# THE IRISH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS

1914 - 1918

THE GREAT WAR

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS



A LOOPED WALKING TRAIL WITH SEVEN STOPS

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# WELCOME

2

3

5

6

#### SEVEN STOPS

THE TEMPLE

THE NORTH TERRACE

MUSEUM BOOKROOM

HARRY CLARKE BOOKROOM

CROSS BOOKROOM

THE WAR STONE

SUNKEN ROSE GARDEN





#### THE NORTH TERRACE

The planting in this area is a metaphor for soldiers standing to attention.

We will learn about how the army was organized.

The Irish National War Memorial Gardens are some of the most famous memorial gardens in Europe. They are also known as 'the Islandbridge Memorial', and are dedicated to the memory of 49,400 Irish soldiers who died in the 1914 – 1918 war. The names of all the soldiers are contained in the beautifully illustrated Harry Clarke manuscripts in the granite bookrooms. These gardens are not only a place of remembrance but are also of great architectural interest. They are one of only four gardens in this country designed by the famous architect Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944).



1

#### THE TEMPLE

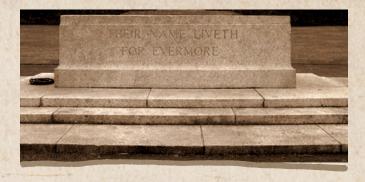
Here at the temple which quotes poetry from Rupert Brooke, is where the war starts for us. We will find out why it started, who fought it, and read some war poetry.



3,4,5

#### THE BOOKROOMS

There are four bookrooms in total, three of which are dedicated to items related to the First World War. We will visit the Museum Bookroom which has an exhibition, the Harry Clarke Bookroom which holds the Books of Remembrance, and the Cross Bookroom.





6

## THE WAR STONE

The War Stone and Great Cross remember the soldiers lost. Here we will learn about how the war ended, how many soldiers had died in it, and what happened to Irish regiments when Ireland became independent of Britain shortly after the war ended.

7

## THE SUNKEN ROSE GARDEN

The sunken rose gardens commemorate the war. This is where we'll learn the story of the Irish National War Memorial Gardens, who designed them, and what happens when a war is over.

This trail was brought to you by the Office of Public Works, who manage the gardens. It is compliant with senior cycle SESE, but can be enjoyed by anyone!

START AND FINISH
POINTS ARE AT THE CAR
AND COACH PARK



You don't need to make an appointment to visit the Irish National War Memorial Gardens, unless you would like to visit the bookrooms which are featured in this tour. To arrange for these to be unlocked for your visit, please telephone 01 475 7816 or email parkmanager@opw.ie. Photos of all the items inside the bookrooms are also available on our website.

Feel free to break up your visit with a picnic lunch on the grass. I hope you get good weather!



This trail is best read on your tablet or smartphone (use the free Adobe Acrobat reader), but it can also be printed. It is designed to look just like the papers and photographs you will find in the museum bookroom - with yellowed paper, black and white images, and vintage writing styles.

This tour just focuses on the First World War, but there is much more to learn about the War Memorial Gardens. See our website for lots of resources.

www.opwdublincommemorative.ie



# STOP 1 THE TEMPLE

#### SAFETY

RUPERT BROOKE WROTE THIS
POEM IN 1914. CAN YOU SEE THE
SENTENCES WHICH ARE QUOTED
ON THE TEMPLE FLOOR?

Dear! of all happy in the hour, most blest
He who has found our hid security,
Assured in the dark tides of the world that rest,
And heard our word, 'Who is so safe as we?'
We have found safety with all things undying,
The winds, and morning, tears of men and mirth,
The deep night, and birds singing, and clouds flying,
And sleep, and freedom, and the autumnal earth.
We have built a house that is not for Time's
throwing.

We have gained a peace unshaken by pain for ever.
War knows no power. Safe shall be my going,
Secretly armed against all death's endeavour;
Safe though all safety's lost; safe where men fall;
And if these poor limbs die, safest of all.

