



1914 1918

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

I BELIEVE THAT THROUGHOUT
THE WHOLE OF THIS WAR WHEREVER

ORANGEMEN

HAVE BEEN FOUND THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE

FOREFRONT OF DUTY, EVER WILLING TO GIVE A HAND

TO BRING ABOUT A
SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE

WAR

— EDWARD CARSON

12 JULY 1918

The First World War was one of the greatest calamities of the Twentieth Century. Between August 1914 and November 1918, 41 million soldiers and civilians would be killed or wounded during the fighting.

It was the first Total War of the modern era, with theatres of battle extending well beyond the traditional definition of the battlefield.

New devastating weapons such as the Zeppelin, and large artillery pieces, would harry civilians as well as soldiers.

Early propaganda of a 'quick war' was quickly eclipsed by mud, blood and disease as the grim realities of modern Total War took hold.



Belfast
City Council



Map of Europe highlighting the alliance system of the European Powers in 1915.

BACKGROUND TO WAR

By the beginning of 1914 Europe was divided into a complicated system of alliances that reflected the changing nature of power.

The 'Central Powers', as they became known, were made up of Germany, Austria-Hungary and, initially, Italy. This was 'The Triple Alliance' (1882).

The 'Triple Entente' (1907) was made up of Russia, France and Great Britain.

What complicated things further was the fact that a number of smaller nations had alliances with the two major power blocks with the result that a single dispute had the potential of drawing these larger alliances into war. This is exactly what happened after the assassination of **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** on 28 June 1914. The murder was perpetrated by a Serbian Nationalist called **Gavrilo Princip**.

Outraged by the assassination, Austria-Hungary demanded justice from Serbia. This quickly changed to a declaration of war triggering a series of alliances.

Europe and the World blundered into War.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914. Wikimedia Commons.

Gavrilo Princip, Serbian Nationalist. It was his action in June 1914 that would trigger the European Alliance system and result in World War. Wikimedia Commons





John Chittick in his UVF uniform prior to enlistment in the Royal Irish Rifles. John was a member of North Star LOL No. 740.



GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND AND THE WAR

At the outbreak of war Sir James H. Stronge, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, appealed to Orangemen to join the armed forces to defend democracy;

"It is not for Orangemen to limit their patriotism to service on our shores or to wait until the law compels them to take up arms. It is for us to do our duty betimes and with a good will as citizens of a great Empire, trusting that God will deliver us from the dangers both foreign and domestic, by which we are now encompassed."

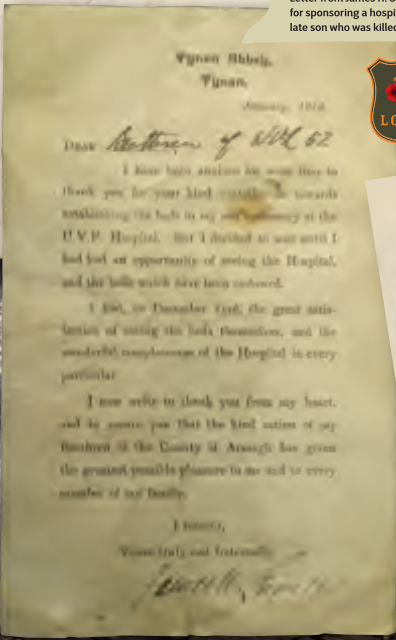
Despite such patriotic bravado, there was initial reluctance in Ulster to volunteer for military service. This hesitation was a product of the Third Home Rule Crisis. Unionists, especially those involved in the Ulster Volunteer Force, were not prepared to go and fight outside Ireland if a Nationalist and Republican threat remained a real and present danger at home. It wasn't until John Redmond, leader of Nationalist Ireland, pledged the majority of the Irish National Volunteers to fight for little Belgium, that the suspicions of many Unionists and Orangemen were soothed.

With fears of a civil war in Ireland averted, Orangemen flocked to the ranks. Recruitment was swift and constant in these early months of the war, so much so, that many lodges were unable to meet. In Comber District, the lodges met as one for the duration of the war.

IT IS NOT FOR
ORANGEMEN
TO LIMIT THEIR
PATRIOTISM
AS CITIZENS OF A GREAT
EMPIRE

— SIR JAMES H. STRONGE

Letter from James H. Stronge thanking brethren for sponsoring a hospital bed in memory of his late son who was killed in action in 1917.



Sir James H. Stronge, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.



A WORD TO ORANGEWOMEN.



MRS LOUISA EWART,
W.M., L.O.L. 170

48 Park Road,
Bearwood,
Birmingham.

Dear Sisters,

I want you please to help me to make some special effort on behalf of our brave brothers who have gone out to fight for Right, Truth, Justice and Freedom.

Our Brethren and others serving the colours at home and abroad will be wanting socks, shirts, woollen helmets, mufflers and handkerchiefs, etc. The wounded will be wanting bandages. Will every Orangewomen and other Protestant women please do something? We have no fund wherewith to purchase material, but according to your means, try and supply as many of the above mentioned articles as you can and we will send them away in the name of Orange and Protestant Englishwomen.

Kindly bring my appeal before the notice of your members at next Lodge.

And oblige, Yours very sincerely,
M. I. EWART.

Margaret Ewart's appeal for support. She was the wife of the English Grand Secretary and appealed for Orangewomen to do their bit for the war effort. *The Orange Standard*.

“ORANGEISM BREEDS LOYALTY”

Louis Ewart
Grand Secretary, England



Colonel Sir Archibald Douglas MacInness Shaw D.S.O. Shaw joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1914 and was twice mentioned in dispatches. After the war he would become Grand Master of Scotland and Imperial Grand Master of the Imperial Grand Orange Council of the World.



The number of Orangemen serving was immense. By 1915, **Sons of William LOL No. 652** had 160 out of its 177 serving with the forces, 107 of whom were in the Royal Navy. This was reflected across the World Orange Family.

With so many Orangemen enlisting, the Grand Orange Lodge of England encouraged lodges to record both service and sacrifice. In 1915 they were able to report that at least 1,411 members had enlisted in the military.



Lodges were not just impacted by members serving at the front. Many Orangemen and women were also involved in essential or protected jobs that were vital to the war economy. During the war **LOL No. 853** from York had every member serving with the military, in government service or in protected jobs.



The newly formed **LOL 1063** in Newtowncunningham, Co. Donegal, had 37 of its 72 members serving at the front by 1916.

It is estimated that 85% of those Scottish Orangemen eligible for service enlisted during the war.

Col. R. H. Wallace (centre) with Officers from the 19th (Reserve) Battalion, 36th (Ulster) Division.



ULSTER DIVISION

MEN are Urgently required for the

19th (Reserve) Battalion

Royal Irish Rifles

Newcastle, Co. Down, Ireland.

Commanding Officer:
COL. ROBERT H. WALLACE, C.B.

Go to the nearest Recruiting Office and Enlist into this Battalion.

I appeal to every Orangeman about to enlist, to join the above Battalion. If accepted, your fare will be paid to Ireland.
Louis A. Ewart,
Grand Secretary.

36th (Ulster) Division Recruitment Appeal printed by *The Orange Standard* in January 1916.

THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS ANNIVERSARY
WAS NOT FORGOTTEN... THE NOISE OF

PIPES & DRUMS

COULD BE HEARD ALL OVER THE CAMP
DECORATED WITH LOYAL EMBLEMS
IN SHORT, WE HAD A
'LITTLE TWELFTH'

Letter from Johnny Logan to his sister Margaret, July 1915.
The letter was sent from the 36th (Ulster) Division training
camp at Seaford. Courtesy of the Campbell family.

*I am writing you a few lines in answer to your
letter. The which I was glad to receive.
You have not yet got the twelfth over it seems
there were some rain through the day at was a heavy
day. But we had a holiday day we had nothing to do
and the boys were playing from one school in the school
morning and some of them had their letters with them
such as my. And which out of our letters we had a long
day but all the same a lot of them would not have begun
a good lot to have got away I would have liked to have
seen at home for it.*

*That twelfth and was very thankful to you for the twelfth
and you saw the twelfth that I was making about now and
day. I did not see you when I was away I suppose my
mother was in a bad state about the twelfth about some of us
there but she will soon get over it as we are in a fairly good
state here and it is very lucky that we do not think
a bit long we have good work. as I think this is all I have
got to say now wishing you all well because it will have
a very good twelfth.*



Captain J.T. O'Neill of 17th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. O'Neill was WM of LOL No. 862 and of Belgravia LOL No. 1079. He contracted pneumonia when at Ballykinlar Training Camp and died in the Royal Victoria Hospital on 10 October 1916.



RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

As a global organisation, the Orange Institution had a close connection with Service and Sacrifice during World War I. An estimated 200,000 would serve during the war. Many would not return home.

Local folklore has it that Orangemen and members of the public jostled with each other to be the first to enlist in Derrygonnelly Orange Hall, such was the expectation that this would be a quick war.

Given the importance of Orangeism to many who enlisted, the war witnessed the reintroduction of military warrants; largely under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orange Lodge of England. Lodge meetings at training camps and on service provided a welcome break from hostilities. It was this aspect of normality, an opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones, that saw the egalitarian and fraternal nature of Orangeism flourish in some of the darkest theatres of the war.

Training camps sprang up across the British Isles and the Empire. Thousands of Orangemen engaged in basic training in places like Clondeboy, Newcastle and Finner; while Australians and New Zealanders embarked for training in Egypt.

One of the main training camps for soldiers in Ulster was at Clondeboy, near Bangor.

The annual Twelfth celebrations were not forgotten by Orangemen during basic training. One NCO in the 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers described the scene at Seaford, East Sussex, in July 1915;

"I may state that the great and glorious anniversary was not forgotten. Shortly after 12 o'clock on Sunday night there was the sound of the drums... and everybody looked forward with pleasurable anticipation to the morning. Before the men...were out of bed the noise of pipes and drums could be heard all over the camp... All the huts were decorated with loyal emblems; banners were here and there to be seen – in short, we had a 'little Twelfth'"

Photograph of the English Grand Master and Grand Secretary with Orangemen from the Ulster Division at Seaford Camp in England. *The Orange Standard*, November 1915.



1914 1918
SERVICE
AND
SACRIFICE



Samuel Donaldson



John Donaldson



James Donaldson

GLOBAL ENTHUSIASM

Like other countries involved in the war, a patriotic fervour descended across the Empire and Dominions, resulting in a generation of young men enlisting in the military.

Families, friends, neighbours all responded to the cause of Crown, Constitution and Democracy, creating a new kind of army that capitalised on the close fraternal spirit of organisations like the Orange Institution.



Many who joined together would die together. One example, reflected many times over, was that of the Donaldson brothers from Comber. James, John and Samuel Donaldson joined the Ulster Division together and all advanced over the top on 1 July 1916 at the Somme. Within hours all three had been killed. They were members of **Comber Old Standard LOL No. 567**.



