secretary of the War Trophies Committee. These had been requested in 1915 in recognition of Newry's 'splendid' recruiting record.

Returning soldiers found difficulty in finding employment and felt that the UDC, which had played such an active role in recruitment, now had a responsibility to help them rebuild their lives. In September 1920, Councillor W. F. Cunningham, himself an ex-serviceman, raised the issue of the employment of ex-soldiers at a meeting of the UDC.¹³³ After a long discussion on the matter, no action was taken.

In March 1922 just before its suspension, the UDC received a deputation consisting of John Fearon^{ROH}, Michael McAteer^{ROH} and Thomas Boylan^{ROH} of the Newry Branch of the Legion of Irish Ex-Servicemen, again to discuss the issue of employment. The deputation suggested that employment could be created for the ex-servicemen at the stone breaking plant in Needham Street. They were assured by the Chairman that the UDC would do everything possible to create employment for them locally.¹³⁴

The situation was no better by October 1922 when Major Hanna-McCormick received a further deputation from the Legion of Irish Ex-Servicemen.¹³⁵ John Fearon^{ROH}, Thomas Howley and George

McCrum^{ROH} met him to lobby for employment in relief work then being undertaken by the UDC laying out and enclosing the recreation ground at Stream Street. After consulting with Town Surveyor Charles Blaney, the Commissioner too decided to take no further action.

The provision of homes for ex-servicemen was also an issue. Proposed schemes such as the plan to build a pair of semi-detached cottages on the Fullerton Road under the Irish Land (Provision for Sailors and Soldiers) Act, 1919, foundered. The UDC agreed in September 1921 that the Town Clerk, William Cronin should assist applications. By April 1922, in response to a letter from the Legion of Irish Ex-Servicemen asking for support in their efforts to obtain cottages for their members, he reported that the scheme had been discontinued several months before. The UDC decided they could assist no further and let the matter drop. 136

Vimy Terrace on the Armagh Road was one such project in which eleven houses were built for returning soldiers. Occupied after 1925, each plot of roughly one eighth of an acre contained a house, yard and garden. Information on the Valuation Revision Books suggests that six of those listed on Newry's Roll of Honour were living there in 1928 at an annual rent of around £7, 17s, 0d. 137 Post-war Newry offered little in the way of official support for those who had fought in the war and increasingly their sole recourse was the network of old comrades bound together by the Royal British Legion (founded in 1921).

^{133.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, entry for 20th September 1920, PRONI, LA58/2/CA/6.

^{134.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, entry for 6th March 1922, PRONI, LA58/2/CA/6.

^{135.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, entry for 2nd October 1922, PRONI, LA58/2/CA/6.

^{136.} Minute book of Newry Urban District Council, entry for 3rd April 1922, PRONI, LA58/2/CA/6.

^{137.} Valuation Revision Books, (1920-1929), map reference 47B, PRONI, VAL/12/B/15/1K.

"For those who answered duty's call" 138 Remembrance

Remembrance of those who took part in the events of the First World War takes many forms, from the personal level to the annual Remembrance Day commemorations. For each of those who died, a small bronze memorial plaque, popularly known as a 'Dead Man's Penny' was given to families of the deceased, along with a commemorative scroll.

The dead are commemorated in various cemeteries and memorials around the world. The majority lie in France and Belgium near the battlefields of the Western Front. Where there was a body to inter, soldiers were remembered by gravestones of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

(CWGC)¹³⁹. Figures from the CWGC indicate that just over half of the war dead from the United Kingdom have an identified burial site, while the remainder are listed on memorials.¹⁴⁰ The founding ethos of the organisation was that, "each of the dead should be commemorated by name on a headstone, or by an inscription on a memorial". These headstones and memorials were to be permanent and uniform and have no distinction made on account of rank, race or creed. If known, headstones bear the name and insignia of their regiment or naval unit, together with their name, number, date of death and age. Personal inscriptions were chosen and paid for by the family. St. Patrick's Church of Ireland graveyard also



On display in Newry High School, Roll of Honour from Newry Intermediate School. A War Memorial Wing was also dedicated to the alumni of the school who had served in the war.

^{138.} At the memorial service held on 26th January 1921 by the 'Francis Crossle' Masonic Lodge, No. 83, Newry for Surgeon Probationer D.H. Ferris, his lodge brother William Johnson CBE composed an alternate verse to Rudyard Kipling's hymn 'God of our Fathers, Known of Old': 'For those who answered duty's call, And freely gave their all in all, That Britain's Empire still might be, Her soil untouched, her people free – Their sacrifice remind us yet, Lest we forget, lest we forget!'

^{139.} Known, prior to 1960 as the Imperial War Graves Commission.

