

Memorial to Chaplains in the Great War



Memorial Tablet

On Tuesday, 7 June 1921, a session of the meeting of the General Assembly held in Church House, Fisherwick Place, Belfast, was given over to a Service of Remembrance giving thanks for the service and sacrifice of Irish Presbyterians who lost their lives during the First World War. Pride of place was given to four ministers, a missionary elder, and a licentiate, who had served as soldiers or chaplains or as volunteers with the YMCA. The congregation was addressed by the Very Rev Dr David Hamilton Hanson, Gardenmore, Larne, former Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Sinclair Knox DSO., Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, unveiled a memorial tablet in portrait style, erected next to the Corridor Room near the main entrance. Six names were inscribed on the tablet

Dr N.M. Gavin, missionary, Anand, India, Captain RAMC, killed accidentally at Bethune, 12 March, 1916.

Rev. S.M. Linden, licentiate, Second Lieutenant RGA, killed in action at Ypres, 31 July, 1917.

Rev. Alex. Stuart, Bessbrook, RChD, killed in action at Cambrai, 24 October, 1917.

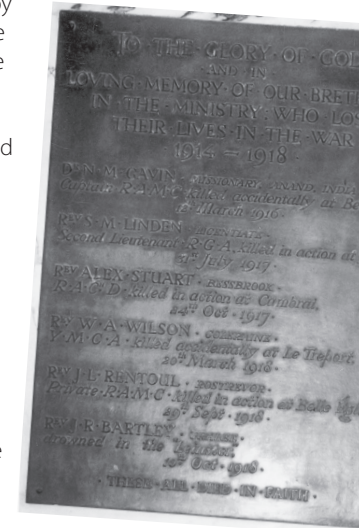
Rev. W.A. Wilson, Coleraine, YMCA, killed accidentally at Le Treport, 20 March, 1918.

Rev. J.L. Rentoul, Rostrevor, private RAMC, killed in action at Belle Eglise, 29 September, 1918.

Rev J.R. Bartley, Tralee, drowned in the Leinster, 10 October, 1918.

This was the culmination of a project first proposed by the Rev James Barkley Woodburn, minister of First Holywood Presbyterian Church, who wrote to the Convener of the Presbyterian War Memorial Executive Committee commending the idea. As a former minister of Rostrevor congregation (1901-1908) where Rev J.L. Rentoul had ministered from May 1914, he would have had a personal interest. The Committee advised that it should be progressed separately from the work of the Committee and without 'any public appeal' so it was funded by private donations from 'brother ministers.' The tablet was designed by Young and Mackenzie Architects, who had designed Church House (opened June 1905) and the names were engraved on bronze, in raised letters, mounted on a surround of Ballochmyle sandstone.

During renovations to Church House (now known as Assembly Buildings) in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, this tablet was lost. The recent anniversary commemorations of the sacrifices of 1914-1918 stirred the Forces Chaplaincy Panel of the Chaplaincy Committee to restore the memory of the tablet as a mark of respect to those honoured in 1921. This booklet tells the story of the tablet and of the lives of those inscribed.



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The Chaplains' work on the battlefield

For those offering themselves as Chaplains to the Forces in World War 1 there was no training for the role, except the 'Instructions to Chaplains' written by the Principal Chaplain. They were assigned to a location and plunged straight into the job. Their work was varied. They shared the dangers of the battlefield with the soldiers. Chaplains toured the trenches – "As we pass along the roar of our guns stuns our ears and the flash dazzles our eyes, and the hot breath seems to singe... we passed through a village, or rather through the remnants – the church is smashed and burned, and many houses are knocked beyond recognition... everywhere such walls as remain are pitted with shrapnel; from an upper window a cradle dangles, caught by the rocker." They conducted services and Bible studies under trees and in barns, visited the men in bunkers, dugouts and makeshift hospitals, helped them to write letters home and collected them for posting. They prayed with them, and distributed small gifts of cigarettes, sweets and soap. They comforted the wounded and the dying, conducted their funeral services and wrote to their relatives telling them something of the circumstances of their loved ones' deaths which compensated for the terse official notification 'killed in action'. The stress was considerable. One chaplain wrote from the French Front – "The strain is beyond enduring for more than a limited time... the heart gets so weary and the soul so tired... I have felt... completely drained of nervous energy after a twenty-five minutes' service with a dozen men in the damp, dirty corner of an old barn or byre... [and] continually in touch with fragments of battered and broken men..." Several of our chaplains served with the YMCA which erected prefabricated huts where men could rest, have a meal, and socialise. The inverted red triangle sign

