

DECADE OF THE CENTENARIES HISTORY COMPETITION 2021

TITLE OF MY PROJECT :

THE IRISH IN THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN 1915

CATEGORY FOR WHICH I WISH TO BE ENTERED :

IRELAND AND WORLD WAR 1

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SUBMITTING THE PROJECT :

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Signed by student Róisín Ní Uallacháin

Dated April 29th 2021

I give my permission for my daughters work (essay including my daughter's image) to be re-produced, as it was submitted, and hosted on Scoilnet.ie in the event that she is successful in winning this competition.

Signed by parent Peter Houlihan

Dated April 29th 2021

IRELAND & THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Irish in the Gallipoli Campaign 1915

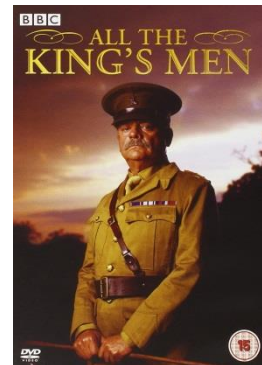
RÓISÍN NI UALLACHÁIN APRIL 25TH 2021

Overview:

This project will look at the Irish in the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 and the effects it had on some of the families in my locality of Monkstown, County Dublin.

Methods used to research the project:

My next-door neighbour Philip Lecane wrote a book about the Irish in Gallipoli called '*Beneath a Turkish Sky*'. I interviewed him several times about this. We did a number of walking tours of our locality to see where people involved in the fighting lived. I also undertook a lot of research online. I watched the 1981 film, "*Gallipoli*," starring a very young Mel Gibson & Mark Lee and also watched "*All the Kings Men*," starring David Jason.



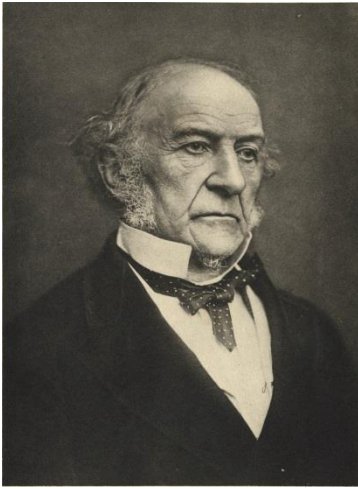
Background notes:

At the time of the First World War, Ireland was part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. When Britain went to war, Irish men were encouraged by John Redmond to fight with the British army. Many thousands of Irish men did fight in The Great War including some of my own distant relations.

There were several Irish regiments in the British army, such as The Royal Dublin Fusiliers, The Royal Munster Fusiliers, The Connaught Rangers etc. (*The word Fusilier comes from 'Fusil', an old French word for gun*).

The soldiers who took part in the landings in Gallipoli on the 25th April 1915 were regular soldiers such as men who were in the army before the war. For them being a soldier was their job. The regular Irish soldiers were mainly Catholic working-class men from the inner cities and agricultural labourers. The officers were mainly protestant Irish men and Englishmen. The soldiers who took part in the landings at Suvla Bay, on the Gallipoli peninsula, in early August 1915 were volunteers,- i.e. men who joined up after war was declared. Mostly from the middle class, they had no military background (*though some would have served part-time in officer training corps attached to universities*). After some training they were sent off to fight. While there were some Englishmen in the division, the officers and the men of the 10th (Irish) Division were mainly Catholic and protestant Irishmen.

The situation in Ireland Before the First World War



William Gladstone

Tension was running high in Ireland at the time, influenced by a strong desire for independence from The British Empire. Ireland had been seeking *Home Rule* and their independent seats in Westminster. Up to 1800, Ireland had its own (Grattan's) parliament in Dublin. When the Act of Union was passed in 1801 the Irish Parliament was removed and transferred to Westminster.



John Redmond

From the 1870s, Irish representatives at Westminster began to campaign for Home Rule, and to have Ireland's Parliament returned to Dublin. Unionists in the north of the country feared this as they believed such a parliament would be under the control of the Catholic Church. They adopted the slogan "*Home Rule is Rome Rule.*" In the 1880s, the Irish Group at Westminster gained a balance of power. This meant that it was impossible to form a government without the support of the Irish Party. The Irish collaborated with the British Prime minister William Gladstone and the Liberal Party and in return Gladstone promised to introduce Home Rule for Ireland.