Samuel White, one of three brothers from Canada and member of **Aughrim Rose of Derry LOL No. 2159**, served with the 36th (Ulster) Division and was taken prisoner at the Battle of the Somme. LOL No. 2159 actually had two sets of three brothers serving at the front. Samuel White's brothers, Joseph and David, served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and the North Irish Horse, and John, James and Hugh Stitt served with the 15th and 16th Battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.



SERGEANT ROBERT GROVES M.M.

Formerly of New South Wales, Robert tried to enlist underage in 1914 but was refused. His brothers John and William had already enlisted, John serving on board HMAS Australia and William with the Australian Imperial Force in France. In August 1915, Robert tried again, motivated by the fact that a lot of his friends had already paid the supreme sacrifice. He completed training in Egypt and Liverpool and was deployed to France being elevated to the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in 1916. Unfortunately, he was killed by a sniper near Ypres on 20 September 1917. He was a member of LOL No. 243.



Sergeant Walter Langley Baxter served in the 18th Battalion, 1ST AIF. He was injured at Gallipoli, and died at Ypres, Belgium on 20th September 1917, aged 24. He was a member of Annandale LOL No. 243.



Sgt. Bro. Walter Langley Baxter, L.O.L., 243.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Belcher formerly of the Mounted Police, was determined to enlist and do his bit at the outbreak of war. He was 66 years of age at the time of his enlistment!





Thomas Irwin and his wife.



Bro. Thomas Irwin helped to found LOL No. 899 under a military warrant at Saikot, India, in 1919. He was formerly a member of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.



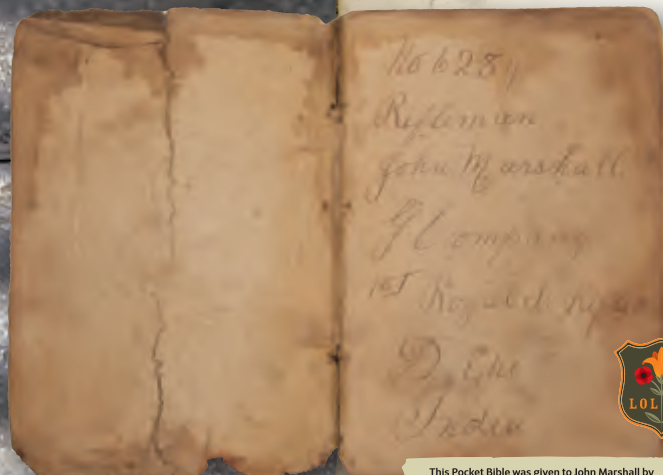
THE WESTERN FRONT

Many expected the war to be short, with some optimistically believing they would be "home by Christmas." Such a view would be short lived.

After declaring war in defence of Belgium, the small professional British Army was deployed to northern France. Propaganda in Britain reported that the German Kaiser had no respect for Britain's "...contemptible little Army." This may have been propaganda, but it earned the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) the nickname 'Contemptibles'. Soon, however, they would be reinforced by units from all over the Empire and volunteers from home. Initially, the BEF tried to stop the advancing Germans at Mons but were outmatched.

One of those deployed with the BEF was **Bro. Thomas Irwin** from Castlederg. A professional soldier, Thomas had joined the army in 1905 and at the outbreak of war found himself at the front. At Mons the Germans poured forward with over 90,000 men, dwarfing the British units and forcing them to retreat. Bro. Irwin would receive a head wound during the fighting that would end his front-line participation in the war.

Within weeks major battles had been fought along the Marne, and at Ypres, to save Paris. Soon this war of rapid movement would be reduced to a war of attrition amidst the mud and blood of a 400-mile trench system that extended from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border.



This Pocket Bible was given to John Marshall by members of Military LOL No. 703, Rising Sons of India. Marshall served with the Royal Irish Rifles and was a prisoner of war from October 1914 until the end of the war.



Samuel Fowles and his wife Elizabeth



Extract from a letter by Bro. Sales to The Orange Standard in December 1914.

we captured some hundreds of Germans, and eleven guns, out of which our regiment took five which was not bad work. I had a nice job the same night, as there were six of us left in charge of the wounded prisoners until the ambulance came for them next morning. We had to let some of them be among the dead as they were too badly wounded to move until the ambulance arrived—it was really worse than the fighting. **I only hope they treat our wounded the same. We shared our own rations with them and left ourselves short.** I think myself, if the German private soldier has his way this war would not last long. One of them who spoke English, said they had had enough of it, in fact, they did not know they were fighting the English for several weeks after the commencement of the War. He was formerly a waiter at the Hotel Cecil. **One day we were fighting and had been engaged for several hours when a party of Germans hoisted the white flag to surrender.** When we left our cover to take them prisoners and got amongst them, another party of them opened fire on us and killed several of our chaps, but we managed to get over one hundred of them. Another man and myself got five of them between us and I can assure you we made them run quicker than ever they did. They did not know when we told them in English to run but they understood when we rattled our bayonets at them. I think the most trying thing in war is when you are under Artillery fire for the first time, but we are used to them now. The troops out here are in splendid condition and in the best of spirits and each one fit to beat three Germans any time.

GALLANT BELFAST ORANGEMAN

SERGEANT SAMUEL KELLY

9TH BATTALION ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS

CROSSED ‘NO MAN’S LAND’ WEARING AN ORANGE SASH

THE ORANGE STANDARD: 5TH MAY 1917

Line of gravestones in Martinsart Cemetery. These are unusual in that they are carved from sandstone rather than limestone. Image courtesy of Chris Irwin.



Thomas John Bell was a member of LOL No. 828 and 13th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. He was one of those killed at Martinsart.



Bro. James Carson from Banbridge was a stretcher bearer with the 13th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, and preparing for the push on the Somme before being killed at Martinsart.



PRIVATE ARCHIBALD KELLY



The story of Archibald Kelly is a sad one. The eldest son of Joseph and Maggie Kelly of James Street, Coleraine, Archibald enlisted, underage, in the 9th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Like many hundreds of others, he was killed on 1 July 1916 at the Somme.

Initially, he was reported missing and his father posted an appeal in local newspapers for information but there was no response. His mother, however, refused to believe he had been killed and went to meet the weekly train that brought wounded and convalescing soldiers home each Saturday.

Finally, the family wrote to the army for official confirmation of his death, in the hope that it would bring some peace to his mother. He was only 18.



Hugh Tanner was a member of LOL No. 693 and served with the 109th Brigade of the Ulster Division at the Battle of the Somme. Tanner and his watch would survive the war with Hugh becoming Manager/trainer of Distillery Football Club and Northern Ireland, in the 1920s.



THE SOMME

The Battle of the Somme was one of the bloodiest campaigns of World War I.

During 147 days, thousands of Orangemen from across the World would be among the tens of thousands of soldiers from the British Isles, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa, that attempted to change the dynamics of the Western front.

The Somme became a defining moment for Orangeism. Even before the Battle proper began; the carnage of what was to come was clear to the Ulster Division.

THE MARTINSART SHELL



Martinsart was the forward command for the Ulster Division. On 28 June the 13th Royal Irish Rifles began to form up to replace the 11th Battalion, who had been occupying the forward trenches. At 8pm, just as ‘C’ Company were moving off, a German shell landed in their midst. 14 men were killed instantly, including Orangemen **David Dale** (LOL No. 423) and **James Carson** from Banbridge, **Thomas Bell** (LOL No. 828), **Thomas Brown** and **William Darragh** (LOL No. 287) from Dromore, and **Albert Crangle** (LOL No. 140) from Hillsborough.

The men who died on the Somme were part of Kitchener’s new Volunteer Army. Men who had grown up together, worked together, and enlisted as one would now fight, and in many cases die, side by side.

‘JULY FIRST’

The first day of the Battle of the Somme is indelibly seared in the psyche of Ulster Orangeism. Hardly a community across Ulster was left untouched by this battle. On that morning hundreds of Orangemen, evoking the spirit of the Battle of the Boyne (1 July 1690), charged towards enemy lines. The preceding bombardment had not destroyed the barbed wire or the German defences and, as a result, many faced the unrelenting fire poured down by German machine guns.

On that morning **William** and **Johnny Logan** from Rose of Sharon LOL No. 471, Crumlin, charged forward. While Johnny survived, William was never seen again. His name is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.



Robert Quigg V.C. was a member of Aird LOL No. 1195 and later Bushmills LOL No. 914. His actions on 1 and 2 July 1916 would see him awarded the Victoria Cross.



1914 1918
SERVICE AND SACRIFICE



THE ‘FIGHTING PARSON’



One of those who found himself in the midst of this campaign was **Rev. Dr. Everard Digges La Touche**, 2nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force.

Everard Digges La Touche had been born outside Newcastle in County Down. His family were of Huguenot origin and owned Burrendale House. His father served and was killed during the Boer War and the young Everard and his brother went with the family to Rathmines, Dublin. While in Dublin he excelled academically, graduating Trinity College with a gold medal. The Digges La Touche family returned to Burrendale and Everard became Worshipful Master of Newcastle LOL No. 357. In 1906 he briefly departed for Australia before returning to England where he was ordained as an Anglican Minister.

After several church positions in England and Ireland, Everard married, and he and his wife emigrated to Australia in 1910. In Melbourne he made a name for himself as a charismatic and popular character. At the outbreak of war, he applied to become a chaplain in the Australian Army but was refused such a move by his superiors. He decided to enlist as a private and after one refusal on medical grounds eventually became a member of the Australian Imperial Force. He was quickly appointed Sergeant during training in England and Second Lieutenant in May 1915.

Like thousands of other Australians, he was deployed to Gallipoli, landing on the peninsula on 16 June 1916. As a reinforcement officer he could have held back but this was not in his nature. At 5.30am on 6 August he went over the top with the first wave. Everard was immediately mortally wounded but was able to crawl back down into the trench to die among his own comrades.

Newcastle War Memorial, County Down.



GALLIPOLI AND THE DARDANELLES

That which began as a European war quickly spread throughout the World.

Thousands enlisted from across the British Empire and soon service personnel from Canada, Australia and New Zealand were engaged in the fighting.

One of the most dramatic theatres for the war outside Europe, was Turkey. The Ottoman Empire entered an alliance with the Central Powers on 2 August 1914.

With mobile warfare on the western front becoming impossible, due to the creation of trenches and fortifications, military and political leaders sought alternative theatres of war. In 1915 British and French forces attempted to capture the Dardanelle straits that led to the Black Sea, and force the Ottoman Empire into retreat. The subsequent Naval attack on the Straits failed and the accompanying landings of allied troops on the Gallipoli peninsula met with stiff Turkish resistance.