of the YMCA was a welcome sight to battle-weary soldiers seeking respite. Some of these were funded by our Presbyterian Church through voluntary donations.



A Chaplain of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department (RACHD) conducting a burial service near the trenches. Near Guillemont. September 1916. IWM Q 4248





A chaplain conducting a burial service on the battlefield near Ovillers, middle of July 1916. IWM Q 820



Dr Neil Murphy Gavin



Born at Stirling, 22 January 1874, to Mr Hugh Gavin, a draper, and his wife, he left school, aged fourteen, and worked with his father for a period of eighteen months before moving to Stirling at age sixteen to serve an apprenticeship. Two elder brothers, Bailie and James, would later run the family firm at Stirling. Sometime later, he moved to Glasgow and then to London, where he was involved also in evangelistic work with the London Cottage Mission, based in the

East End, and which was associated with Regent Square Presbyterian Church. By this time he had decided to pursue a career in medicine, perhaps also influenced by the poor housing conditions, poverty, and disease to which children often succumbed in the East End. He joined the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society in 1896, and studied medicine at the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, qualifying in 1901. For a few months he worked in a country practice and took his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) in 1902. On 16 October 1902 he was ordained at Fisherwick Presbyterian Church as a missionary elder by the Presbytery of Belfast, and designated for missionary service in India. He went to Anand, India, to take charge of a Medical Mission there with PCI. This Belfast connection is probably explained by his friendship with Miss Maud Muriel Stevenson, also a medical student, whom he met while studying at Edinburgh. She was the youngest daughter of the Rev Dr William Fleming Stevenson, Rathgar, Dublin, who acted as Convener of the Foreign Mission for thirteen years, and she too

went to India to her brother, Rev John Sinclair Stevenson, at Parantij. She married Dr Gavin in December 1903. Dr Gavin began work in a temporary dispensary, winning the confidence of the people. A Mission House was built in 1904, and a hospital opened in 1905. Over the following years the work grew and the hospital facilities expanded. In response to an appeal by the British government for more medical personnel to help with the war effort, Dr Gavin offered his services and was granted leave in 1915 from his missionary work, to serve in France. On the 23 September 1915, he went to Aldershot and for six weeks helped at a German military prison camp near there. At the beginning of November, he went to France as a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps, 6th Field Ambulance, firstly, to a base hospital at Boulogne, and two weeks later, to the 6th Field Ambulance serving at the Front. He enjoyed a week's furlough in England with his wife and family in February 1916, before returning to France. He was exercising his horse at Bethune on the afternoon of Sunday, 12 March, and while passing by some transport mules his horse bolted, threw him, and left him unconscious. He was taken by motor ambulance to the nearest hospital, at Lapugnoy, with a fractured skull, where he died a few hours later. He was buried the next day at Lapuguoy Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. He was survived by his wife, Maud, of 35 Morton Hall Road, Edinburgh, and their four children, Katherine McKinnon, b. March 1906, Fleming Stevenson, b. June 1909, Ian Sinclair, b. March 1912, and Eileen Moira, b. March 1915. On the 3 April 1921, a War Memorial to honour members and adherents of the congregation of St Columba's, Park Terrace, Stirling, who lost their lives in the Great War, was unveiled which included the name of Neil Gavin. This had been the family Church, previously known as North United Free Church.