The Liberals tried to introduce Home Rule for Ireland on three separate occasions, however were blocked on each time by the House of Lords. In 1912, a law was passed limiting the power of the House of Lords to block Home Rule.

Ironically William Gladstone had visited Wicklow on a number of occasions to see his friend in Coollattin House and travelled by train along the very spot where John Redmond stood in Woodenbridge, County Wicklow seeking recruitment from the Irish men to back the British Army who had entered the First World War.

John Redmond wanted to secure Home Rule by showing the British government that Ireland was 'worthy' of Home Rule. Tensions ran high and a possible outbreak of civil war in Ireland was only prevented by the outbreak of the First World War.

I have a close connection to John Redmond's speech as he spoke near the old railway line, known as '*the Fitzwilliam Line*'. This was a branch line that once ran from Woodenbridge to Shillelagh. I spend my weekends and holidays in the old Shillelagh Station house and terminus.

Outbreak of war:

On the 28th July 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, - the heir to the Austria-Hungary throne, - and his wife Sophie were assassinated during a visit to Sarajevo, located in the centre of Bosnia – Herzegovina. (*formerly part of Serbia*).

Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for the assassination and declared war on Serbia. Russia was an ally of Serbia, as it realised the strategic importance of the Balkan Peninsula, so it declared war on Austria-Hungary. Soon the other great powers were dragged into war. On one side were the British army along with France and the Russian Empire and other allied powers, as set out on the map below. On the other side were the Germany Empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (*more commonly known as Turkey*).

Germany and Austria-Hungary were in the centre of Europe. To their west was France. To their east was Russia. They decided to attack France first, to try to defeat them before fighting Russia. The German army invaded Belgium in order to attack France from the north. Britain sent troops to help France. Both sides faced each other in lines of trenches stretching for miles from the English Channel to the border of Switzerland. Each side placed barbed wire in front of their trenches and put machine guns in the trenches. Whenever one side attacked the other side, hundreds of men were shot down by machine guns.

Neither side could break through.



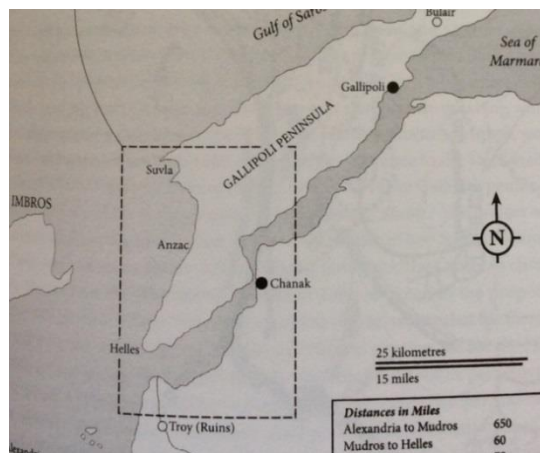
A map of Europe before the First World War

The decision to attack Turkey

Unable to break through the German lines in France and Belgium, the British and French decided to attack Turkey. It was believed Turkey was weak, as it had lost much of its land in fighting a few years before the First World War. It was believed an attack on Turkey would lead to its surrender. This would allow Britain and France to send supplies to their ally Russia by way of the Black Sea.



The map above highlights the strategic importance of the plan to attack Turkey. It was decided to send British and French ships up a long narrow waterway known as the Dardanelles in order to attack the Turkish capital Constantinople (*now known as Istanbul*).



The Gallipoli Peninsula and the Dardanelles



The plan was hastily put together. The Turks had guns on either side of the Dardanelles. They also laid mines in the water. Just when it looked as if the fleet might get through the Dardanelles, a number of battleships were sunk by mines. It was decided to call off the attack and instead to land troops on the Gallipoli peninsula, on the western side of the Dardanelles.

