



# Researching Your Ancestors In

# WORLD WAR 1



# HISTORY



- Until 1922 Ireland - part of the UK, -some Irish Military Records can be found in the UK National Archives in Kew, London.
- Above collected by the UK Govt Depts & some Legal records included.
- These records **do not** distinguish whether they are Scottish or Irish etc

# IRISH MILITARY RECORDS IN KEW



- Significant collection of Archives of Irish Men /Women in Armed Forces.

## History

- Until Act of Union 1801 Irish HQ of the British Army =Kilmainham,
- Recruitment relied heavily on Irish people.
- 1801 =separate command & own Regiments, Later some merged with the British Army. Records remain for Officers who served long enough to earn a pension before 1913. Records for other ranks, - physical detail e.g. height, chest, tattoos, scars, eye colour etc., most popular resources at Kew.
- 60% of records from WW1- destroyed by enemy action during WW2. Surviving ones on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk). If no service records available, search for Medals, Unit War Diaries, Muster Rolls, Casualty lists, deaths, etc...Several Service records for many who left the Army before 1913 can be searched by name at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

# OTHER RECORDS



- Some Irishmen/Women served in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines & Royal Air Force. Records can be searched and downloaded at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk).
- After WW1 the "Irish Sailors & Soldiers Land Trust" provided cottages in Ireland for ex-service men. Over 2000 cottages were built up to 1932 in the Republic - in the North to 1952. The Tenancy Files are in series AP 7, search these by location and not name. (no surname index).

**50,000 IRISHMEN**  
WANTED FOR  
**IRISH REGIMENTS**  
FILL UP THAT FORM.

- **MEDAL RECORDS**

- WW1 Medal Rolls lists - The 1914 Star, 1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Silver War Badge, (National Archives Kew) [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

- **Microfilm Records**

- You can check the Catalogue at TNA, Kew

- **Merchant Navy**

Records can be cumbersome, Many employers, records of Vessels, men in service, - detail contained in these records will vary.

# THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM (regimental histories)



- 1/3 -British Army -Irish , outbreak of WW1, -joined in times of peace -regular income & better lives - offered a chance of promotion, education , travel, etc
- Deaths records - “Ireland’s Memorial Records 1914-1918”( names of Irishmen who fell in the Great European War 1914-1918.)
- 100 copies printed in 1923 for distribution in Libraries.
- 49,000 names- –e.g. Name, Rank, Regiment, Reg No, Places of B/M
- 30,986 -Ireland as Birth Country, 11,299, of Nth Ireland, others from remaining counties, some exact county not recorded.
- Many Irish Infantry Regiments disbanded in 1922,e.g. the Connaught Rangers, The Royal Dublin Fusilers, the Royal Irish Regiment, the Leinster Regiment, and the Royal Munster Fusilers.
- The Imperial War Museum –no personal records,-material on Regiment/Unit and provide information on the experience of those who served at home & abroad

# CASUALTIES/CWGC/



- Commonwealth War Graves Commission founded - 1917  
Details – deaths 1914-1931, 1939-1947. Cares for Graves of members who died in active service
- Maintains Cemeteries worldwide -keeps listings of burials  
Fee for postal enquiries, they have a database – Debt of Honour at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org). Some graves recorded on [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)
- Casualty Lists recorded in local Newspapers or War Memorials to commerate those who have died.
- **Prisoners of War Files**
- Most were destroyed by either bombing or as government policy. TNA, Kew has a list of those that still exist.
- Flanders Field Site, searchable for Irish who died



# Patrick (Paddy) Horkan 1890-1981



1915-1918 – WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT – 14<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION  
BATTLES OF ARRAS/ SCRAPES(GAVRELLE)/ 1917  
WOUNDED IN BATTLE  
MILITARY MEDAL FOR BRAVERY 1917  
COMING HOME, -THE TROUBLES



# Capt, Thomas Tighe 1876-1936

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Connaught Rangers



**SILVER WAR BADGE**

**1916 – 1ST BATTALION ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT**

**INVALIDED IN SERVICE – SHELL SHOCKED – RETURNED FOLLOWING HOSPITALISATION IN CAMBRIDGE IN 1919**

Joseph Moran  
Royal Field Artillery  
Connaught Rangers

Both  
-Westport-

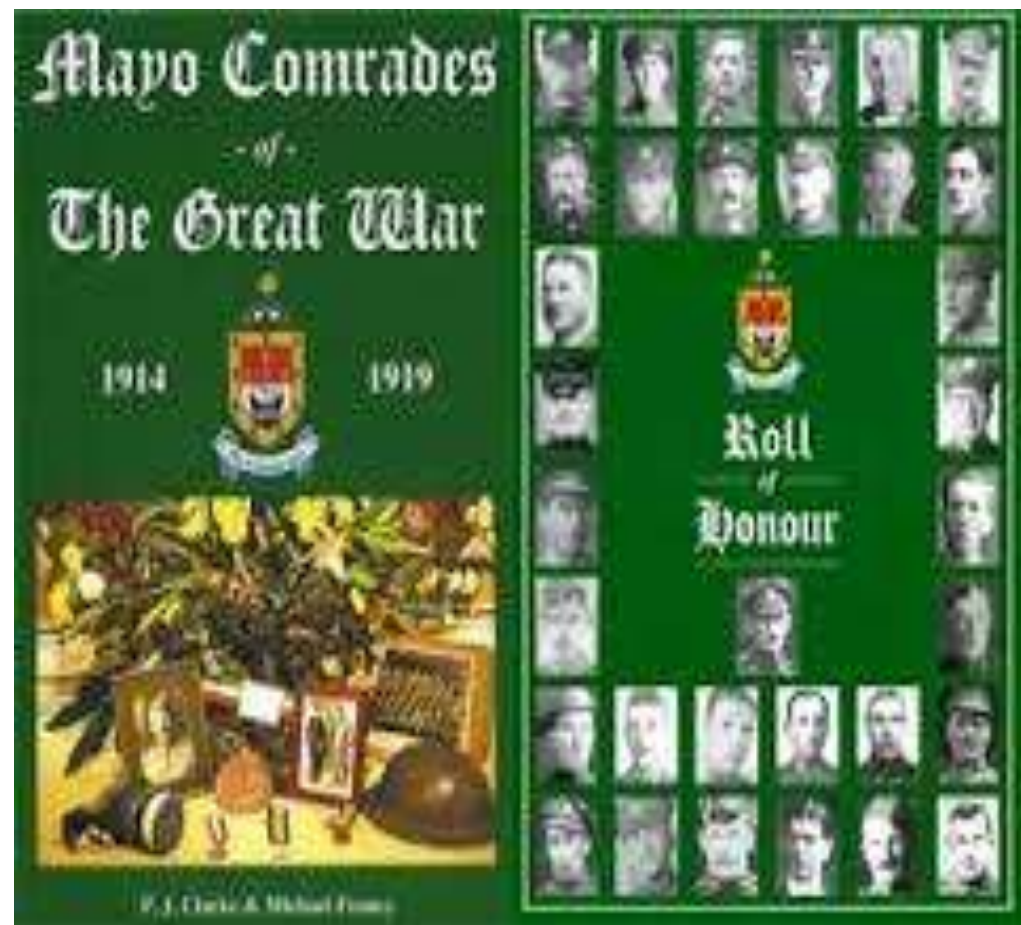
Henry McMullen  
Connaught Rangers



JOSEPH MORAN

HENRY MCMULLEN

# PUBLICATIONS



# WWI Exhibition Mayo Co Library