^{140.} CWGC Annual report 2013-2014.

contains the grave of an unknown soldier, believed to have been recovered from the wreck of the SS *Connemara*.

War graves were accorded to those who died between 4th August 1914 and 31st August 1921. Those who died after this date, even as a consequence of injuries received during the war, were not.

Table 7: Burial or memorial sites of those listed on Newry's Roll of Honour who died as a result of the conflict.

Country	Cemetery	Memorial
France	26	23
Belgium	6	13
N.Ireland	10	0
Turkey	3	3
England	1	3
Greece	3	0
Germany	1	0
Italy	1	0
Iraq	0	1
Israel	1	0
Total	52	43

There are ten of those listed on Newry's Roll of Honour buried in Commonwealth War Graves in Newry. Seven are located in St. Mary's 'Old Chapel' cemetery¹⁴¹ and three in St. Patrick's Church of Ireland.¹⁴² They stand as reminders of bereavement and the impact of the war on the area.

As well as the graves in their churchyards, churches also erected their own memorials, such as the stained glass window in St. Mary's Church of Ireland. Wealthy families erected memorials in churches for their loved ones, such as the memorial plaque to Brigadier General George Bull, D.S.O., a son of R. G. Bull the Resident Magistrate, which can be found in St. Mary's Church of Ireland. On other occasions, fellow soldiers erected memorials. The First Presbyterian Church in Sandys Street contains a marble memorial which reads, "A tribute of affectionate esteem and regard to the late Corporal Samuel Scott R.E. who died on the 30th January 1916 from injuries received in France. Erected by his comrades, despatch riders of the 36th Divisional Signal Co."

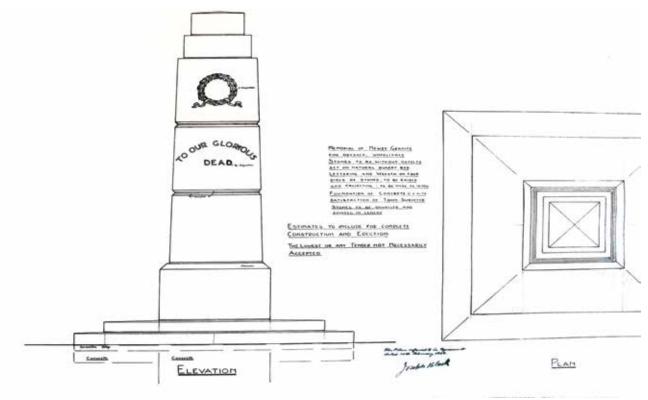
Schools and other organisations also produced tributes. A memorial tablet was erected in Newry Intermediate School (which became Newry Grammar in 1948, and Newry High School in the mid-1960s) and plaques were unveiled in Orange and Masonic Halls. Businesses such as the Post Office and Railway companies also compiled Rolls of Honour for their employees, as did groups such as the Boy Scouts and sporting organisations. Many of those in Newry's Roll of Honour can be found in the various other rolls.

Organisations such as the Royal British Legion (formed 1921) were established to support the needs of ex-servicemen and their dependents. The Irish National Foresters sold poppies in its Newry clubhouse in the late 1920s and St Joseph's Brass and Reed Band performed at concerts to raise funds for local war memorials.

Public memorials were also erected. In Newry, remembrance of the war was politically divisive. The

^{141.} Stoker James Gorman^{ROH}, died 2nd March 1919; Driver William Lundy^{ROH}, died 6th May 1916; Rifleman James McGrath^{ROH}, died 12th January 1915; Private John McGregor^{ROH}, died 26th February 1916; Private Alexander McKigney^{ROH}, died 23rd January 1915; Sapper James O'Neill^{ROH}, died 23rd December 1919 and Rifleman William Thompson^{ROH}, died 10th February 1919 are interred in CWGC graves in St. Mary's cemetery.

^{142.} Private John Beattie^{ROH}, died 27th January 1918; Rifleman George McGaughey^{ROH}, died 22nd January 1920 and Corporal Samuel Sheppardson^{ROH}, died 6th August 1915 are interred in CWGC graves in St. Patrick's cemetery



Elevation of the proposed War Memorial, designed by G. W. Reside. Newry and Mourne Museum Collection

Northern Ireland Government had refused to permit the Newry Old IRA Remembrance Association to erect a Celtic cross to the dead of 1916–1923, and a permanent War Memorial was not erected in the town until 1939.

Twelve years after the end of the war, a committee was formed on 2nd April 1930 with the aim of establishing a War Memorial in Newry. Messrs. H. J. McConville, H. McCaffrey, J. S. Fisher, Rev. Canon Swanzy and Rev. Father J. H. Conlin OP were charged with the responsibility. Progress was slow and money was difficult to raise, with little enthusiasm shown by the townspeople. In 1934, various meetings were held and correspondence entered into with the UDC, Town Surveyor and Road Traffic Authority. On 10th August 1938 the War Memorial Committee formally requested from the UDC permission to locate a permanent memorial on Trevor Hill.