Gallipoli peninsula and the Dardanelles

Gallipoli Beaches

It was decided to land troops at six beaches on the Gallipoli peninsula. The peninsula takes its name from an old city founded there by the Greeks (*Kallipolis, which means beautiful city*). Each beach was given a letter, S, V, W, X, Y, and Z. Australian and New Zealand soldiers would land at Z Beach; known as Anzacs from first letters of their official name, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). The beach where they landed became known as Anzac Cove. British troops landed at the other beaches.

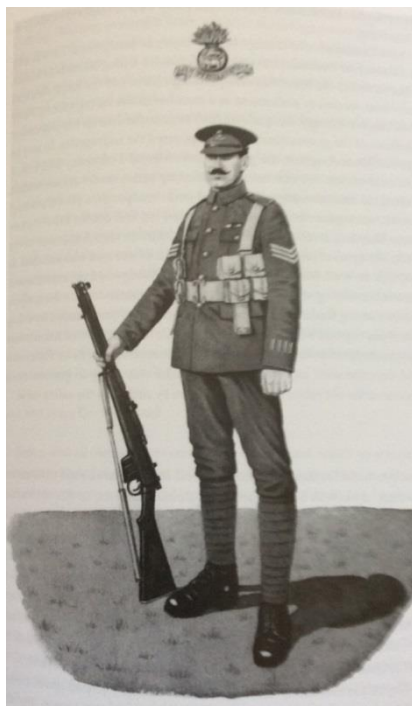
Of the two and a half battalions that landed at V Beach, two were Irish. One being the 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the other was 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers. The half battalion was part of the Hampshire Regiment.

The soldiers were brought most of the way to the beaches on Royal Navy ships. They were then brought ashore in ships lifeboats rowed by sailors of the Royal Navy.

A different plan was used at V Beach.

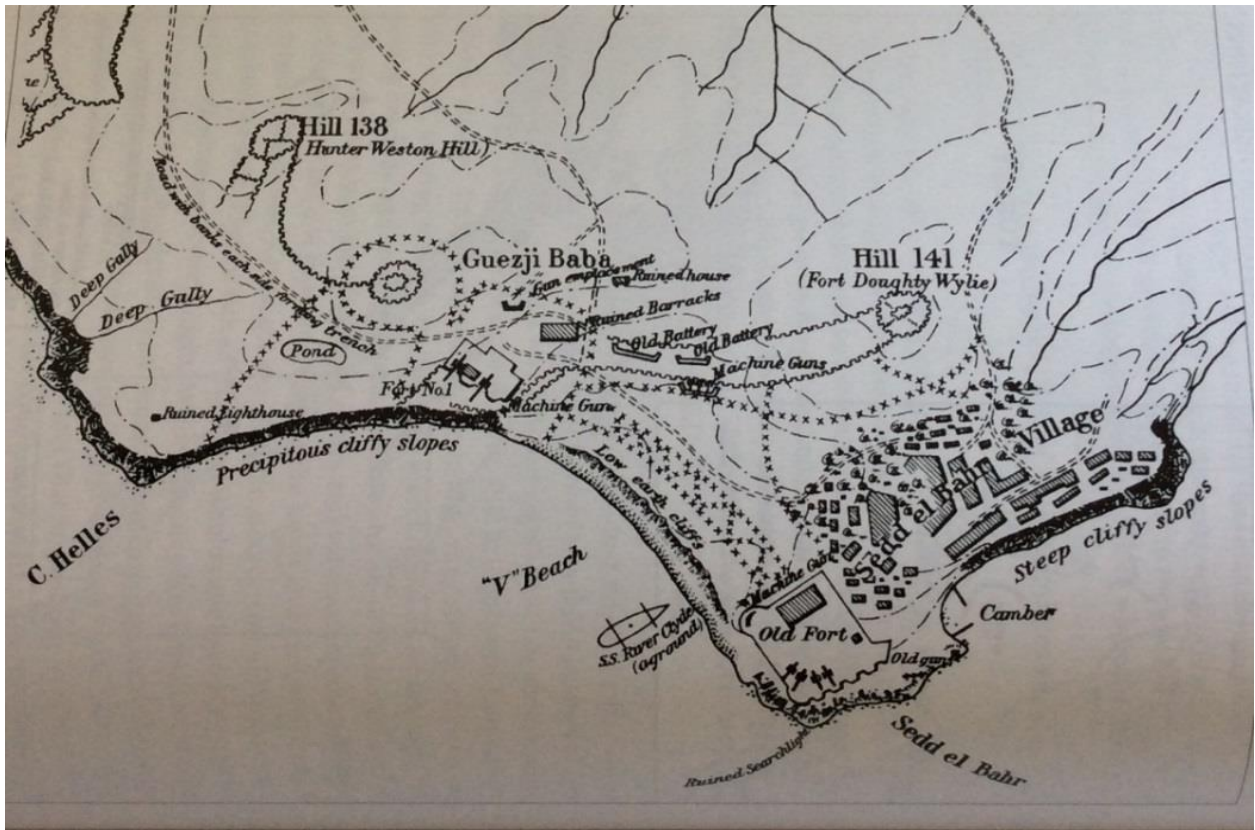
While three quarters of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers were put into life boats, the other quarter, together with the Royal Munster Fusiliers and the Hampshires were put aboard the *SS River Clyde*, a ship normally used to carry coal.

