



THE WAR MEMORIAL

'As gold in the furnace hath he tried them and received them as a burnt offering'.



The War Memorial was erected in 1920 and commemorates eleven men from Sandymount and beyond who died in the First World War. Most of the men were part of the congregation and lived locally. In other cases the casualties lived elsewhere but had connections with St John's through their families. The eleven men are buried at far flung cemeteries in France, Greece, Palestine, and Iran. One was never found. The list of names on the memorial is ordered by the theatre of war in which the casualty died.

KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE

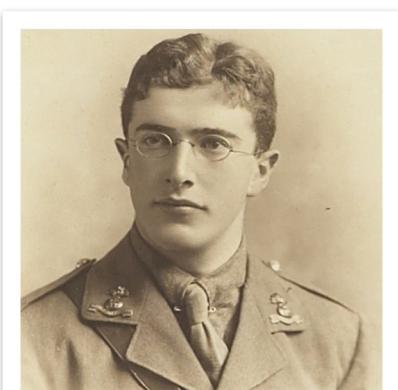


Charles Stafford King Harman

Captain Charles Edward Stafford-King-Harman, son of the Rt. Hon Sir Thomas Stafford, a medical doctor, and the Lady Stafford, of Rockingham, Boyle, was born in Belfast in 1891, where his father was Inspector (later Medical Commissioner) of the Local Government Board. The family was resident in 1910 at Taney House, Dundrum. He was educated at Eton where he was Colour-Sergeant in the Officer Training Corps and from where he applied in April 1910 to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He married at the Royal Military Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on 4th July 1914, Olive Pakenham-Mahon of Strokestown Park, Longford thus uniting two of the principal estates of the region since he was heir to Rockingham in Co. Roscommon. They had one daughter, Lettice Mary, born posthumously in 1915. Capt.

Stafford-King-Harman, aged 23, was killed in action on 6th November 1914 near Ypres along with Lord John Hamilton, son of the Duke of Abercorn. He was originally reported as either missing or a prisoner of war at Zerbst. After lengthy and poignant correspondence with his desolate family, he was declared dead by notice from the War Office on 30th October 1915. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Panel 11 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

2nd Lt. Charles De Burgh Daly, 4th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was the son of Dr Charles Calthrop De Burgh Daly and Emily Lucy née French, of 71 Park Avenue, Sandymount. He was born on 12th August 1897 in Newchwang, Manchuria, China, when his father was Medical Officer to H.M. Consulate. His mother was a sister of the artist, musician and song-writer Percy French. He was educated at Tonbridge School in Kent where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps. He joined the 'Dubs' in August 1915 and went to the Front in July 1916. 2nd Lt. De Burgh Daly was killed in action, aged 19, on 9th September 1916 in the Battle of Ginchy, a constituent engagement of the Battle of the Somme that began on 1st July 1916 and lasted until the Battle of the Ancre on 18th November 1916. He is buried at Delville Wood Cemetery, Grave II P 1. Private John Drew Mitchell, also named on St. John's War Memorial, died the same day.



Lt Charles de Burgh Daly

2nd Lt. Thomas Coote-Cummins, 7th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment, was born in Staveley, Derbyshire, in 1898, the son of Irishman Dr. William Macalister Cummins,

Physician and Surgeon, and Edith Miriam née Morley. He was educated at Chesterfield Grammar School in Derbyshire, which he entered in Oct 1907. An uncle, C.P. Cummins, who was resident at 1, St. John's Road, was a member of the congregation and vestryman of this church. Another address associated with CP Cummins was 22 Claremont Road. 2nd Lt. Coote-Cummins, aged 19, was killed in action on 25th March 1918 during what was known as the 'German Somme Offensive'. He is buried at Warlencourt British Cemetery Grave V.L.20.

DIED OF WOUNDS IN FRANCE

Lieut. Eric Greaves, 7th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was born in 1894, the son of Joseph Greaves, a valuer in the Valuation Office at Ely Place in Dublin, and Martha Greaves. The family resided at 103 Sandymount Avenue. Eric attended Wesley College and was active in the Dublin Schools' Cadet Corps with the rank of Lance Corporal. He joined the Cadet Corps of the 7th Battalion, the Leinster Regiment at Fermoy on 19th December 1914. He wished, however, to join the RDF. As Eric was under twenty-one years of age, his father also signed the application form for a temporary appointment to a commission in the army. Fr. Le Fanu, Vicar of St. John's, testified to Eric's good moral character, as did Dr. Thomas Irwin, Principal of Wesley College. He was declared medically fit by Dr. C.C. De Burgh Daly, father of Charles De Burgh Daly who is also listed on the memorial at St. John's. He was posted as Temporary 2nd Lieutenant with the 9th Battalion RDF on 27th August 1915. He was at one time attached to the 2nd Battalion and later served with the 7th Battalion RDF. Eric went to France at the end of 1915 with the 16th Division and subsequently saw action in Salonika, Egypt, Palestine and, finally, France again. At Le Cateau, on 8th November 1918, just three days before Armistice Day, Eric was wounded in action following a tremendous feat of courage for which he was awarded posthumously the Military Cross. He died on 21st November aged 23 and was buried at St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen. Grave: S.V.K.1

Private Trevor Eyre Symes was born on 18th December 1888 in Dublin, the son of Robert Warren Symes, BA, TCD, and Lucy Sarah Symes of 3 College Green, Dublin and 41 Park Avenue, Sandymount. His father was a Scholar of Trinity College Dublin (1864) in Pure and Applied Mathematics and Double Gold Medallist (Experimental Science / Pure and Applied Mathematics). Private Symes was serving with the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion of the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) Regiment, in which he had enlisted in Perth, Scotland. The Battalion entered France just a few weeks before his death, on 2nd May 1915. He died, aged 26, on 13th June 1915 of wounds and was buried at Brown's Road Military Cemetery Festhubert, Pas de Calais, Grave V.D.12. His sister Mabel Richarda married in London in 1913 Wallace Drew Mitchell, a brother of Private John Drew Mitchell who is remembered on this memorial.