It was in this campaign that thousands of Australian and New Zealand soldiers would find their first bitter taste of war.

On 25 April 17,000 ANZAC troops, reinforced by British and French units, landed on the Gallipoli coast. Early successes were not capitalised on and failure to advance allowed the Turks to bring up machine guns. The Allies were soon pinned down on short tracts of land around Suvla bay, ‘Anzac Cove’ and Helles bay. For 6 months the Allies battled bravely but by November the High Command admitted defeat and started to evacuate the remaining soldiers.

Respite for these soldiers was short lived as many were soon redeployed to Palestine and Europe.

Trooper James Happer of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles. He and his brother, Thomas, were both members of LOL No. 23 in New South Wales and were deployed to Gallipoli. James died of his wounds on 19 May 1915 and his brother Thomas was killed in action on 6 June 1915.





COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION

WALTZING MATILDA



ARTHUR LEANING MISCAMBLE

Arthur Leaning Miscamble served with the Special Reinforcement 1st Australian General Hospital. The hospital was established at Rouen in April 1916 and remained there until the end of hostilities. It was predominantly a tented hospital with a capacity for 750 patients. By the end of the war 90,298 patients had passed through its wards.



A member of Roma LOL, Miscamble survived the war and returned to his job as a coachbuilder, becoming Mayor of Roma in the 1930s.

The Australian endeavour at Gallipoli is often regarded as the 'birth of a nation' as Australians not only proved themselves but sacrificed so many of their young men in what many regarded as a glorious defeat.

The Gallipoli catastrophe was not the only campaign involving significant numbers of Australians. The Somme, Flanders and Palestine all loom large as theatres of war for the Australian nation. Within their ranks were many Orangemen.

The first Australian casualty of the war occurred in September 1914. On 11 September an Australian Naval and Military task force arrived to take the German colony of New Guinea. As the Australians moved to capture a German Wireless Station, fighting ensued. The first casualty was Able Seaman **William George Vincent Williams**, a member of LOL No. 92 in Melbourne. Several Orangemen were part of this taskforce with LOL No. 875 operating on board *HMAS Australia*. His grave is located in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Rabaul.

Australians distinguished themselves across all theatres of the war. Indeed, more Australian blood was shed during the Battle of the Somme than at Gallipoli.

Bro. John. R. Dummigan receiving treatment in Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. Originally from County Down, John joined the AIF in 1915 and was wounded during fighting around Pozieres in July 1916. He was a member of Annandale LOL.



Able Seaman William George Vincent Williams



Captain Dr. E.A. Sanbrook (pictured left) joined the Army Medical Corps in 1915. From Hurstville, New South Wales, he was wounded in 1916 while serving with the 6th Field Ambulance in France. He was a member of LOL No. 2 in Camperdown.





COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION

THE SILVER FERN





John Bird Hine MP

Hine would see service during the Palestine campaign.
Image courtesy of the Alexander Turnbull Library, New Zealand.

As with many other jurisdictions, Orangemen in New Zealand were encouraged to enlist at the outbreak of war.

Significantly, the Prime Minister of New Zealand was an Orangeman. **W. F. Massey**, or 'Farmer Bob' as he was affectionately known, implored his fellow Orangemen to fight for King and Country.

One of those to answer this appeal was **William Andrew Ferrel**.

At the age of 19 he enlisted in the 1st Battalion, The Canterbury Infantry Regiment and by 15 November, after basic training in Egypt, he was on his way to the front. In 1915 he was deployed to France where the main part of the New Zealand Division was redeployed from Gallipoli. Many were to see action during the Battle of the Somme, indeed New Zealanders accompanied the first tanks deployed during the battle in September 1916. On 2 July 1916, the young Ferrel was wounded in fighting near Armentieres (Lille) and was evacuated to England. Between July and 3 September, Ferrel recovered at No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital based at Brockenhurst before being transferred for duty at a similar hospital at Codford.

William Ferrel was finally discharged from service on 6 September 1916 and went back to working on the Trams in Wellington. He was a proud and active member of LOL No. 68. His son Charles, would go on to become the Imperial Grand Master of the Orange Imperial Council.

The Orange loss in New Zealand was profound. On Sunday 14 September 1919, a special service was held in memory of those Brethren from Wellington who had paid the supreme sacrifice. Their names were read out during the service - **Captain H. Boyle; Lieut W.H. Moore; Sergt A.J. Parker; Sergt G. Hennecker; Crpl. W. Whyte; Crpl. W.J. Bell; Crpl. A. Ledingham; Pte. J.H. Hamilton; Pte H. Mason; Pte. N. Elliott; Pte. I.R. Stewart; Pte. W.H. Mansfield; Sergt. J. Pearson; Bomber R. Howan; and Pte A.J. Hosie; Gunner Comrie.**

PRIVATE THOMAS J.B. ROBB



was an engineer by profession but enlisted in the Canterbury Infantry at the outbreak of war. In 1915 he was deployed to Gallipoli and was soon in the thick of things as a stretcher bearer, being slightly wounded on his first day. A few weeks later, 6 June, he was badly wounded and subsequently died on 7 July. Just before notification of his death, his father received a letter in which Robb described an attack;

"The Turks made a desperate attack on the Australians a few nights ago. They had been heavily reinforced, and came on in battalions in mass formation. The Australians opened on them...and just mowed them down with machine guns. The chaps say that there are about eight acres in front of the lines just piled up with dead Turks."



William Andrew Ferrel
Courtesy of Charles Ferrel.



Alfred James Hosie
Image Courtesy of New Zealand War Memorial online



New Zealand Prime Minister William Massey visiting the Western Front. Image Courtesy of Mark Thompson





COMMONWEALTH
CONTRIBUTION

THE MAPLE
LEAF FOREVER

By far the largest numerical contribution of Orangemen during First World War came from Canada and Newfoundland.

Canada made no separate declaration of War but dutifully assisted the mother country in her hour of need. Between 60,000 and 80,000 Canadian Orangemen enlisted in the army, navy and air force. Such contribution was encouraged by the fact that the Minister for Militia, and founder of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at the beginning of the war, was an Orangeman, **General Sam Hughes**, member of LOL No. 557 in Ontario.

Five Canadian Divisions were quickly raised and by 1915 the first soldiers were appearing on the Western front. During the next four years at Ypres, the Somme, Messines, Passchendaele, to note but a few, the Canadians carved out a fighting reputation from friend and foe alike.

Arguably, the first Canadian to enlist was **Bro. Leonard Stick**. In August 1914 he responded to a newspaper article encouraging men between 19 and 35 to enlist. He did so and was given the **Service Number 1**. After basic training he embarked for Britain on *SS Florizel* and, soon after, to Gallipoli. Leonard Stick was a member of the Orange Institution and went on to become an MP after the war.

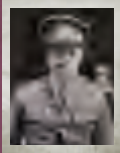
Major General Malcom Smith Mercer of Port Credit LOL No. 163 in Ontario, is remembered as the highest ranking Canadian ever to have been killed in combat. In June 1916, outside Ypres, he was leading some men of the 1st Canadian Infantry in a reconnaissance mission when he was trapped by shelling. His position was subsequently over run and the charismatic Mercer was killed.



ORANGE V.C.
HEROES



Robert Hill Hanna originally from Kilkeel and a member of Aughnahoory LOL No. 343B and Ontario LOL No. 2226, was awarded the VC for conspicuous bravery capturing an enemy machine gun post during an action at Hill 70 near Lens on 21 August 1917.



Graham Thomson Lyall originally from Manchester, emigrated to Canada in 1912 but joined the 81st Battalion of the CEF at the outbreak of war. He was awarded his VC for bravely leading his men in several crucial actions during the breach of the Hindenburg Line near Cambrai between 27 September and 1 October 1918. He was a member of Enniskillen LOL No. 720 in Ontario.



Walter Leigh Rayfield tried to enlist in the United States at the outbreak of war but was refused. Eventually he succeeded in joining the 7th Battalion, CEF, and was awarded his VC for bravery and devotion under fire during the Battle of Arras, 2 – 4 September 1918. His actions earned him the nickname 'Canada's Sergeant York'. Part of his citation reveals the courage of his action:

“He...rushed the section of trench from which the sniper had been operating and so demoralised the enemy by his coolness and daring that thirty others surrendered to him. Again, regardless of his personal safety he left cover under heavy machine gun fire and carried in a badly wounded comrade.”

After the war, Rayfield was appointed the Sergeant at Arms at the Ontario Legislature. He was Chaplain of Gideon's Chosen Few LOL No. 342.





AFRICA AND THE WAR

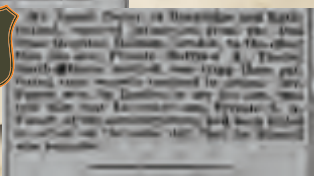
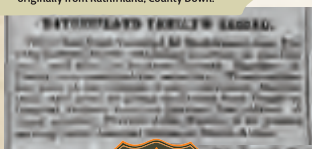


Defenders of Lome LOL No. 867, Togoland. R. Ben Smith, who served with the Gold Coast Regiment of the East African Forces, was a member of this lodge. He was awarded the DSO for 'bravery and courage on the field of battle'.



John George Dunlop (Irish Guards), joined the South African Irish in 1914 and was promoted to Captain during the War. He was the former Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge in South Africa.

Newspaper extracts about the Foster brothers, originally from Rathfriland, County Down.



Extract from The Orange Standard

The ORANGE TREE PLANTED in EGYPT by AUSTRALIANS.

Seven New Zealand Lodges Represented at the First Meeting.

The Orange tree has been planted in Egypt by our New Zealand brethren. On March 22nd a meeting was held in the tent of Captain-Chaplain Taylor, when representatives from seven New Zealand lodges were present. Bro. Captain Taylor presided. One result of the meeting was a canvass of the division for other Orangemen with a view to organizing more closely. A vote of thanks was tendered to Bro. A. McCleary for having inaugurated the movement.

A second meeting was held on March 25th, when a new Secretary was appointed to take the place of Bro. Hemann, who had been transferred. The activity of the brethren is shown by the fact that on the next night, the 26th, a social evening was held, a most enjoyable occasion. The toast list began with the King and ended with the ladies, good speeches and some patriotic songs. It was decided to advertise in the "Egyptian Mail," inviting all Orangemen in Egypt to give their names to the Secretary.

The aim is to get all the Orangemen in the Australasian contingent acquainted with one another. They will also hold meetings whenever that is possible to relieve the tedium of the service. Their meetings will emphasize the part which the Orange Association is playing in this war.

It will be good news for the brethren from England who are serving in France to learn that their Australian brethren are keeping alive the Orange enthusiasm, as it will no doubt inspire them to similar activity. It is a noteworthy thing that in the very shadow of the pyramids, erected by the Pharaohs, Orangemen from the other side of the world should be meeting in honor of the principles inherited from the Prince of Orange.

