

William Foley was born in number 4, Narrow lane, Blackpool, Cork on April 29th 1883 being 1 of 10 children. His parents were William and Catherine, formerly Cronin. He went to school at Clarence Street (Gerald Griffin St.) and Blackpool School in Broklesby St. Later the family moved to number 29 Madden's Buildings as the family grew. In 1900 William enlisted in The 9th Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps, North Cork Militia (KRRC) at Ballymullen Barracks in Tralee. He later transferred to The Royal Munster Fusiliers in August 1901. He married Katherine (Kitty) Stanton in St. Joseph's Church Mayfield in January 1909 giving his address as 'New Barracks Limerick'. At the outbreak of WW1 William went to France with The British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. During the retreat from Mons The 2nd Battalion of The Royal Munster Fusiliers were involved in The Etreux Rearguard in which the battalion held off six battalions of The German Army. They eventually surrendered after a massive fight in which all their ammunition was used and more than 100 of them were killed. William was captured along with many others on that day, the 27th of August 1914 and spent the rest of the war in captivity. He was awarded The Military Medal for his actions. After the war he remained with the Munsters but transferred to The 1st Battalion as The 2nd were going to Egypt. He was promoted to Quarter Master Sergeant and was stationed in Crownhill in Devon UK. He was eventually discharged after 21 years of distinguished service to The Colours in August 1921. He later joined The Irish National Army enlisting in Collins Barracks in December 1922 and served there until 1928 completing 5 and a half years. William and Kitty had 2 sons, William and Jeremiah. William went on [to join](#) The Gloucestershire Regiment and was killed during The Evacuation from Dunkirk on 5th May 1940. In his later years William was a very active member of The Old Comrades Association and died on February 6th 1960.