Chaplain writing letters for wounded at a dressing station near Noyelles, 8 October 1918. IWM Q 9518



Rev Samuel McCullagh Linden

Samuel McCullagh Linden was born on 30 September 1891 at Hackballs Cross, County Louth, the only child of constable Robert Linden (Royal Irish Constabulary) and his wife Elizabeth (née Baird). Linden studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and from 1910 to 1913, he served in the university's Officer Training Corps. He graduated BA. On 14 April 1915 he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the 10th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment. However, he had declined it owing to the ill-health of his parents. In November 1915 he was awarded a testimonial on vellum by the Royal Humane Society for having, "on 19th July last rescued two girls from 12 feet of water at Castlerock, County Derry." (*Belfast News-Letter*, 25 September 1915)

Linden enlisted in the North Irish Horse at Dublin on 25 February 1916 (No.2123) joining the regiment at Antrim on 4 March, where he was posted to H Squadron. On 24 April 1916 he married Florence Elizabeth Neill at Templemore, Londonderry. Their son, Robert Desmond, was born on 28 January 1917. On 1 August 1916 he applied for a commission in the artillery, or infantry. He was posted as a cadet gunner to 'B' Reserve Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery at St John's Wood, London, on 9 November, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 9th HAC Royal Garrison Artillery on 20 January of the following year. On 28 April 1917 he embarked for France as part of 323 Siege Battery. The following month he was posted to the 90th Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery (90th Heavy Artillery Group), which had arrived in France at the beginning of April and was on the Ypres front. Linden was killed in action at Vlamertinghe on 31 July 1917 – the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres. The war diary of the 90th Brigade for that day states: "He

was mentioned in Field Marshal Haig's despatch of 7 November 1917." Linden's body was buried in the Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery. After the war when the cemetery was checked for graves, there was no sign of it. It is believed that the site had been subjected to shellfire and many graves destroyed. In 1922, the Imperial War Graves Commission considered erecting a row of special memorials for the missing graves, but it was finally decided that it would be more appropriate to add their names to a memorial to the missing as that was more applicable to the believed status of their bodies. Linden is therefore commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Leper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panel 9. His name is included on the Memorial Tablet at Magee University College, Londonderry. He is also commemorated on a gravestone in Clonallan Church of Ireland Churchyard, Warrenpoint, County Down, Northern Ireland, which reads:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELIZABETH
WIFE OF ROBERT LINDEN
DIED 5TH JANUARY 1934
ALSO OF THEIR SON
SAMUEL LINDEN B. A.
MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES
KILLED IN ACTION 31ST JULY 1917
AT YPRES





A member of the Army Chaplains' Department (AChD) tending a soldier's grave in Carnoy Valley, July 1916. IWM Q 4004



Rev Alexander Stuart



Stuart was born on 14 August 1880, one of eleven children, to Rev Joseph Crawford Stuart, then Secession minister, of Clare, near Tandragee, and his wife Sarah Jane Fleming Stuart. He was one of five brothers who entered the ministry, the others being: Rev R.F. Stuart, Stranraer; Rev S.F. Stuart, of Ballyjamesduff, formerly AUGHNACLOY; Rev T.C. Stuart, Macosquin; and Rev Henry Cooke Stuart, Donaghmore, near Newry. He received his primary education at

Tanioky National School, near Poyntzpass, and Agnes Street National School, Belfast. He worked as a Grocer's assistant before studying at Magee College, Derry, followed by Assembly's College, Belfast, New College, Edinburgh, and Princeton College, New Jersey, USA. He was licensed on 3 June 1912, by the Presbytery of Newry. He was assigned as assistant to the Rev W.J. Baird, minister of Agnes Street, Belfast. On 21 May, 1913, he was ordained at Bessbrook in succession to the Rev Thomas Doey. On 17 June 1916 he went to Malta and then to Egypt to work amongst the soldiers with the YMCA, and felt it his duty to volunteer as a regular chaplain, on attachment with the 12th Batt. Royal Irish Rifles, holding the rank of Chaplain 4th Class. He was killed by a shell in France, near Cambrai, on Wednesday 24 October 1917, just two

weeks after his arrival. He was buried at Ruyaulcourt Military Cemetery, nineteen kilometres south-west of Cambrai. He is commemorated on the Memorial Tablet at the Magee University College, Londonderry.