One of the major causes of the Great War was the competition between the European Powers to establish empires. The establishment of colonies often became contentious and created tension between European nations.

One such proxy battleground was Africa. Germany began expanding its influence in parts of Africa and when war broke out in Europe it was reflected across the African continent.

The first official shots of the war were fired in Togoland (then a German protectorate), as soldiers from the Gold Coast Regiment (Ghana) fired on German police. This took place on 7 August 1914, just three days after Great Britain had declared war on Germany.

Soldiers from Africa would fight across the continent during the War and see service in the Navy and the Western front. Included in their ranks were many Orangemen. **John T. White** (LOL No. 342) originally from Annalong, enlisted in the 6th South African Infantry and was Killed in Action on 12 February 1916.



Also, from County Down, were brothers **Samuel** and **Matthew Foster** (LOL No. 20) who enlisted in the South African Infantry. They had emigrated to South Africa and Rhodesia before the war but quickly joined up to serve. In July 1916 their father, Joseph made the journey to Balham Hospital, London, where his son Matthew was recovering from wounds received at the Somme. His visit was a sad one. Matthew informed him that Samuel had been killed in action on 10 July. Samuel had been mortally wounded by shellfire and had been carried back to British lines by his brother. As they reached safety the dying Samuel whispered, "Tell my father and all at home that I died as an Irishman ought to die, and that I was prepared to go."

IT WAS A LOVELY DAY HERE

THE BANDS WERE PLAYING

FROM ONE O'CLOCK ON THE TWELFTH
MORNING AND SOME OF THEM HAD
THEIR COLLARS WITH THEM

WE HAD A BRAVE DAY

Letter from Johnny Logan to his sister Margaret, July 1915.

Extract from *The Orange Standard* (1916)

Camerons to celebrate the 12th in France.

Bro. David McPherson, of the 5th Camerons Machine Gun Section, France, writes to say that he has met several brothers in the Camerons, and they are arranging to celebrate the glorious 12th in the "good old way," if God in His mercy spares them, and he appeals for some Orange ribbon. Bro. and Sis. Clark, of Edinburgh, have promised to send them not only the ribbon, but medallions of William III. for each Bro. The brethren spend their spare time together—learning perfectly the lectures.

The Twelfth parade in Oshawa,
Ontario, July 1915.



TWELFTH CELEBRATIONS

Membership of the Orange Institution was incredibly important to ordinary Orangemen and women during the war. The granting of military warrants and the number of documented lodge meetings taking place at the front gives testimony to that fact that the fraternity of Orangeism provided a welcome distraction from the mud and blood of the battlefield.

At home, so many Orangemen were serving in the military, or were engaged in war service, that annual Twelfth of July celebrations were cancelled or much scaled down.

At the front, however, the traditional anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne was marked and celebrated. Those Orangemen who were serving with the Allied Forces engaged in the Dardanelles campaign gathered in Salonica (Greece) to toast the Immortal memory;

"...A meeting was organised under the shadow of a huge chestnut tree near Salonica, where not only the Orange soldiers but many of their Catholic comrades assembled, under the presidency of Bro. Thomas Campbell."

The men who attended were all serving with the 10th Irish Division and came, by and large, from Tyrone. In similar scenes that were reflected in various parts of the front, men from different backgrounds set aside their differences and hoped such a spirit of comradeship would prevail in Ulster after the war.

One of the organisers was Bro. John Currie of Draperstown who

"...thanked the meeting and especially his Catholic comrades for their response to his invitation. He trusted that the good fellowship would survive the great struggle now going on. He was proud to belong to the 10th Division, who by their conduct at Suvla Bay and Serbia had proved to the world that they inherit that fighting spirit and loyalty to duty which have always been the characteristic of Irishmen on the battlefield."
(The Northern Whig)



The proceedings culminated in song with both Orangemen and nationalists providing tunes from home.



US ENTRY INTO WAR



The United States had initially resisted attempts to draw it into the War but by 1917 such pressure was becoming unavoidable.

President Woodrow Wilson had kept America firmly on the side-lines of the European conflict in response to the general political mood and the attitude of most American citizens. Indeed, the imposition of the British and French blockade of German ports angered some within America who argued that Free Trade was being hampered. Events quickly began to change public opinion.

To break the Allied stranglehold on their ports, the German Navy began an unrestricted U-Boat campaign on shipping to and from the British Isles. This quickly changed public opinion and America entered the war in April 1917.

The *New York Tribune* reported that 150 Orangemen from Manhattan had enlisted to serve in WWI, one of whom was **Thomas Armstrong**. Sergeant Armstrong, of St. Mark's Avenue, Brooklyn, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for saving the life of Captain Lenox C. Brennan during fighting involving the 106th Infantry around Ypres in September 1918. Armstrong carried the wounded Brennan for 500 yards under enemy shell fire.



As with many other countries there were men from Ireland living in the United States who quickly joined up to serve. **Thomas Kilpatrick** from LOL No. 20 in Banbridge would see service as a Sergeant in the United States Army, while **Captain James Gregg**, a British Army Veterinary Surgeon from Royal York LOL No. 145, would spend the war in the United States acquiring horses and mules for war service.



RMS Lusitania. The liner was sunk by a German U-Boat on 7 May 1915. 1,198 people died as a consequence. Events like this changed American public opinion about the war.
Wikimedia Commons





JAMES STEPHENSON



served with the Liverpool Merchants Mobile Hospital. This was a temporary hospital paid for by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce in 1914 and transported to Etaples in France. During the war it treated 200,000 casualties.

MEDICAL PROVISION

The war resulted in terrible death and destruction on all sides. There was also an astonishing number of wounded, as a consequence of battles and attacks on civilians.

Several nursing organisations existed prior to the war but these were expanded and supplemented by new organisations. Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service expanded from 3,000 in 1914 to 23,000 by 1918. Other nursing units included the Voluntary Aid Detachments (VAD), First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, Territorial Force Nursing Service, the Women’s Hospital Corps and the UVF Nursing Corp.

In the case of the UVF Nursing Corp this had been privately established and equipped in Ulster during the Third Home Rule Crisis. In addition to several units across the country, a number of provisional UVF hospitals had been planned or established. During the war these became hospitals or recuperation centres for wounded soldiers.

Other Orangemen and women who served with various medical corps included:

Dr. Joseph Carroll, New Springs, Wigan, LOL No. 194 – Army Medical Corps.



Frederick Wilding, Preston LOL No. 237 – Naval Ambulance Corps.



Nurse Ruby Kirkwood, from Crumlin Road who served in the Western General Hospital, Manchester.



SISTER JEAN VICTOR BATES



author and activist, encouraged women to do their part during the war. This was an era of liberation for women, who, for years had lobbied for political and societal change and equality. Sister Bates encouraged women to take the place of men in industry and enable them to go to the front. She, herself, served with the Ambulance Corps and was recognised by both the Belgium and Serbian governments. In 1919 she was presented with the Queen Elizabeth Medal by the King of Belgium and the Grand Order of Saint Sava by Prince Regent Alexander of Serbia and the Jugo-Slavonic Federation of States.

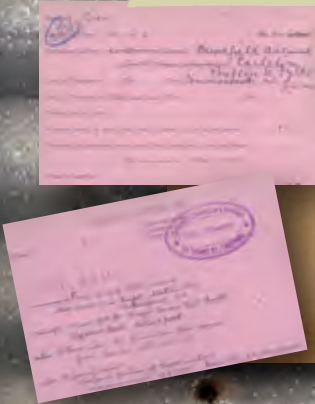


SISTER FLORENCE E. PARKER

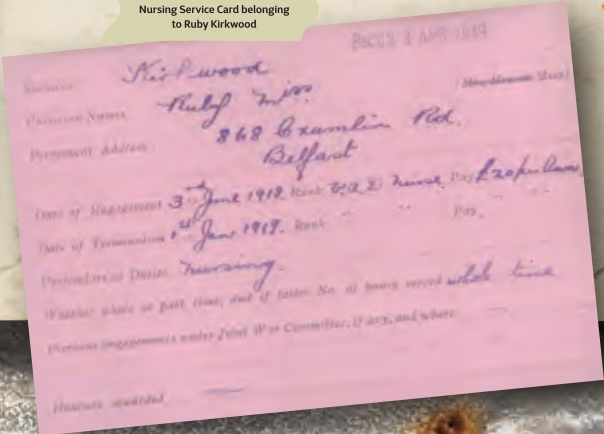


joined the VAD at the beginning of war and was initially posted to Station Road Hospital in Blackpool. Like thousands of others, she served the Red Cross through the Voluntary Aid Detachments during the war.

Nursing Service Cards belonging to Florence Parker



Nursing Service Card belonging to Ruby Kirkwood





Herbert Gray carried a New Testament in his top pocket. The Testament saved his life by deflecting a bullet.



FAITH AT THE FRONT



There are many stories of Orangemen taking refuge and reassurance in their Faith while serving at the Front. The Grand Orange Lodge of England – who held stewardship of the military warrants during World War I – launched an appeal to supply Bibles and New Testaments for soldiers and sailors. By August 1916 this appeal had raised £1,000.00.



In at least one case the provision of a Bible was a physical as well as a spiritual help. **Bro. J Pye** of Birmingham wrote to the *Orange Standard* in February 1916 that a New Testament with which he had been presented had stopped a bullet!

As with all periods of crisis there was comfort found in the Lord. In the weeks leading up to the Battle of the Somme, one Orange Chaplain wrote about a Bible Class at the Front:

“Last Friday I was having a Bible-Class in a dug-out, not 150 yards from the German line. The men stuck their bayonets in the sand-bags which formed the wall, and then stuck a candle on the flat of the blade. We could not sing, but we read, prayed, and discussed the chapter. Once or twice the bullets from a German machine-gun pattered so incessantly against our parapet that we could not hear ourselves speaking...”

Matters of Faith were incredibly important to the men of the Ulster Division. Often the presence of lay preachers in the ranks was of greater importance than that of the Army Chaplain.

Impromptu prayer meetings often took place before battle. One such prayer meeting took place in the early hours of 1 July 1916 prior to the Battle of the Somme. It was led by **Lance Corporal David Johnston** of Belleisle True Blues LOL No. 1314. A few hours later, Bro. Johnston lay dead on the Somme.

Extract from *The Orange Standard*.

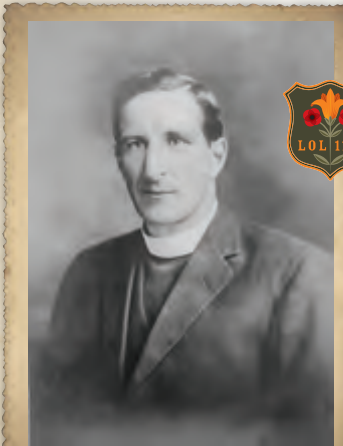
Soldier's life for his Testament.