Private John Drew Mitchell was born on 11th July 1888, the son of Frank William Drew Mitchell and Emily Mitchell née Wild, of 8 St. Mary's Road, Ballsbridge. At the time of

John's birth, his father was Secretary General of the Prisons' Board. By 1902, Mr. Mitchell was Secretary of the Congested Districts Board and resided at 21 Ailesbury Road. As Trooper J.D. Mitchell, he transferred from the Royal Horse Guards to the 1st Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment, on 13th May 1916 and entered France on 23rd of the same month. He was serving with the Gloucesters when he died of wounds received in action, aged 28, on 9th September 1916 and was buried at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt - l'Abbé, Grave IV.A.51. This was the same day that 2nd Lieutenant Charles De Burgh Daly, who is also named on St. John's War Memorial, died. Private Mitchell was gazetted on 16th November 1916, in respect of the Military Medal he was awarded "*for bravery in the field*".

2nd Lt. Ivan Philip Watson was from Lurgan in Co. Armagh. He was born on 25th March 1896, the youngest son of Hugh Watson, DL, and Mary Gregory Watson of Beech Park, Lurgan and was the grandson of Philip Jones, Nutgrove, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin. He attended Lurgan College and entered Trinity College Dublin in 1913. He enlisted in the Royal Irish Rifles, 17th Battalion, in April 1915, and entered France on 31st August 1915. In 1917, he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. 2nd Lt. Watson died of wounds received in action on 28th March, 1918, aged 22, and he was buried at St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France, Section Officers, B.10.8.

Lieutenant John Geoffrey Baird Dunne (Jack) was one of two brothers lost in the war and remembered on this memorial. He was born on 6th July 1889, when the family resided at 15 St. Joseph's Crescent, Glasnevin to John Young Dunne, a clerk in the Civil Service and Annie Henderson Dunne née Baird. The family later lived at Greenfield, Claremont Road, Sandymount. While a student at Trinity College Dublin, Jack served with the Officer Training Corps. He joined the 7th Cadet Battalion RDF in July 1916 and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant with the 3rd Battalion RDF in October of that year. He was severely wounded in February 1917 and was awarded a Certificate of Devotion to Duty and Gallantry in the Field near Ledeghem on 14th October 1918. Just under one month later, he was serving as a Lieutenant with the 1st Battalion in France when he died of pneumonia and influenza, aged 29 years, on 12th November, the day after Armistice Day. He was buried at St. Andre Communal Cemetery, Nord, France, Grave I.A.56.

DIED IN PERSIA

Corporal Ronald Stuart Baird Dunne was the younger son of John Young Dunne, a clerk in the Civil Service and Annie Henderson Dunne née Baird, who lived at Greenfield, Claremont Road, Sandymount. He was serving as a Corporal with the 976th Motor Transport Company, Royal Army Service, when he died of cellulitis on 14th December 1918 in Mesopotamia, just over one month after the death of his brother Jack. Cor-

poral Dunne was aged 21 years and was buried in Teheran War Cemetery, Grave VI.A.2 .He is commemorated in the publication *A History of Wesley College* with the tribute *“He was the first driver to enter Baghdad”*.

KILLED IN ACTION IN SALONIKA

Corporal Henry Augustus Kavanagh was the son of William Kavanagh and Amelia Kavanagh née Steele of 7 Jane Villa, Merrion and later 167 Merrion Road. At the time of Henry’s birth on 20th April 1893, his father William gave as his profession that of Butler, and in later documents (the Census 1901) he is described as Court Crier. Corporal Kavanagh was educated at Diocesan School, Molesworth Street, Dublin and he was a solicitor’s clerk when he joined the 7th (Pals’) Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. By September 1916, he was serving as a Corporal in the Balkans with the Pals when he was killed in action, aged 23 years.



Cpl Henry Kavanagh

He was buried at Struma Military Cemetery, Grave IV.B.1

KILLED IN ACTION IN PALESTINE

Private Arthur Thomas Avison was born on 26th August 1884 to George Charles Avison and Annie Amelia Avison née Spedding, then residing at 117 Tritonville Road, Sandymount. His father was an accountant by profession and became Company Secretary of Switzers Department Store in Grafton Street. Around 1902 the family took up residence in Shandon, a fine terraced house at 1 Victoria Terrace, St. John’s Road. Private Avison was 30 years of age when he enlisted for service as a Private with the Royal Bucks Hussars in London on 29th July 1915. He was sent to Alexandria with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force on 12th February 1916. He obviously was a good shot, as he passed with first class honours from a machine gun training course in December 1916 and was subsequently transferred on 7th March 1917 to the 17th Squadron Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry). He died in the field of wounds to the abdomen on 15th November 1917, aged 33, following action in Egypt and was buried at Gaza War Cemetery, Grave X.E.15. His sister Miss Kathleen Avison remained in the house on St. John’s Road until the 1960s. Other addresses associated with the family at a later date were Tregenna on Merrion Road and 79 Ailesbury Road.

Notes for War Memorial

Among the sources consulted for the section on the War Memorial are:

Our Heroes - From Mons to the Somme August 1914 - July 1916m

A Supplement to *Irish Life* July 30th 1915

De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour Vol. 1

University of Dublin War List Dublin 1922

Thoms Dublin Street Directories

General Register Office Dublin

General Register Office London

The Irish Times (various)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Census of Ireland 1901 and 1911

National Archives, Kew

Acknowledgements

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