Rev Prof Patton Taylor and Rev Mark Donald visit Rev Alexander Stuart's grave at Ruyaulcourt Military Cemetery, 21 April 2018

THE REV. ALEXANDER STUART.

Killed in Action, 24th October, 1917.

AN APPRECIATION BY A FELLOW-STUDENT.

All hail; thou radiant, regnant soul,
Thou art not dead, God only stole
A march, and at the Heavenly Goal
We'll see thee once again.

But, sure, we'll miss thee in the ways
Of life, where thou wert in our gaze,
Exhaling odour through the days
Of Christ-like character.

"Fallen" thou art, so men would say,
But no; thou'rt risen, 'thout dismay,
From out the din of thund'rous fray,
To Peace and Joy and Home.

Sweet is the thought of thee, dear friend,
Sacred thy mem'ry without end,
Though heart within us seems to rend,
We bless God's gift of thee.

Gentle and gracious, constant, true,
Blent with a faith to be and do
The best for others, without ruse,
Thou'st gained the Saintly Crown:

We know thou hast not lived in vain,
Escutcheon thine so free from stain,
Thou'lt left us singing this refrain,
"Thy will, O Lord, be done."

Sheffield.

S. L. M.

Poem from The Witness, 9 November 1917

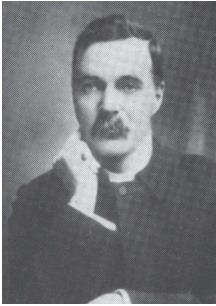




Three Army Chaplains (Church of England, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian) attend the burial of four British soldiers. IWM Q 13390



Rev William Andrew Wilson



William Andrew Wilson was the eldest son of the Rev A. J. Wilson DD, minister of Malone, and Clerk of the Presbytery of Belfast for almost thirty-two years. He was born May 1869 at Minterburn Manse, County Tyrone. William Wilson was educated at Belfast Academical Institute, and Queen's College, Belfast. He obtained the degrees of BA and MA from the Royal University of Ireland, and entered Assembly's College in 1891, taking part

of his theological course at New College, Edinburgh. He was licensed by the Belfast Presbytery on 1 May, 1894, and appointed as assistant to the Rev Robert Wallace, New Row, Coleraine. On Mr Wallace's retirement the congregation called him as his successor, and Stuart was ordained and installed as minister on 31 March 1896. He married Ellen Forsythe Smith, Moore Lodge, Co Antrim, in 1898, by whom he had three sons, one of whom died shortly after birth. He offered himself for work with the YMCA and in April 1916 was assigned to a convalescent camp at Le Havre for three months. The YMCA requested he remain for another three months that winter. His contribution was so much appreciated that he returned for a third time. On the morning of Wednesday 20 March 1918 he visited several of the huts at Abbeville, and, after lunch, set out with Colonel Austin, Chaplain General to the forces at Le Havre, for Le Trepot, a small town on the coast, intending to visit his brother-in-law, Rev F.W.S. O'Neill, MA, and his brother, Rev George Wilson, BA (both working with the YMCA) later in the day. The Daimler car in



The family of Rev A.J. Wilson, minister of Malone Presbyterian Church (1883-1912). His son, Rev William Andrew Wilson, is seated second from the right in the front row.

which they were travelling lost a wheel, and swerved to the left. The chauffeur steered to the right to avoid hitting a high bank but plunged down a steep embankment into a field. The chauffeur was killed instantly and his two passengers were thrown clear. Colonel Austin was uninjured. Wilson received a head wound which seemed to be superficial. He was being taken by ambulance to hospital to be checked when he lapsed into unconsciousness and died two hours after being admitted to No 2 British General Hospital, Le Havre. His funeral service was conducted by the Rev Professor Paul of McCrea-Magee College, Londonderry, assisted by Captain Mitchell, Presbyterian Chaplain, and he was buried at Sante Marie cemetery.