A soldier writes home of an Ulster Presbyterian with the Royal Irish Fusiliers, who had a New Testament that had been given to him by his mother when leaving home. His comrade says, "He spent all his spare moments in the trenches reading it, and I think he must have known it by heart. One day in a hot fight between our trenches and the enemy's, he lost it. He was nearly crying when he discovered the loss, and nothing we could do would stop him from going out to search for it. Out he went, but he never came back alive. He found his Testament, though, because when his dead body was discovered he had the little book in his hand, with his thumb over that part of the Gospel where the words 'Jesus wept' is found."



DAVID JOHNSTON

Lance Corporal David Johnston served with the 11th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and was a member of LOL No. 1314. He was a lay preacher in the Methodist Church and would lead his men in prayer before they climbed out of the trenches. Johnston was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.



Bishop Cyril Elliot of LOL No. 1119, served as an Army Chaplain during the Second battle of the Somme.



Presented to Dr Samuel McIlwrath by the officers & members of L.O. L 671, on the occasion of him going to the front to secure his King & Country. December 1914.

Inscription on the Bible given to Samuel McIlwrath by the officers and members of LOL No. 671 in December 1914, before he left for the front.

Rev. John Thom M.C. of LOL No. 800, in Dublin, was awarded the Military Cross in 1916.





Postcard image showing a UVF Hospital Ward in Belfast. Private Collection.



THE ORANGE WARD AND THE ULSTER HUT



Lady Bruce, President of the Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital

In January 1915 Nottingham County Cricket Club was opened for the reception of wounded soldiers. Initially it contained 20 beds. With the support of the Orange Institution, and others, the hospital's capacity expanded to 90 beds. The increase in capacity was especially needed after battles like the Somme. In October 1916 a general appeal was launched through the Institution, to raise an immediate sum of £300.00 with a target of £500.00 by the end of the year.

Donations secured the establishment of an 'Orange Ward' with 12 beds initially. Orange Lodges rose to the challenge and raised money for the fund. One example was Churchill LOL No. 871 who organised a concert in Londonderry to help the fund. The Ward was supplemented by the opening of the 'Ulster Hut' in 1917 as a recreation and convalescence room for patients.

Lady Bruce, honorary agent for Lady Carson's 'Fund for the Ulster Division', was appointed President of the Hospital. She was also President of the North Derry Ulster Women's Unionist Association and the North Derry Ulster Volunteer Nursing Corp.

As well as providing an area for recreation the Ulster Hut hosted a religious service every Sunday evening.

The provision of the 'Orange Ward' and the 'Ulster Hut' was in addition to the UVF wards and hospitals already established across Ulster in places like Craigavon House and Queen's University, Belfast.



Interior of the Ulster Recreational Hut, 1917.

Sign above the door into the Ulster Recreational Hut. The facility was funded by donations from the Orange Institution and erected at the Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital, Nottingham.



Ulster Recreational Hut



Wounded Orangemen for the Land.

Will any Bro., discharged from the Army or Navy, who wishes to have free training for the land, apply to Bro. R. G. Wilkinson, Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital, West Bridgford, Nottingham. A scheme is on foot to run a large farm training centre for discharged men, and Bro Wilkinson will be in charge as to the choice of men.

Advert carried in
The Orange Standard in 1917

The First World War has been described as the first Total War. Like many countries involved, the United Kingdom mobilised every aspect of life in order to secure victory.

ECONOMIC PRODUCTION

In August 1914 the Government introduced the Defence of the Realm Act. This allowed the Government to take over railways, shipping, coalmines, and influence manufacturing.

Production of items for the war drastically increased, as did ways to reduce reliance on imported raw materials and food stuffs.

The workforce involved in Industry and Agriculture expanded. Essential or 'protected' jobs excluded many individuals from direct military service but was an important building block for the war economy. This was the case, even after Conscription was introduced. The role of women also drastically changed. With so many men in the military, women flooded into the workplace. This, coupled with the pre-war campaign for the right to vote, did much to gain women greater equality in society.

RATIONING

As a consequence of the German U-boat campaign, the Government encouraged farmers and landowners to grow more food. Coupled with this was the introduction of rationing to alleviate shortages of imported goods such as sugar, tea, jam and butter.

CASUALTIES

The war impacted civilians to a greater extent and scale than any previous conflict. From food shortages, recruitment, propaganda campaigns and attacks, civilians were directly and indirectly affected by the war. This was especially true for civilians caught up in the midst of war on mainland Europe and the Middle East.

War Service Lapel Badge. This was worn by those in 'protected jobs' that were crucial to the War Effort.



THE HOME FRONT



GRACE ROE

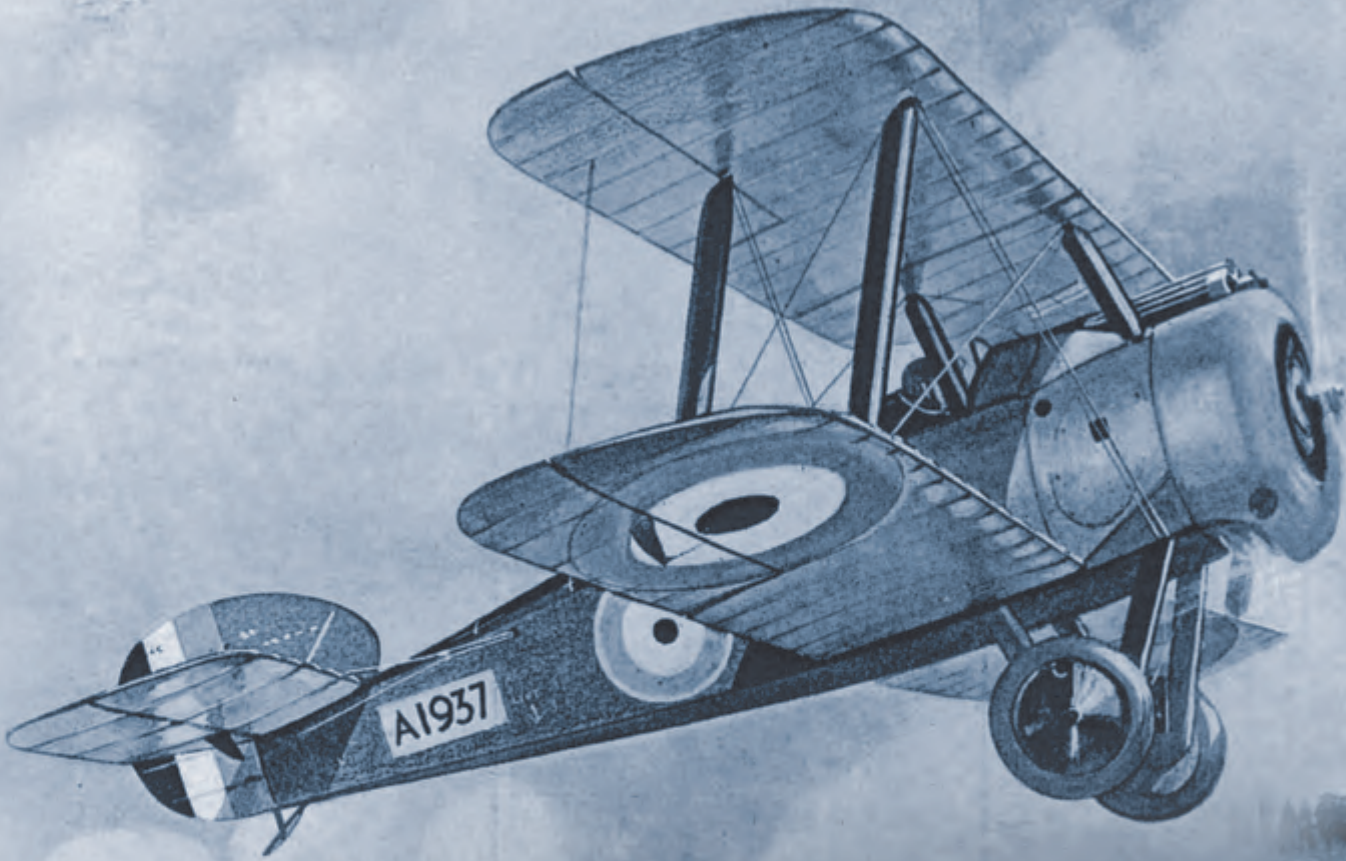
The changing role of women was referred to in the minutes of Royal York LOL No. 145. In April 1919, at the close of their usual lodge meeting, a speaker was introduced to the assembled Orangemen – Women's Rights champion, Grace Roe, who had been appointed Emily Pankhurst's chief organiser in 1913. Miss Roe impressed the audience with her views on a variety of social issues and the minutes record that she



"... spoke on what women had done during the war, their efforts in S. Wales and other industrial Cities in preventing strikes, and helping our army in Flanders...(and)...the principal plank of the Women's Party Platform, was 'Union between England and the rest of the British Empire'."

Image of UVF Nurses working in Clifton Street Orange Hall during the war. Private Collection.





A World War I Royal Flying Corps plane.

2nd Lieutenant James Alexander Donnelly

Image courtesy of LOL No. 145.



WAR IN THE AIR



One of the new technologies advanced by the war was that of Airpower. At the beginning of the war, flight was in its infancy but as ways to break the deadlock and gain the upper hand were sought, so aeroplanes as weapons, began to emerge.

Initially, it was anticipated that aeroplanes would serve an observational role for soldiers and artillery on the ground. Soon bigger and faster planes were created engaging each other, targets on the ground, and even civilians.



Second Lieutenant **James Alexander Donnelly**, Royal York LOL No. 145, joined the war at a late stage. He was Chaplain in his Orange Lodge but left the relative safety of Belfast to enlist in the Royal Flying Corps, becoming a Sergeant Instructor in January 1917. In August he was promoted to Second Lieutenant. Less than a year later he was mortally wounded in the Somme region, being the last casualty of the Royal Flying Corps on 31 March 1918. The very next day, the Royal Air Force was created.



Other local Orangemen who served with the fledgling Air Force included two from Aughnahoory LOL No. 343b near Kilkeel. **John Cassidy** served on *HMS Hibernia*, which was one of the first ships in the Navy to be converted to carry aircraft. His colleague **Thomas Galbraith Scott** joined the newly created RAF in 1918. Both survived the war.



Three members of Bangor Purple Star LOL No. 677 also served with the newly created RAF. They were **William Eddis**, **Frank Hardy** and **William Carson**. All survived the war.

The leading Irish Air Ace during the war was George McElroy, M.C., D.F.C., from Donnybrook in County Dublin. He recorded 47 victories before being killed by ground fire on 31 July 1918.