Four doors were cut in the side of the ship, two on each side. Gangplanks were hung from each side of the ship, outside the doors. Another gangplank was placed at the front of the ship. The plan was for the *SS River Clyde* to be run ashore on the beach. The soldiers would run along the gangplanks to the front of the ship, where the gangplank there would be lowered, allowing the soldiers to run down the gangplank and onto the beach.



Royal Dublin Fusilier

The boats with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the *SS River Clyde* arrived at the beach at about the same time. Looking at the beach from the sea there was high ground overlooking the beach to the left and in the middle. On the right were the ruins of an old fort. The Turks were on the high ground and in the old fort. As soon as the boats arrived the Turks opened fire on the lifeboats. Many of the men in the boats were killed or wounded either in the boats or in the water as they tried to get ashore. Among those killed was Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Rooth, the commanding officer of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.



V Beach

A small group of men managed to get ashore and hid under a sandbank.

Among them was Father William Finn, Catholic Chaplain to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Born in Hull, he was the son of parents from Co. Mayo. That morning, aboard the Royal Navy ship that carried the Royal Dublin Fusiliers to Gallipoli, Lt. Col. Rooth told Fr. Finn to stay on board and care for the wounded troops who would be brought from the beach back to the boat. Fr. Finn insisted on going ashore, saying, "*The priest's place is with the dying soldier.*" He and Rooth travelled in the same boat.

Father William Finn was killed on the beach caring for the wounded and dying soldiers. ***He was the first chaplain to be killed in action during the war.***

Fr. Finn and Lt. Col. Rooth are buried together in the only joint grave in V Beach Cemetery above the beach.



Grave of Father Finn and Lieutenant-Colonel Rooth



Father William Finn



Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Rooth

The SS River Clyde-

Meanwhile, on the *SS River Clyde*, the doors on both sides of the ship were opened. Many of the Royal Munster Fusiliers were shot and killed by the Turks as they tried to get ashore. Some got ashore and sheltered with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers under the sandbank on the beach. It was decided to wait for nightfall before sending further troops ashore. When night fell the remaining men on the ship were able to get ashore under cover of darkness.



THE LANDING FROM THE "RIVER CLYDE," GALLIPOLI-APRIL 25th, 1915.

The next day, the soldiers of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Royal Munster Fusiliers and the Hampshire Regiment were slowly able to fight their way off the beach, as they outnumbered the Turks who still held the higher ground. Major Cecil Grimshaw from Dublin, the senior surviving Royal Dublin Fusiliers officer was killed leading his men in an attack on Turkish positions.

Corporal William Cosgrove of the Royal Munster Fusiliers was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery during the attack. The twenty-six year old Cork man was 6 feet 6 inches tall. Under Turkish fire he lifted posts holding barbed wire, allowing his fellow soldiers get off the beach. While he survived Gallipoli, his wounds shortened his life. He died in 1936.