A chaplain writing a field post card for a wounded British soldier near Carnoy. 30 July 1916. IWM Q 4060



Rev James Lawrence Rentoul



Born in July 1885, Darlington, England, son of Rev Robert Wilson Reid Rentoul, who had been minister of Ballywatt (1867-1880) but who went to St George's, Darlington, in 1880. He returned to Ireland with his wife and family in 1892, and on 3 May 1892 was installed at Clonmel and Fethard. James Lawrence was educated at Clonmel model and grammar Schools, then Queen's College, Galway. He trained for the ministry at Assembly's College, enrolling in 1907, and he was licensed on 6 June 1910. He was ordained at Rostrevor on 20 May 1914.

In July 1914 he married Agnes Eileen Moore, of Killinchy. Their son, Lawrence Moore, was born on 7 December 1915. The Rev Rentoul enlisted at Newry on 15 May 1918 as a private with the Royal Army Medical Corps in the 91st Field Ambulance. Following training at Blackpool, he arrived at Boulogne on 1 September 1918, and joined his depot at Etaples the next day. He held Services on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Serving as a stretcher-bearer, he was killed with two others when their dugout took a direct hit early on the morning of Monday 30 September. He was buried at La Baraque British cemetery, Bellenglise, Picardy. His son, Lawrence Moore Rentoul, died of wounds in Italy on 25 June 1944, during WW2. He was a Second Lieutenant in the 4th Regiment Reconnaissance Corps in Italy. He was buried at Assisi.



RAMC personnel giving a wounded man water from a petrol tin at a regimental aid post in an abandoned trench. Near Albert, 9 August 1918. IWM Q 9189





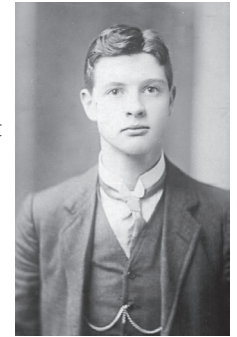
A chaplain conducting church service from the nacelle of a Royal Aircraft Factory F.E.2b night bomber at No. 2 Aeroplane Supply Depot, 1 September 1918. IWM Q 12108



Rev John Robert Bartley

Mr Bartley was born at Bailieborough, County Cavan, on 13 June 1855, a son of William Bartley, building contractor. His brother, Thomas, became minister of 2nd Castleblaney and, later, Ballycarry. The family belonged to Corglass Presbyterian Church, and Mr Bartley was educated at Baillieborough Model School and studied at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating BA in 1879. He prepared for the Christian ministry at the Assembly's College, Belfast, New College, Edinburgh, and Geneva. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Raphoe on 9 May 1882, and ordained at Trenta, County Donegal, on 30 January 1883. After a short ministry there, he moved to Carnone, County Donegal, where he was installed on 26 May 1885. Further study led to the award of LLB in 1886, also from Trinity. He left Ireland in 1894 and settled to ministry at Kingston, Ontario, with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Two years later he returned to Ireland being received by the Presbytery of Carrickfergus, but, in 1899, he joined the Eastern Reformed Presbyterian Synod and was installed in the Botanic Avenue congregation, Belfast, on 21 February, and lived with a sister, Elizabeth Bartley, at 19 Cameron Street. However, he returned to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as did others from the ERP Church, and was installed at Tralee on 10 March 1903. He married twice. Firstly, in 1887, to Katherine Stormonth MacAlister, the eldest of eight children of Rev Donald Mackinnon MacAlister, Greyfriars Free Church, Edinburgh, and his wife Katherine Anne (née MacLagan), by whom he had a daughter, also Katherine, born 1889, and a son, William, born 2 February 1893. Mr Bartley's wife, Katherine died at Edinburgh in 1895. He married secondly, Marion Emily Orr, in 1901, (d.21 February 1953) a daughter of Joseph Orr, Belfast, and by whom he had a son, James Orr, born 7 June 1906.