Designed by Gerald Wilson Reside, the memorial is a simple construction of Newry granite, inscribed

with the words "TO OUR GLORIOUS DEAD". It was decided not to inscribe the names of those who had served or died in the war, for financial reasons as well as from a fear that some may have been overlooked. A temporary version of the memorial was used for the 1938 ceremony and the memorial proper was ready for the first Armistice Day of the Second World War. It moved to its present location on Bank Parade in the 1960s to accommodate a new road scheme. The memorial still serves as the focal point for Remembrance Day commemorations today.

A century on, Newry's Roll of Honour forms part of the collection of Newry and Mourne Museum and has fulfilled the destiny hoped for it by H. J. McConville on the evening of its presentation that:

"In years to come, when we would be in our graves, the list would doubtless be perused with pleasure and pride by those who came after them".



Photograph of Surgeon Probationer David Henry (Harry) Ferris^{ROH}, a member of the 'Francis Crossle', No. 83, Newry, Masonic Lodge. This photograph and a brass tablet were unveiled and dedicated in the Lodge Room of the Masonic Hall, Newry on 22nd November 1916. A further memorial service was held on 26th January 1921 on the occasion of the presentation to the Masonic Boys School, of £200, in his honour. This latter service was led by Lodge Chaplain, the Worshipful Brother, Reverend H.B. Swanzy. Worshipful Brother, William Johnson CBE, provided organ accompaniment. *Courtesy of Newry Masonic Lodge*

Sources of Information

Newry's Roll of Honour can be an excellent source of information for family research. Other sources that were consulted are listed below:

Archival Sources:

1914 Rate book of Newry Urban District Council available to view at Newry and Mourne Museum.

War Diary of John Bannon, transcript available to view at Newry and Mourne Museum.

Transcripts of other local Rolls of Honour, available to view at Newry and Mourne Museum: Newry Post Office, St. Mary's Church of Ireland, St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, Sandys Street Presbyterian Church, Church of Ireland, Donaghmore, Warrenpoint Golf Club, Newry Intermediate School, Masonic Lodge No. 77, Masonic Lodge No. 79, Mourne Grange Preparatory School, 1st Newry Troop, Boy Scouts.

Minute books of Newry Urban District Council, available to view in PRONI.

The Newry Reporter. Full run available to view on microfilm in Newry Library, transcripts of warrelated articles available to view at Newry and Mourne Museum.

The Frontier Sentinel. Full run available to view on microfilm in Newry Library, transcripts of war-related articles available to view at Newry and Mourne Museum.

The Newry Telegraph, available to view in the Irish and Local Studies Library, Armagh.

Chris Patton, *The Newry Dock Strike 1907*, unpublished MS, available to view at Newry and Mourne Museum

Published Sources:

Raymond P. Watson, *Cath Saoirse An Iuir*, Newry, privately published, 1986

Terence Denman, *Ireland's Unknown Soldiers:* The 16th (*Irish*) Division in the Great War, Dublin, Irish Academic Press, 1992

Keith Jeffery, *Ireland and the Great War*, Cambridge, CUP, 2000

Colin Moffett (ed.) *Newry's War Dead 1914-1918* & 1939-1945, The Equality Unit, Newry and Mourne District Council, 2002, available to view at Newry and Mourne Museum.

Gabriel Doherty (ed.), *The Home Rule Crisis* 1912 – 1914, Cork, Mercier Press 2014

Online Sources:

1911 and 1901 Census Records, census national archives ie

First World War Service Records for the various branches of the Royal Navy, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Soldiers' wills, www.soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie

First World War Service Records and Medal Index Cards, www.ancestry.co.uk

Commonwealth War Graves Commission, www.cwgc.org

In Flanders' Fields Museum, Ireland's Memorial Records, www.inflandersfields.be

Canadian attestation papers and Canadian war diaries, Library and Archives Canada, www.bac-lac.gc.ca

Australian War Records, National Archives of Australia, www.naa.gov.au

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Every effort has been made to attribute photographs used in this booklet.

Design: G. Watters

Who are They who want to help the English Government to Conscript You?

HERE THEY ARE!