The 1st Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers suffered such heavy casualties that until reinforcements arrived, they were formed into one battalion known as "*The Dubsters.*" While the British, Irish and Australian troops managed to fight their way off their different beaches, they were only able to get a few miles inland, before being stopped by the Turks. As in France and Belgium, the fighting soon became bogged down in the stalemate of trench warfare.



V Beach

Suvla Bay: With stalemate in Gallipoli, it was decided to land more troops at Suvla Bay, five miles north of Z Beach (Anzac Cove) in early August 1915. The plan was that these troops would push across the Gallipoli peninsula to the Dardanelles. Among the troops who landed were soldiers of the 10th (Irish) Division. Unfortunately, the plan failed when high ground a few miles inland was never captured. Eventually it was decided to evacuate Gallipoli.

The end of the war and afterwards

Late in 1918 Germany and its allies – including Turkey – surrendered. After the surrender, the British built permanent cemeteries for their dead. One of these is V Beach Cemetery, just above the beach. On high ground over V Beach, the Helles it lists the names of 20,958 men who were killed in Gallipoli and have no known grave.



Helles Memorial

In 1922, with the establishment of the Irish Free State, Irish regiments such as the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Royal Munster Fusiliers were disbanded. On 24th April 1916, a day before the first anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, the Easter Rising broke out in Dublin. This was followed a few years later by the War of Independence and then the Civil War.

In the aftermath of these events, Irish participation in the First World War, including Gallipoli, was forgotten.

Whereas 25th April is publicly marked every year in Australia and New Zealand, it passes unmarked and forgotten in Ireland. On 25th April 2021, the official New Zealand residence on Shrewsbury Road, Dublin was festooned with wreaths commemorating ANZAC Day.

President Mary McAleese worked hard to build bridges between the communities on the Island of Ireland. Part of this work involved Remembrance of the Irish north and south in the First World War. In March 2010, President McAleese visited Gallipoli including V Beach and Suvla Bay. Her visit gave official recognition by the Irish State of the Irish who fought and died in Gallipoli. President McAleese was shown the graves of Fr. Finn by my neighbour Philip Lecane.

In the words of President Mary McAleese, when remembering Irelands First World War dead, she said.

“In this generation we redeem their memory, acknowledging their service and the pain of those who loved them”.



Families from my locality who were involved in the Gallipoli Campaign

The Martin Family



*Marie Martin as a nurse in
World War I*

The Martin Family lived in Monkstown, Co. Dublin during the First World War. They were very involved in The Gallipoli Campaign.

Marie, Tommy, and Charlie Martin were among eleven children born to Tom and Mary Martin. The Martin's were a wealthy Catholic family. Tom Martin, the father, was a partner in the firm of T & C. Martin, Timber Merchants, who were based on Castleforbes Road on the North Dublin docks.

The Martin family lived in Greenbank, on Carrickbrennan Road, Monkstown which is now a small housing estate overlooking Monkstown castle.

Marie Martin played a significant role in giving us an insight into the life in Ireland during ‘The Gallipoli Campaign’. Charlie, her younger brother, had gone to war alongside his older brother Tommy. He had been reported missing in action. This inspired Marie to write a diary dedicated to him in the hope of him returning one day and to finally read her loving diaries and letters.....this never happened. Her diary lasted the whole of 5 months.

“Dear Charlie, since I heard you are missing as well as wounded it has occurred to me to write this diary in the form of a letter.” She wrote.

Marie Martin was a nurse and was posted overseas as a Red Cross VAD nurse (*Volunteer Aid Nurse*). She nursed in Malta, Leeds and France and then returned to Ireland. In 1937 she founded the Medical Missionaries of Mary. Marie Martin was a very interesting lady who died on the 27th January 1975

-The Martin Brothers at Gallipoli –

With the rank of Lieutenant, Charlie was assigned to the 6th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. In the meantime Tommy Martin, who was also a Lieutenant, was posted to the 5th Battalion of the Connaught Rangers.



In January 1915, the 5th Battalion of the Connaught Rangers was sent to the Curragh, Co. Kildare, where Charlie was training at the time.

Presumably, Charlie was able to spend time with Tommy there and also they could have gone home to Monkstown on leave.