His son, William Bartley, who had emigrated to Canada around 1910, and enlisted 24 August 1915 with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Manitoba Regiment, was severely wounded in action on 8 August 1918 near the village of Hourges, south-east of Amiens, while serving as a Sergeant with the 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion. Mr Bartley set out to travel to London to visit his son who was being nursed at the Tooting Military Hospital. He boarded the ill-fated RMS (Royal Mail Steamer) Leinster, carrying over 687 passengers and 70 crew, which left Kingstown (Dunlaoghaire) just before 9am on 10 October. It was torpedoed twice around 10am by German U-boat 123 in the Irish sea, four nautical miles from Dublin Bay, and sank with the loss of 500 lives, including Mr Bartley. (The U-boat sank on 18 October 1918, after hitting a mine, with the loss of the whole crew). He was buried at Tralee New Cemetery, Protestant Plot, as was his son, Sergeant William Bartley, beside his father, who died from his wounds 16 October 1918.



*Sergeant William Bartley,
son of Rev John Robert Bartley*





Group of British troops outside an YMCA hut at Dickebusch, 18 May 1917. IWM Q 5390A



Three Students

Although not chaplains, we also record here the service and deaths of three Presbyterian students who served in the army, two of whom were enrolled as students of theology and the other as a prospective ministry student.

James Herbert Buchanan, Lieutenant



Herbert Buchanan was born at Ballyward, Banbridge, on 12 August 1892, one of three children and only son of George Buchanan, Prospect House, a retired teacher (1912) at the local national School, and farmer, and his wife Elizabeth, née Ochiltree. Mr Buchanan was also a Sunday School teacher and Secretary to Drumlee Congregational Committee. Herbert was educated at the Excelsior Academy, Banbridge, which merged with the

Banbridge Academical Institution in 1915, to become the Banbridge Academy. He proceeded to the Queen's University, Belfast, and enrolled in the Faculty of Arts, 1910-1914, with a view of studying for the ordained ministry. He joined the university Officer Training Corps on 17 January 1911 and rose to the rank of Sergeant. On the 24 June 1914 he was made a Second Lieutenant and assigned to the 4th Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. He was stationed at Carrickfergus for the following few months and was made a Lieutenant on 2 November 1914. He left for France on the 16 February 1915 with a draft of two hundred men. Soon after arriving he was attached to the 1st Battalion Leinster and 1st Norfolk Regiments. His regiment

was part of the surprise assault on the village of Neuve Chapelle which had begun on the 10 March. He was among the fighting men in the trenches when he was fatally wounded on the 15 March. His Captain paid tribute saying, "On the evening of the 14th March he led his men against a German trench, and with great valour took it and held it till morning when it was found to be untenable. At daylight the order was given to retreat, and while assembling his men he was shot twice through the body by snipers." He died the next morning at the Field Hospital to which he had been taken and was buried that evening at Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, Belgium: West-Vlaanderen. A Commanding Officer said of him, "To say that Lieutenant Buchanan was loved by his men is not enough, they idolised him." His name is included on the War Memorial of his home congregation of Drumlee, near Rathfriland, County Down, and also on a mural tablet erected by fellow students in the Common Room of the Presbyterian College, Belfast, where he had resided during his time at Queen's. His uniform was returned to his family who preserved it with great care, until his sister, Queenie, passed it to her friend, Mrs Mildred E. Crawford, who donated it to the Armagh County Museum, Armagh, where it can be seen on display.





The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) hut that is well under shell fire. Near Ypres, 21 September 1917. IWM Q 5985