HMS Hibernia. Hibernia was one of the first Naval ships converted to carry aircraft. Wikimedia Commons.





A German Airship known as a Zeppelin.
Wikimedia Commons.



A German Zeppelin 'taking off'. Airships like this were used for reconnaissance and bombing.
Wikimedia Commons.



British Airship
Wikimedia Commons.

MENACE FROM THE SKY

Those on the ground were equally at risk of aerial attack during the war, as the fate of **Corporal John Gilmour Magee** of Orritor LOL No. 686 testifies;



CIVILIAN ATTACKS

On 21 December 1914 the first German Air raid took place on mainland Britain. On this occasion a German Bomber attacked the town and port of Dover, but little damage was caused. The following month, 20 people were killed when a German Zeppelin targeted East Anglia.

HMS Benbow experimenting with a Kite Balloon, 1916. Wikimedia Commons



Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter dated 8th May 1918, I regret to inform you that your son 29112 Corporal J G Magee was killed in action on the 22 March 1918.

He had been on duty in the front line with a few more of his chums and had just finished his tour, when an enemy aeroplane came over the trench, firing its machine gun and he was killed instantly and buried the same evening in the British cemetery close by. I may say that the cemetery I speak of is now in enemy lines.

Dear Madam, it is really very unfortunate that the sad affairs I write about should be executed by myself for Corporal Magee was a particular friend of my own, and was well respected by officers and men of his Company and had been mentioned several times for his bravery and was a thorough soldier, so I may say he was sadly missed by all who knew him. Therefore Dear Madam, our sincere sympathy goes out to you, on your sad bereavement.

Yours sincerely P Lambe, QSM Sgt.

Airships were one of the new weapons that appeared during the war.





HMS Hawke. Wikimedia Commons.



Henry Kane and his wife Sarah, pictured in March 1917. Signalman Kane had a remarkable service career, being twice wounded in action, torpedoed twice and Mentioned in Dispatches. He would survive the war and go on to serve in World War II.

THE WAR AT SEA



It was the development of large battleships, nicknamed Dreadnoughts, that contributed to the arms race in the first decade of the Twentieth Century. The Royal Navy quickly expanded in terms of ships and personnel.

During the War the Grand Orange Lodge of England boasted that Orangemen were serving on every battleship in the Royal Navy. This was no empty claim. By May 1915 there were Orangemen or Orange lodges operating on at least 55 ships in the Grand Fleet, with many more members of naval units on land or the new Royal Naval Division.

One of the first major naval losses of the war was incurred by the Australian Navy. On 14 September 1914, after being involved in the taking of Papua New Guinea, Royal Australian Naval Submarine AE1 was declared lost during a patrol. *The Watchman* (NSW) reported on 11 February 1915 that 10 of the 35 crew members on board had been members of the Orange Institution. The wreck of AE1 was only discovered in 2017 near the Duke of York Islands.



WILLIAM JAMES ELKIN

Serving on board HMS Hawke as **Bro. William James Elkin** from Coleraine. He was a Petty Officer on board, when the ship was sunk by a German U-boat on 15 October 1914.



EARLY LOSSES

On Monday 19 October 1914, Mary Jane, wife of **Robert Algie**, received a telegram from the Admiralty informing her that her husband had been lost at sea. This painful news came only one week after Mary had received a letter from Robert informing her that he was safe and well. Robert had been in the Royal Naval Reserve before the war and worked as a mechanic for Messrs Freeland & Ferguson in Newtownards. At the outbreak of hostilities, he was quickly mobilised and allocated to *HMS Hawke*. Unfortunately, *HMS Hawke* was torpedoed and sunk on 15 October 1914 in the North Sea. As the telegram stated, Seaman Robert Algie was “not amongst those who had been saved.” He was a member of LOL No. 1055 and RBP No. 290.



Thiepval True Blues LOL No. 897 on board HMS Benbow.





HMS Hampshire. Wikimedia Commons.



Members of Malta LOL from HMS Concord.

THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA

The war at sea took place right across the globe. One early engagement happened at the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile. The German and British Navies clashed with *HMS Good Hope* and *HMS Monmouth* being sunk. Among those lost were Bro. **A. Taplin**, Wales Loyal Orange Lodge No. 329 and Bro. **T. Hopton** of Sons of William LOL No. 652 on *HMS Good Hope*; and Bro. **S.W. Airey** of Garston True Blues LOL No. 64 serving on board *HMS Monmouth*.

With Orangemen serving on ‘every British battleship’ it was no surprise that many saw action in the major naval engagements of the war. An Orange Lodge operated on *HMS Warspite* which was at the heart of the Battle of Jutland in May 1916 and it was reported to the Grand Lodge of England that, although no members were hurt during the battle, several items belonging to the lodge, including the warrant, were damaged. In the same battle an entire lodge was lost when *HMS Defence* was sunk.

Stoker **Richard McMaw** of Eden, Carrickfergus, was serving on board *HMS Queen Mary* when she was sunk during the Battle of Jutland. McMaw was a member of LOL No. 1544 and his children were subsequently added to the roll of the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orphan Society.

The July edition of the *Orange Standard* 1916 reported that an entire lodge had been lost with *HMS Hampshire* after it was struck by a mine. The Minister of War, Lord Kitchener, also drowned;

“A large number of brethren were... on *HMS Hampshire*, with Lord Kitchener, when she went down.”



HAWKE BATTALION

At the beginning of WWI over 1,000 British Marines and Sailors escaped capture during the fall of Antwerp. They were, however, interned in Groningen, Holland. A lodge, LOL No. 874, was quickly established by special arrangement with the Worshipful Master being Leading Seaman **William Aldridge**.

Richard McMaw



Image of a German U-Boat. Wikimedia Commons.



Extract from The Orange Standard

ORANGE LODGE OPENED IN BRITISH PRISONERS CAMP, HOLLAND.

We are pleased to announce that permission has been given to our brethren interned in Holland to open an Orange Lodge. Bro. W. Aldridge, of Liverpool, has been elected W.M. and there is every prospect of the lodge being a huge success. WE SHALL BE GLAD TO RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FURNITURE AND WORKING OF THIS LODGE.





HMS Monmouth

Members of the RNACD have a cup of tea in a Yurt in Russia.
Centre is Bro. John MacFarlane, LOL No. 728.
Image copyright of Charles McConaghy.



A LAND NAVY!?

At the start of the war, efforts were made to establish a new armoured car unit. A forerunner to tanks and heavy armoured cars, this unit was under the control of the Navy and was called the Royal Naval Armoured Car Division. Over 100 men from Ireland, particularly Ulster, were recruited into its ranks. One of its officers was Lieutenant Commander **Sir Walter Dorling Smiles** of LOL No. 781.

John McGowan of LOL No. 145. Lost with the sinking of SS Gretaston in 1917



Photograph of the SS Gretaston prior to her sinking in November 1917.



DUTY AND SACRIFICE

THE MERCHANT NAVY



A Merchant Navy became an important lifeline for many European countries during the war.

The British Isles relied heavily on imports of food and raw material from the Empire, Dominions and other countries. As the war economy grew so did demand for more resources. The British Navy was the largest in the World and was augmented by the Merchant Navy. Many Orangemen from commercial seaports like Larne, served in that vital arm of the war effort. Two examples were Lieutenant **James Canning** and Stoker **Hugh Purdy** from LOL No. 22.

Thousands served aboard ships that brought vital cargo to the factories and tables of the country. Germany recognised the importance of trying to stem this flow of supplies and quickly embarked on an unrestrained U-boat campaign. Thousands of tons of shipping were lost.

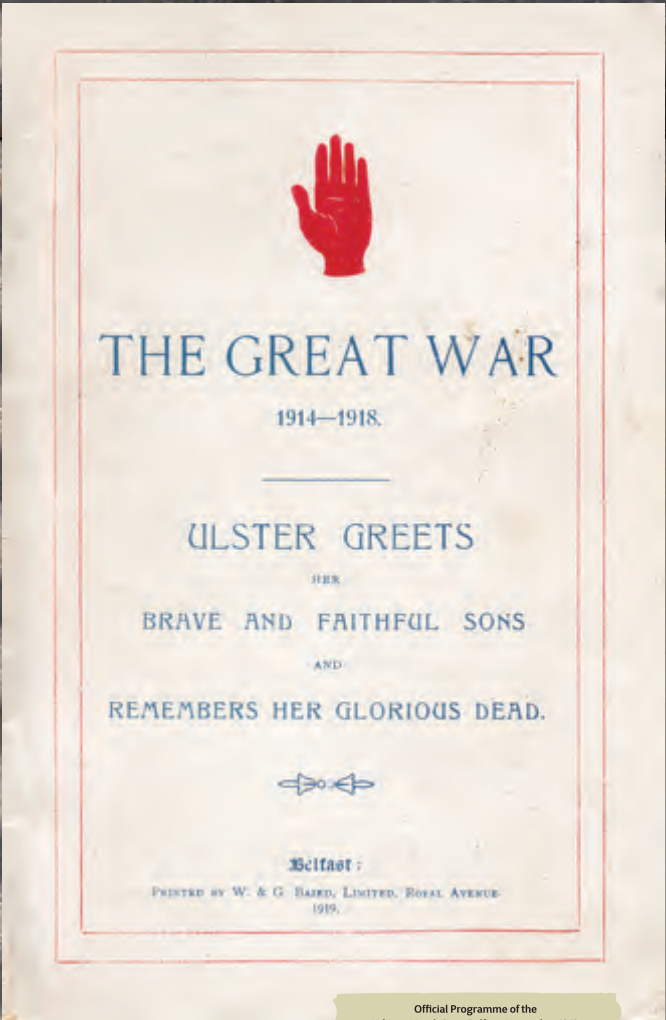
Like other restricted jobs, many Orangemen were among the ranks of the Merchant Navy. **William Henry Ryding** of Strandtown, Belfast, was Master of the *SS Castlebar* and member of LOL No. 1161. *SS Castlebar* was a cargo and transport ship that operated between Scotland and Ireland. On 14 March while heading for Limerick, she was lost; hit by either a torpedo or an enemy mine.

It was equally dangerous for those 'civilian ships' requisitioned for war service. At the beginning of the war *SS Minneapolis* was requisitioned to take some of the BEF to France. She continued as a transport and supply ship until being sunk on 24 March 1916 near Malta. Amongst those who perished was **Matthew Weir**, a member of Deramore Purple Star LOL No. 819 in Belfast.

Another example was that of Bro. **John McGowan** of LOL No. 745 in Portrush. Bro. McGowan had retired from the sea and settled in Glasgow. With the outbreak of war, he felt it important to use his skills to assist with the war effort. He re-joined the Merchant Navy, serving on board the *SS Gretaston*. Sadly, the ship struck an enemy mine while travelling between Glasgow and Ireland on 4 November 1917 with the loss of all hands.