Tommy Martin was among the first of the troops of the 10th (Irish) Division to arrive at Mudros, near to Gallipoli. On the 6th of August they landed at Anzac Cove as dawn broke over the Gallipoli peninsula. They were sent to help the Australian troops, who had been fighting there since the 25th of April. Sometime between the landing on the 6th of August and the 25th of September, Tommy Martin was badly wounded. He was shipped home to Ireland.

On the 7th of August, Charlie’s battalion was put ashore at ‘C’ Beach, Suvla Bay, a few miles north of Anzac Cove, where Tommy’s battalion had landed the day before. On the 9th of August they attacked Hill 50 (Chocolate Hill), however their greatest effort failed. They didn’t succeed to capture high ground which was a major setback in advancing through Turkey. At sunset on the 9th of August, following their attack on Chocolate Hill, it became apparent that the Royal Dublin Fusiliers had suffered very significant losses.



Chocolate Hill

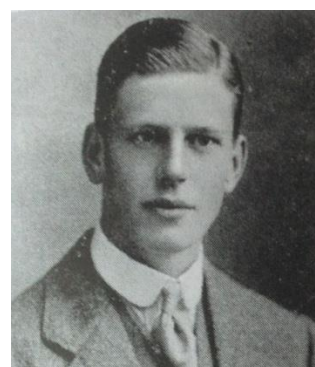
It was during the attack on Chocolate Hill that Charlie was wounded, though wasn't shipped home as his wounds weren't as bad as his brother's. Charlie is thought to have died of his wounds a day or two after his capture by Bulgarian forces at Gallipoli.

Charlie was the inspiration behind Marie Martin's writing and we have both of them to thank.

The Dowse Family



Henry Dowse



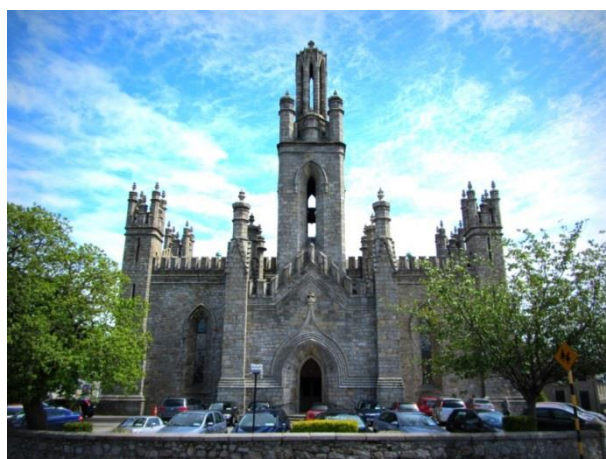
Charles Dowse

Charles Dowse was the third son of Cannon and Mrs. Dowse. They lived in Seafield Lodge, Monkstown, County Dublin. On the outbreak of the war he joined the 7th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was with them in landing at Sulva Bay. He was shot and killed aged 21, while storming the Kiretech Tepe Sirt Ridge on the 16th April 1915. On the same day, 25 other 'Pals' of 'D'; Company were killed in action and a further 17 wounded.

He was awarded the 1914-1915 stars, British War and Victory Medals. He is commemorated in a number of places, including Monkstown Church of Ireland.

Charles' father, the Reverend Cannon Dowse, was the rector of the Church of Ireland, Monkstown. Their mother Jane Dowse had five children.

Two sons were at Gallipoli. Charles was killed and Henry Harvey survived Gallipoli, only to die at the end of the Great War.



Monkstown Church of Ireland

The Millar Family



Edward Millar

Windsor House, Monkstown Avenue, (as picture below) is a very proud period property standing at the very top of the road where I live. My family home is on *Windsor Drive*, on what was once the driveway to *Windsor House*. This house was once home to the Millar family. Edward Millar, son of a wealthy protestant family, was born on the 6th June 1887. His parents, Fitzadam and Georgina Millar, had ten children.

