

Gallipoli Fallen Remembered in Limerick



Men of the Royal Munster Fusiliers preparing for Gallipoli

By Brian Duffy

The 95th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign was marked with a commemoration in Limerick last Sunday organised by the Royal Munster Fusiliers Association (RMFA). The 25th April 1915 was most certainly a “red letter” day for the 1st Battalion of old disbanded local Regiment who landed from the SS River Clyde with the Dublin Fusiliers and others on V Beach in Cape Helles in Gallipoli (see photo). The events of that morning were prophetic of the US landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day and marked a very bloody beginning to an ill-fated 9-month campaign which ultimately claimed the lives of 4000 Irish Soldiers including over 660 men of the Munster’s - many of whom were from Clare and Limerick.

[PHOTO]

The simple and dignified ceremony at the War Memorial in Pery Square was led by the RMFA Hon. Secretary, Dr Tadhg Maloney, who spoke on the campaign and the events of that day to an assembly of about 25 people many of whom proudly wore their grandfather’s medals. Wreaths of Remembrance were then laid at the War Memorial, first by Mr. Gordon Spillane, Chairman of the RMFA on behalf of the Association, followed by Major Brian Duffy, Vice-President of Limerick Branch of the Royal British Legion (Republic of Ireland).

After the ceremony spectators mingled with association members, keen to share stories of their own family links with the Munster Fusiliers or Gallipoli generally. It was moving to witness this clear evidence of a quiet but enduring legacy of the Royal Munster Fusiliers in the region. Several enquiries were made about obtaining more information about relatives who served with the Colours. If you have any similar links or interests the Royal British Legion (Limerick Branch) at (<http://rbl-limerick.webs.com/>) or the Royal Munster Fusiliers Association (<http://www.rmfa92.org/>) will be pleased to offer advice.

This commemoration was notable in being probably the first ceremony of remembrance in Limerick with a primarily ‘local Regimental’ emphasis in a long time and may well be the only commemoration of the Irish Gallipoli dead outside of Dublin’s Grangegorman Military Cemetery where the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association join with the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions who commemorate it as ANZAC Day. Mr. Spillane hopes to make this an annual event in Limerick for the RMFA and for the people of the mid-west.

Link to Photo :

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Sedd-el-Bahr_from_River_Clyde.jpg



PHOTO CAPTION :

Gallipoli Peninsula 25 April 1915: [Sedd-el-Bahr](#) fort and village seen from the [SS River Clyde](#) during the landing at Cape Helles. The lighter in the foreground contains dead from the [Royal Munster Fusiliers](#) and [The Hampshire Regiment](#) who were killed while attempting to get ashore. (Source Wikipedia)

In case of need of additional local interest :-

Clare Men Killed at Gallipoli (list courtesy of Mark Dunphy – Clare Herald)

- Michael Meade, Kilrush – CQMS. Killed in action, August 21, 1915
- Michael Thynne, Ennistymon - 1st Bn., Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died Tuesday, 4th May 1915, of wounds at Gallipoli
- Martin Earls of Miltown Malbay - Pvt. First Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, died on May 25, 1915
- John Clohessy, Ennistymon - Pvt. 1st Bn., Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died 21st August 1915 at Gallipoli. Helles Memorial, Turkey
- Michael Magee, Scarriff – Pvt. Killed in action, April 26, 1915
- George O'Brien, Drumcliffe, Ennis - Pte. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died of wounds in Gallipoli on 25 April, 1915
- John Griffin, Ballyvaughan - Pvt. 1st Bn., Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died 25th April 1915 at Gallipoli
- Pat Coleman, The Glen, Kilrush –Royal Field Artillery. Captured. Died in captivity
- John Moloney, Kilrush – Pvt. Killed in action, May 1, 1915
- Daniel Rodgers, Ennis – Killed 08 August 1915

- Patrick Tierney, Drumcliffe, Ennis - Died of wounds on July 6, 1915
- John McNamara, Drumcliffe, Ennis – Pvt. Died of wounds, Gallipoli, May 1, 1915
- John Howard, Ennistymon - Pvt. 1st Bn., Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died Tuesday, 19th October 1915
- John O'Brien, Doonbeg - Pte. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Enlisted in Kilrush. Died on 15-June-1915. Buried in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Gallipoli
- Peter Loftus, Ennistymon - Pvt. "Y"Coy. 1st Bn., Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died Wednesday, 19th May 1915, of wounds at Gallipoli
- John Regan, Kilrush – Pvt. Killed in action, May 3, 1915
- Simon Smith, Lisgreen, Kilkee - Lance Corporal. Died of wounds, sustained in Gallipoli, on August 21, 1918
- Poole H. Hickman, Kilmore – Captain. 7th Dublin Fusiliers. Killed 4th September 1915
- Martin O'Brien., Kildysart - Pte. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Battalion. Enlisted in Ennis. Died 28-June-1915. Helles Memorial in Turkey
- John Fitzpatrick, Ennistymon - Pvt. 1st Bn., Royal Munster Fusiliers. Died 21st August 1915 at Gallipoli