Extract from the Northern Whig, 5 June 1918.

CITY CAPTAIN DROWNED.
Mrs. Ryding, 28, Colvil Street, Strandtown, Belfast, has received intimation that her husband, Capt. WM. H. BYDING, of the Mercantile Marine, has been lost at sea through enemy action. Deceased, who also leaves two sons, was a member of the Masonic Order and B.B.P. 226 and L.O.L. 1,161.



Official Programme of the Military March Past, Belfast, November 1919. Image courtesy of Mark Thompson.



SPANISH FLU

The end of fighting did not mark the end of tragedy. In 1918 the World was in the grip of a terrible Influenza outbreak. No-one could escape. All sorts of medicines and practices were used to try and counteract the pandemic. In December 1918, the WM of Royal York LOL No. 145 gave all members permission to smoke during meetings, in the wrongful belief that smoking kept the Influenza bug at bay! Over 30 million people would die of this terrible Flu outbreak.



David Hutchinson's Dead Man's Penny, An Orangeman from Cavan, David was killed on 16 September 1918 serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force.



'Rhineland' Orange Membership Certificate of James Jess, dated 25 April 1920.



THE END OF THE WAR

The war which many had predicted would be 'over by Christmas' dragged on into 1918.

The arrival of thousands of American troops swung the balance of power in favour of the Allies and gradually began to wear the Germans and Austro-Hungarians down. Germany was unable to replace the massive losses on the Western front or feed the civilian population at home. The failure of the German Spring Offensive in 1918 meant that an end to the war was only a matter of time.

But still the fighting raged. Thousands of young men, from all sides, would loose their lives in the final months of the war.



THOMAS AND JOSEPH BRYSON

were two Orangemen killed in the closing months of the war. **Thomas Bryson** was the son of Francis and Fanny Bryson of Newtowngore, Co. Leitrim. He enlisted in Cavan and served with V Corps Cyclist (North Irish Horse) Regiment. He embarked for France on 17 August 1914 as part of 'A' Squadron North Irish Horse. His brother, **Joseph**, served with 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, being awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

In May 1916, 'A' Squadron merged with 'D' and 'E' Squadrons to form 1st Regiment North Irish Horse, which saw action at the Somme in the Humbercourt area.

Thomas Bryson was killed in action on 21 August 1918, aged 28 and Joseph was killed in action on 6 October 1918. A memorial plaque was erected in Newtowngore Methodist Church by Newtowngore Orange Lodge, in their memory. Both were proud members of Newtowngore LOL No. 396.

ARMISTICE AND PEACE



Fighting finally halted at 11am on 11 November 1918. Eventually a Peace Treaty was signed in Versailles the following year. Although many servicemen were sent home, others continued to be deployed in Russia and Germany. Some Orangemen were in the ranks of the British Army of the Rhine, which was formed to help occupy the demilitarised Rhineland area after the war. Among them were some members of East Belfast Volunteers, LOL No. 862. Their WM was Bro **Captain Somers** who endeavoured to ensure that the warrant continued to operate. The remaining majority of LOL No. 862 members found themselves returned home and quickly set up a memorial lodge in Belfast – 36th (Ulster) Division Memorial LOL No. 977.





Orange Banner of Carnmoney Memorial LOL No. 919, depicting Bro. Lieutenant Lawford B. Campbell who was killed on 1 July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme.



Cover image of the Grand Orange Lodge of England Roll of Honour 1915.

REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION

Over 900,00 British and Commonwealth soldiers died during the First World War. This had a massive impact on communities across the World, from hamlets in Ireland to farm stations in Australia. Just as the World had gone to War, so, in November 1918, the World now found space to grieve.

The Orange contribution to the War had been glorious, selfless, honourable and devastating. An estimated 200,000 Orangemen and Women had volunteered to defend freedom and democracy. Many never returned home.

Such service and sacrifice became seared into the very fibre of the Orange Institution worldwide. As soon as the war was over, the Orange Family was engulfed by conflicting emotions of grief, pride, sorrow, loss and relief. This emotion lead to an overwhelming sense that the immense sacrifice of these men and women should never be forgotten. As in wider society, Memorial Rolls and Rolls of Honour began to appear in Orange Halls and Lodge rooms from Brampton to Belfast.

In Canada, Australia and New Zealand, there was a drive by those Grand Lodges to create some sort of central record of those who had served and those who had paid the supreme sacrifice. In Great Britain and Ireland, Private and District Lodges took the lead producing local Rolls of Honour, holding Church Services to mark the sacrifice of their members or annual commemorative processions. Many of these acts of commemoration and remembrance continue to this day.

Like so many others, however, many from the Orange Family who took part in the war were reluctant to relive the carnage they had witnessed during battle, and quietly took up their roles as valued members of society.

REMEMBRANCE

Remembering the fallen and looking after those who had been scarred by war; those who had been bereaved; and the orphans of the conflict, occupied the energies of many lodges. Some lodges were even renamed or formed by returning veterans. One notable example is Thiepval Memorial LOL No. 1300 in Donegal.



Poppies blooming beside the Ulster Tower near Thiepval



PRIVATE JOHN MEEKE M.M.

John Meeke was the son of James and Margaret Jane Meeke. He was a member of LOL No. 1001 and served with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

It was during the Battle of Messines in 1917 that Meeke would enter the pages of history. Serving as a stretcher bearer he was attending to wounded comrades in No Man's Land when he saw Major Willie Redmond (an Irish Nationalist MP) fall under fire. He rushed over to Major Redmond and attended to his wounds. Under fire from the enemy he bandaged the Major's wounds despite appeals from Redmond to fall back in case he too was injured. Eventually he, and others, were able to get Major Redmond back to a field dressing station.

Unfortunately, his act of valour did not save Major Redmond who would die of his wounds later that afternoon. Despite being wounded, Meeke insisted on continuing to help the wounded. For his bravery he was awarded the Military Medal.

Meeke survived the war but died of Tuberculosis in 1923. In recent years the local community raised money so that a fitting headstone could be placed at his grave in Derrykeighan Old Churchyard.



CORPORAL HENRY HAMILTON

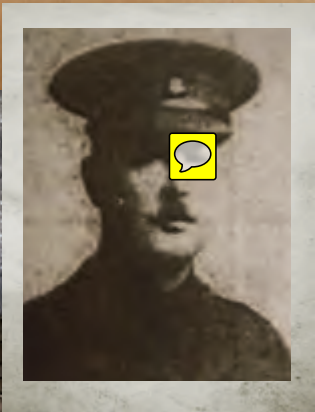
Born in Ballymena in 1880, Henry was the youngest of five children. Upon leaving school he was employed as a sawyer with J. Coleman and Company before enlisting with the 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles on 14 August 1914.

Like many other volunteers from Ireland, especially Ulster, Henry had already received some basic military training as a member of the UVF. After basic training in England he embarked for Gallipoli and landed at ANZAC Cove on 5 August 1915. He was in action for only five days before being wounded and evacuated to the military hospital in Alexandria, Egypt. Henry was a member of Dunfane LOL No. 591.



CAPTAIN CHARLES CURTIS CRAIG MP

Charles Craig was the brother of James Craig who would later be the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. He had been a member of the UVF and at the outbreak of war enlisted with the 11th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. He was wounded in the knee on 1 July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme and was initially listed as wounded and missing after having refused to retreat. In fact, he had been captured by the Germans who, unable to carry the large Ulsterman, resorted to pushing him in a wheelbarrow to a field ambulance! Craig was a member of Ballydonnell LOL No. 1446.



CSM ROBERT SELKIRK WHELAN M.M., M.C.



Robert Whelan was originally from Belfast but had moved to Glasgow before the war and became heavily involved in the Orange family, joining Govan LOL No. 262. He was held in high regard by the men of his unit in the 10th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions on 1 July 1916.

His gallantry was again recognised in June 1917 when he led his men into battle at Messines. Unfortunately, the courageous Whelan was killed on 28 August 1917 while assisting a wiring party in No Man's Land.



VOICES FROM THE FRONT LINE



SAMUEL FOWLES D.C.M.

Samuel Fowles, originally from Downpatrick, enlisted in the Royal Irish Rifles in 1893 aged 16. During his career he served in South Africa and India and completed 21 years' service in 1914. He was given permission to continue beyond 21 years and served in France in 1914. On leave from the Front in February 1916 he was admitted to hospital in Holywood, Do. Down with traumatic 'neurasthesia' and struck off the strength of the 1st Batt. RIR. He was awarded the DCM for bravery at Fromelles in March 1916, and, upon his recovery, he joined the 3rd Battalion RIR, with whom he served during the Easter Rising. Fowles was appointed Temporary RSM in September 1918 and in 1919 was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He was discharged at his own request in December 1920.

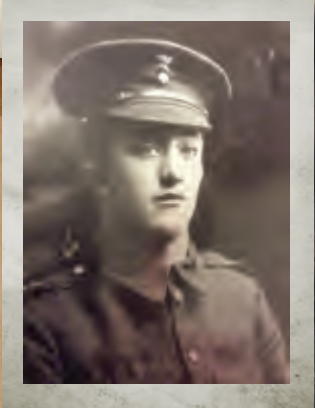
Samuel Fowles was a member of LOL No. 703 before the war, and he became Worshipful Master of the lodge after it returned to Belfast and was given Warrant No. 1300. He was also a member of Quis Separabit LOL No. 497 and is listed on its Roll of Honour.



PRIVATE HERBERT GRAY

Known as Bert to his friends, Herbert Gray grew up in County Armagh and was a member of Redrock Presbyterian Church, the UVF, and Killycoppie LOL No. 345. Herbert enlisted in the 9th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers. During his war service he was wounded three times, including at Hamel on 1 July 1916 at the start of the Battle of the Somme.

Eventually he was discharged as no longer physically fit for service. Bert maintained that his life had been saved at Hamel by his New Testament. He carried the New Testament in his top pocket and a bullet struck it during the fighting but was deflected onto his arm.



PRIVATE DAVID WEIR

David was born in north Antrim to Hugh and Mary Ellen Weir. A member of Straid LOL, he emigrated to Australia in 1911 and enlisted in Melbourne in February 1915, serving with the 17th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He saw action during a number of engagements and was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal on 20 September 1917. Unfortunately, 14 days later he was killed in action, leaving behind him a wife and two daughters.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL W.T. EDGECOMBE

Edgcombe was Grand Master of the Orange Institution in Manitoba, Canada. In 1915 he set about raising a unit from within the Orangemen of Manitoba. The result was the creation of the 183rd Battalion of the CEF – the Manitoba Beavers. This was the largest Battalion in the CEF and was exclusively made up of Orangemen.