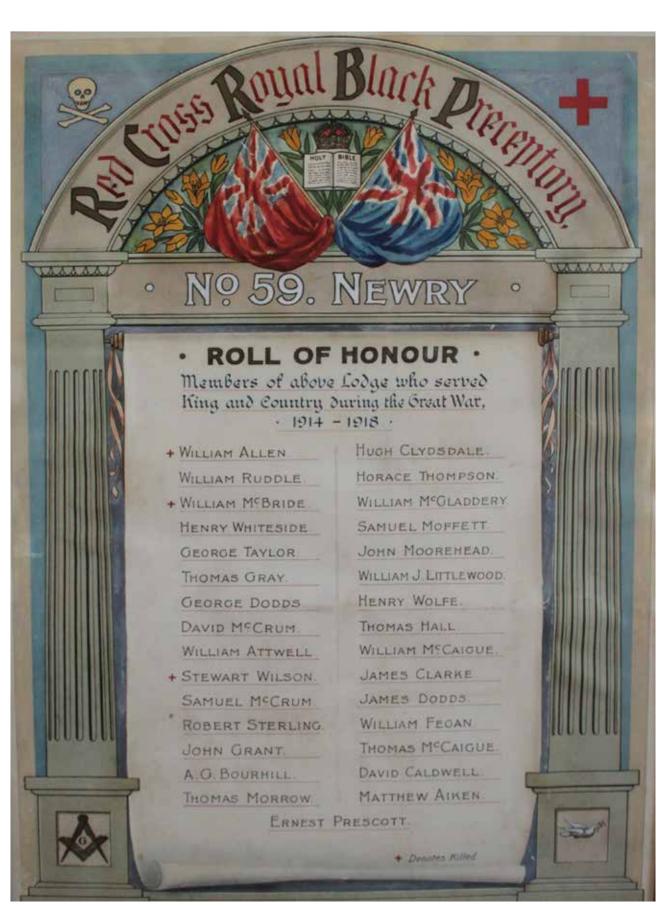
This is a List of the Parliamentarians who on the 17th of January, last, in the English House of Commons, would not Wote against Conscription for Ireland:—

Boyle, Daniel, North Mayo
Byrne, A., Dublin Harbour
Clancy, J. J., Dublin, North
Cosgrove, James, Galway East
Crumley, P., Fermanagh South
Devlin, Joseph, Belfast West
Dillon, John, Mayo West
Donelan, Captain, Wicklow East
Donovan, J. T., Wicklow West
Doris, W., Mayo West
Duffy, W. J., Galway South
Esmonde, Captain, Tipperary North
Esmonde, Sir Thomas, Wexford North
Farrell, J. P., Longford North
French, P., Wexford South
Field, William, Dublin St. Patrick's
Fitzpatrick, J. C., Ossory
Fitzgibbon, John, Mayo South
Flavin, M., Kerry North
Gwynn, Stephen, Galway South
Hackett, J., Tipperary Mid.
Hazleton, Richard, Galway North
Hearn, Michael, Dublin South
Joyce, Alderman, Limerick City
Kelly, E., Donegal East
Kennedy, Vincent, Cavan West
Kilbride, A., Kildare South
Lundon, Thomas, Limerick East

McGhee, Richard, Tyrone Mid.
MacNeill, Swift, Donegal South
Meagher, Michael, Kilkenny North
Meehan, Francis, Leitrim North
Meehan, P. J., Leix
Molloy, M., Carlow
Mooney, John J., Newry
Muldoon, John, Cork East
Murphy, M. J., Waterford East
Nolan, Joseph, Louth South
Nugent, J. D., Dublin College Green
Nugent, Sir Walter, Westmeath, South
O'Connor, T. P., Liverpool
O'Doherty, Philip, Donegal North
O'Donnell, Thomas, Kerry West
O'Dowd, John, Sligo South
O'Shaughnessy, P. J., Limerick West
O'Shee, J. J., Waterford West
O'Sullivan, T., Kerry East
Reddy, Michael, Birr
Redmond, J. E., Waterford
Redmond, W. A., Tyrone East
Sheehy, David, Meath South
Smyth, T. P., Leitrim South
White, Patrick, Meath North
Whitty, P. J., Louth North
Young, Samuel, Cavan East

Vote for McCARTAN and Down with the Consciptionists.

In response to a fall in recruitment across the British Isles from 1915 onwards, various levels of conscription were introduced in a series of Military Service Acts. The threat of conscription being extended to Ireland became a contentious issue in Irish politics after 1916. This Sinn Féin election poster refers to a 1918 by-election contest precipitated by the death of the MP for Armagh South, Dr. Charles O'Neill, of the Irish Parliamentary Party.



Roll of Honour of the Red Cross Royal Black Perceptory, Lodge No. 59, Newry. Displayed in Newry Orange Hall. *Newry and Mourne Museum Collection*

Back cover: Stained glass window in St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Newry. It reads, "To the glory of God, and in memory of those from this Parish who gave their lives in the Great War 1914 – 1919".

Newry and Mourne Museum Collection