Fitzadam owned a wholesale wine and spirits company in Dublin. Fitzadam's brother, uncle, Richard Millar was the architect for the *Knox Memorial Hall* in Monkstown, which opened in 1904. *Windsor House* was unusual in having its own telephone before the First World War. Something that sounds very odd in the present day! Fitzadam had a motor car and Edward had his own motorbike. Edward was educated at Corrig School, Kingstown (now *Dún Laoghaire*), before entering Trinity College in 1906. He worked afterwards as a mercantile clerk in the family firm and was a keen sportsman.

When war broke out he enlisted along with many other sportsmen and was assigned as a Sergeant to "D" Company, 7th Battalion of Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

On 9th August 1915, at Suvla Bay, he was part of a group of Royal Dublin Fusiliers who carried ammunition to an English battalion which was fighting the Turks. When he finished giving out the ammunition he stayed to fight alongside the Englishmen. He was killed as he rallied them. Sergeant Edward Miller's body was never recovered. He is commemorated on the Helles Memorial to the missing, on the War Memorial in the Church of Ireland, Monkstown and in the Hall of Honour, Trinity College, Dublin.



Today *Windsor House* is used as a children's nursery called '*Wee Care*'. As my neighbour, Philip Lecane and I walked around; I noticed that the original trees along Monkstown Avenue from the time of the Millar's are still continuing to bloom as spring arrives.

Opposite *Windsor House* there is a field with an unusual name. '*Soldiers' and Sailors*' is the name of this field. This is where the soldiers and the sailors played football during the First World War.



Pictured across is a post box near *Windsor House*, which would have been used by the Millar family.

On the post box is written the symbol of King Edward the 7th.

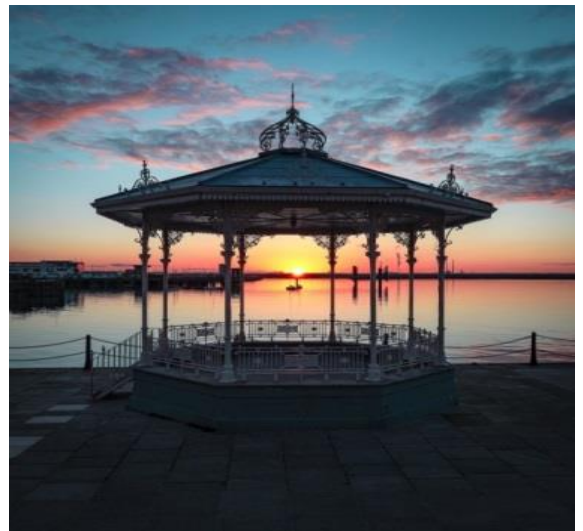
The names of streets and local landmarks are very interesting and can often be connected to much that happened over a century ago.

Interesting Facts

On Dún Laoghaire East Pier stands an old band stand, pictured across, which played a huge part in encouraging many soldiers to join the army.

A band played on the band stand while the soldiers marched to the rhythm of the music. The men who were not part of the army noticed that the marching men drew attention from the ladies who were walking down the pier.

This is what encouraged many soldiers to join the army to impress the ladies.





*'Twas better to die 'neath that Irish sky
Than at Sulva or Sud el Bar.*

This line is an extract taken from the Irish song sung by The Chieftains.

If you look closely at the lyrics you can spot the effect this certain event in history had on the Irish families who waited for their loved ones to return home.

On Anzac Day, 25th April 2021, marked the 106th anniversary of the first landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula. This is where 4,000 Irishmen lost their lives, fighting amongst their allies. Someday they will receive their well-deserved recognition, as unfortunately here in Ireland; this event isn't mentioned as much as it should be and is almost forgotten about, being a truly historic time in Irish history.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/anzac-day-not-a-celebration-but-commemoration-1.4545894>

A wooden cross erected after the V Beach landing.

It names the officers of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers who were killed, including Father William Finn and Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Rooth. In the background is the SS River Clyde.

*“In my dreams I see them still,
Come marching down the years.
The boys who stood beside me in
The Dublin Fusiliers.”*

“The Dublin Fusiliers” by Johnny McEvoy



Róisín Ní Uallacháin

Coláiste Iosagáin, Bóthar Stigh Lorgan, Co.Átha Cliath.

25th April 2021

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An Chríoch