Daniel Kerr, Lieutenant



Was born in 1892, a son of Mr Samuel Joseph Kerr and his wife, Margaret (née Morrison), of Craignamaddy, Stranocum, Bushmills. He graduated BA from the Queen's University, Belfast, in 1912, and went to Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, USA, for the winter session of 1912-1913, to study for the ministry with the intention of offering himself for missionary service once he was ordained. During the summer of 1913 he was in charge of a mission station in Canada for

five months. On returning to Ireland he continued his studies at the McCrea Magee University College, Londonderry. On the outbreak of war, he offered himself for service with the cavalry but there was no vacancy and on 9 December 1914 he joined the 14th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, attached to the South Wales Borderers. After a period of training the now Lieutenant Kerr embarked with his regiment and reached Egypt early in June 1915. On 2 July 1915, he landed in the Gallipoli peninsula, where four days later he died while defending a communications trench from the Turks at Achi Baba, a prominent hill feature overlooking the allied forces landing point at Cape Helles held by the Turks, and which, for some months, the allied forces had been attempting to take. He was buried at the foot of Achi Baba. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey, and on a Memorial in the Magee College, University. He named his widowed mother as his beneficiary in his will. His brother, William John, was minister of Kingsmills (1921-1927) and Donegal Pass, Belfast. (1927-1929)

David Paul, Second Lieutenant



David Paul was born 12 May 1893, the eldest son of five surviving children of James Paul, farmer, and his wife, Isabella (née Shiels), at Crew, Maghera. He attended Rainey Endowed School, Maghera, then Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, USA, seventy miles west of New York and affiliated to the Presbyterian Church. He graduated from Lafayette in

1914 then spent two years at Seminary at Princeton University, New Jersey. He returned home in 1916 to take his third year of theological study at the Assembly's College, Belfast. On his return to Ireland from Princeton he joined the Queens University Officer Training Corps on 5 June 1916. He became a Second Lieutenant in the 16th Royal Irish Rifles, being sent to France in March 1917. He was severely wounded in October and returned home on leave in January 1918. On returning to France he served with the 16th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles at St Quentin. The Germans attacked the Front at St Quentin on 21 March 1918 for five hours from early morning with a bombardment of over a million shells. David Paul was fatally wounded in this. A fellow soldier later reported that he saw him lying near the light railway and thought he was dead. Another report suggests he died later that day. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial in Picardie, France.





Interior of the No.2 Convalescent Depot YMCA hut at Rouen, 18 May 1917. IWM Q 5454



Notes

Some notes on the regiments and organisations referred to in the main text.

The Royal Army Medical Corps.

Medical help existed with the army since 1660. In 1889 The Royal Army Medical Corps was created in a re-organisation. It oversaw the work of the medical units attached to regiments. The wounded were attended to in a chain of evacuation in which the sick wounded were moved away from their units through a series of posts – the regimental aid post, the collecting post, the advanced and main dressing station, the casualty clearing station and finally the general hospital either in France or England via hospital ship. These were operated by the Field Ambulances (not vehicles). The Corps was assisted by the British Red Cross, St John's Ambulance and many other voluntary organisations.

The North Irish Horse.

The North Irish horse was formed in 1908 following the creation of the Territorial Reserve, and raised specifically in the northern counties of Ireland. It was formed out of the pre-existing Yeomanry units.

The Royal Irish Fusiliers

This was formed in 1827 out of existing units and a further re-organisation in 18981 added the name Princess Victoria.

The Royal Irish Rifles

The Regiment was officially formed in 1881 when the 83rd and 86th Regiments of Foot were amalgamated however its history can be traced back 88 years prior to this date.

The Cheshire Regiment

The Cheshire Regiment can trace its history back as far as 1689.

The Royal Garrison Artillery

The RGA developed from fortress-based artillery located on British coasts. From 1914 when the army possessed very little heavy artillery it grew into a very large component of the British forces. It was armed with heavy, large calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line and had immense destructive power. The role of the Siege Batteries was to destroy or neutralise the enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on strongpoints, dumps, store, roads and railways behind enemy lines.



Sources

Thanks to – Mr Graham Truesdale, Drumlee; the Rev Gareth Stewart, Maghera Presbyterian Church; Very Rev Dr Godfrey Brown, Minister Emeritus, Ballycastle Presbyterian Church.

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Queens University and Its Officer Training Corps WW1 and WW2 War Memorial



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'Daniel Kerr' - a file of unpublished material held by Croaghmore Presbyterian Church, Co Antrim.





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