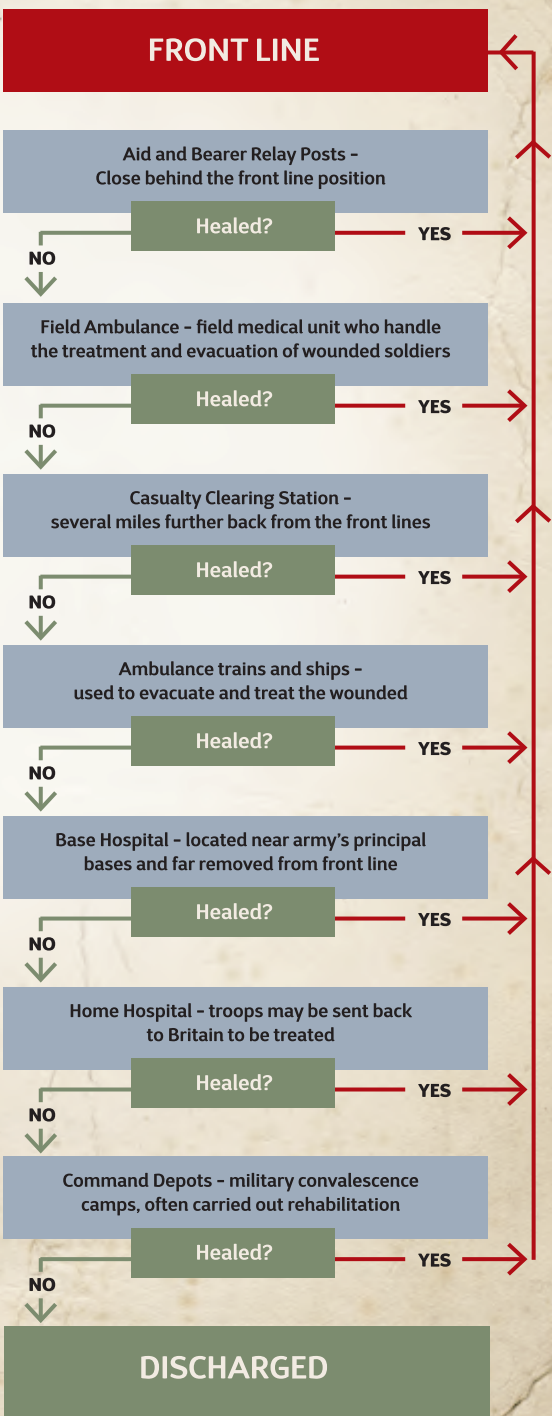
DEALING WITH THE WOUNDED

The casualty lists during the First World War were massive. During the course of the war almost 950,000 British and Commonwealth service personnel lost their lives, and 2 million were wounded.

Many of those wounded during the fighting would be passed through a chain of clearing stations or medical assessments to determine the nature of their wounds and the course of treatment required. The most badly wounded would be evacuated back to hospitals in Britain, while those with minor wounds would be patched up, receive some time to recover, and then returned to duty.

950,000
BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH PERSONNEL
KILLED

2,000,000
WOUNDED



Cars of the Royal Naval Armoured Car Service in the field.
Image copyright of Charles McConaghy.



**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
SIR WALTER DORLING
SMILES D.S.O.**



was a newly promoted Lieutenant when he was transferred to the RNACD from the RNAS due to lack of aircraft in 1915. During the course of his service with the RNACD, principally in Russia and Romania, he would be Mentioned in Dispatches, and be awarded the DSO (1916) and with bar (1917). He and other Orangemen in the ranks would be involved in several engagements.



**CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
JOHN MACFARLANE D.S.M.**



was one of those serving with Smiles along the Eastern front. In the summer of 1917 MacFarlane, a Motor Driver from Lanford Street Belfast, found himself in support of Russia's Romanian allies. On 1 July, outside the town of Brzezany, and with the new Provisional Government's Minister of War Alexander Kerensky looking on, the RNACD went into action. They quickly swept Bulgarian units aside but were halted by a wire and sandbag blockade. MacFarlane volunteered to assist Smiles move the obstruction, under fire, and was killed in the action. This was not the first act of gallantry by MacFarlane. In 1916 he had been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

ROYAL NAVAL ARMOURED CAR SERVICE



The Royal Naval Armoured Car Division was formed in November 1914. It was a special mechanised unit formed within the Royal Naval Air Service. Initially, 20 Squadrons were raised, many by private finance.

At the outbreak of war both sides used new innovations to try and bring the fighting to a swift conclusion. In the Autumn of 1914 the use of fast moving, lightly armoured cars, caught the imagination of charismatic young commanders such as Winston Churchill and the Conservative and Unionist MP, Oliver Stillingfleet Locker Lampson. In total 600 men would serve in this unit, 111 of them from Ireland. Between 1915 and 1918 these units would see action on the Western Front, the Eastern Front and Mesopotamia.

Locker Lampson was one of those individuals who agreed to raise and equip a squadron. This required considerable finance and it is believed much of this came from Ulster, possibly from the Ulster Volunteer Force. This support was reflected in the names given to some of the armoured cars – the *Ulster*, *Londonderry* and *Mountjoy*. Many of those who joined the RNACD from Ulster had served in the UVF and were motor drivers or mechanics before the war. As with almost every other military unit of the war, Orangemen were in the ranks. One of those was a young Lieutenant, **Walter Dorling Smiles**.

The 'Ulster' armoured car falling off
a railway carriage in Russia.
Image copyright of Charles McConaghy.





‘MUTINY’

Shortly after their deployment in Russia, news arrived about the Easter Rebellion in Dublin. There was concern from many Ulstermen and a few demanded that they be returned to Ireland, threatening to commandeer a ship and sail it themselves! They were eventually convinced that all was well in Ireland. A few ringleaders were returned to England to prevent further trouble.

The unit was deployed south from Archangel, being warmly greeted in several towns along the route to Moscow. While in Moscow news arrived that the RNACD would be sent directly into action in the Caucasus, where the Turkish army was advancing. They were deployed in the June heat by train. At one routine stop, to take on fuel for the train, some men decided to cool off in a nearby river. It was here that the unit sustained its first casualty in Russia on 11 June 1916. Petty Officer **Joseph Donnelly**, from Alexandra Park in Belfast, was swept away by the fast-flowing river and drowned. He was a member of No. 6 District LOL in Belfast.



HISTORY OF THE DIVISION

The excitement surrounding the creation of this new unit saw it deployed to France and Belgium. Initially it was hoped that it would assist in holding the Belgian Port town of Antwerp, but they arrived too late to halt the German advance.

Quickly the nature of war changed as both sides began to construct trenches and fortifications, the ‘short war’ was about to be replaced by stalemate and attrition. At the end of 1915 the RNACD was transferred to Russia and Persia, where battles still took place over wide areas and the tide of war ebbed and flowed unhindered by vast networks of trenches and barbed wire.

Members of the RNACD proudly stand in front of the ‘Mountjoy’ armoured car somewhere in Russia.
Image copyright of Charles McConaghy.



BANGOR'S ARMoured HEROES

The RNACD would distinguish themselves in a variety of theatres, especially along the Eastern front and Persia. After the Russian Revolution in October 1917, they were forced to escape, with many men being transferred to the Machine Gun Corps for the rest of the war. One of those to be transferred was Petty Officer **David Russell** from Ballymaghee near Bangor.

David Russell, a Motor Driver, had been attached to the RNACD since December 1915. A member of Bangor Purple Star LOL No. 677, he soon found himself serving in Russia and Romania. In October 1917 he was awarded the Silver Breast Medal with St. Stanislas Ribbon for hard work, before the unit was moved home and he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps as a Sergeant for the remainder of the War. David survived the war and returned to Bangor where he became a bus driver.

The Ulster and Irishmen who served with the RNACD are just one of the forgotten elements of the First World War.

Four other members of Bangor Purple Star LOL No. 677 were members of the RNACD; **Charles Orr, James Hassan, James McQuoid and George Robinson** (Killed in Action).



RNAS Badge.
Courtesy of Rev. Mervyn Gibson



Photograph of the late David Russell who was a member of the RNACD and Bangor Purple Star LOL.
Courtesy of David Wilsdon.



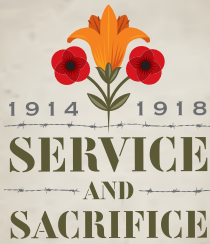
AGM Stuart Brooker pictured at Irvinestown C of I, Co. Fermanagh, with Antony Rose, former Area Supervisor, CWGC.



COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



As the war was raging, Sir Fabian Ware, a commander of a mobile Red Cross unit, began to note the graves of Allied soldiers. His work was quickly given official recognition through the establishment of the Imperial (later Commonwealth) War Graves Commission. Since the end of the war this organisation has been charged with identifying, marking, and taking care of, the final resting place of soldiers remains. This work continues in 153 countries today, with all graves being treated equally through the erection of a uniform headstone. One of those who undertakes work for the CWGC in Northern Ireland is the **Assistant Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Stuart Brooker.**



REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION

The brutality and loss created by the First World War would be reflected in how the conflict, and those who served in it, would be remembered.

THE ORDER REMEMBERS

Across the World the Institution continues to mark the service and sacrifice of so many of its members during the First World War. This gratitude has been expressed in a variety of ways down through the decades.

In the immediate aftermath of the war, lodges assisted those families who had lost loved ones. Some children were placed on the roll of the Lord Enniskillen Memorial Orange Orphan Society, while others were provided for by private lodges. Just as War Memorials began to spring up in the years after the Armistice, so memorials appeared in Orange Halls and lodge rooms across the World. Indeed, 11 new Orange Halls, built in the decades after 1918, were erected and dedicated as Orange War Memorial Halls. They included **Ballyrashane** War Memorial Orange Hall, **Carrigans** War Memorial Orange Hall, **Castlecatt** War Memorial Hall, **Castledawson** Protestant War Memorial Hall, **Crumlin** War Memorial Orange Hall, **Fenagh** Memorial Orange Hall, **Hydepark** War Memorial Orange Hall, **Muckamore** War Memorial Orange Hall, **North Belfast** War Memorial Recreation Hall, **Randalstown** War Memorial Orange Hall, **Templepatrick** War Memorial Orange Hall and **Tullylish** Memorial Orange Hall.

In 1991, Belfast Orangemen proposed the creation of a specific Orange Memorial to commemorate those who had sacrificed so much. Significant funds were raised, and an Orange Memorial was established near the Ulster Tower Memorial at Thiepval in France. Today the **Thiepval Memorial Lodge** takes the lead in maintaining this memorial to the unparalleled sacrifice of Orangemen and Women, from around the World, during the First World War.

The Orange memorial at Thiepval



36th (Ulster) Division Memorial Lodge, LOL No. 977 (1927)



The War Memorial from the old Downpatrick Orange Hall.