1914

•••••••••

World War One started in this year. On the 4th of August, Britain declared war on Germany. Ireland was ruled from Britain at this time.

There were two sides in the War - the Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance. The Triple Entente was made up of Britain, Russia, and France. The Triple Alliance was Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy.

On 28th of June 1914, a man called Franz
Ferdinand was killed. He was the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, and his death started a chain of events which led to the war between so many countries.

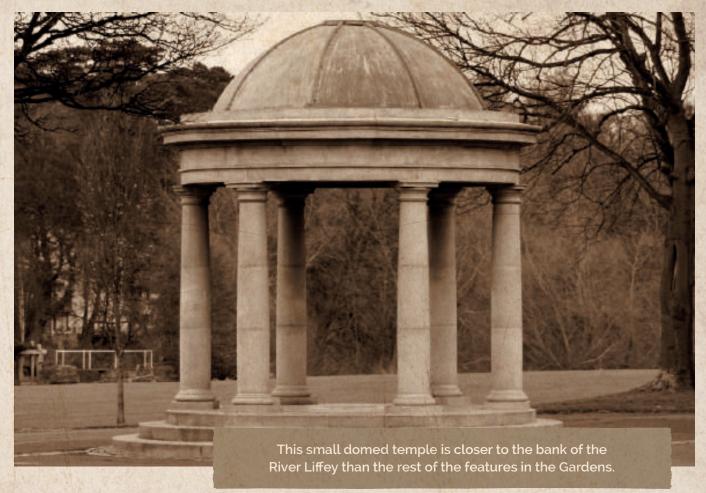
At that time, it was thought that the war would not last very long, and Rupert Brooke's poem was optimistic. He was English, and he thought that the war would go well for England. His poem is also patriotic, and encouraged men and women to volunteer.

The same year that he wrote this poem, Rupert Brooke joined the army and went to war. He died soon after, far away in Greece, at the young age of 27. His brother also died at war at the age of 24. An awful lot of young people died in World War One. Towards the end of the war, the poems were about all the young people who had died, and

how it hadn't been worth it. The war had ended up taking years and years longer than expected when it started.

The most famous war poem of World War One was by a Canadian soldier called John McCrae. He wrote a poem called 'In Flanders Fields' in 1915, just a year after the poem on the temple floor. It is written from the point of view of soldiers who have died in battle, and they are telling those who still live to carry on the fight. Flanders is a place in Belgium. This poem is the reason that people commemorate World War One with red poppies, and you will see some in the Cross Bookroom later. Keep an eye out in the Museum Bookroom for a print of this poem too.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.



The situation in Ireland was a little different. Ireland was much poorer than the other countries in the United Kingdom, and some soldiers joined up because they had no other way of earning a wage. Unlike the rest of the UK, Ireland was Catholic, and many joined the British Army to help defend Belgium, which was another small Catholic country. In 1914, Ireland was also in the middle of campaigning for independence from Britain. Some Nationalists called those who joined the British Army, traitors. Other Nationalists joined the Army because they thought it would secure Home Rule faster.

There were three big new Irish volunteer Divisions of soldiers in the British Army; the 10th (Irish), the 16th (Irish), and the 36th (Ulster). The 16th was full



Rupert Brooke (1887-1915) was the poet who wrote the lines that are inscribed on the floor of the temple.

of Irish Nationalists (with a shamrock as their emblem), the 36th was mainly Ulster Unionist, and the 10th was a mix. John Redmond was the leader of the Home Rule movement, and he thought that once the Allies had won the war, Britain would grant

independence, and the 16th Division would become the new National Army for Ireland.

Pretend that it is 1914 and your uncle or aunt has just signed up to join the Army. How would you feel about the news? Would you feel frightened, sad, or proud? MAMMAMARIA ARTONIA MARIONA MARIONA

# STOP 2 THE TERRACE

LOOK
TOWARDS

NOTHING is to be written on this side ex. PHOENIX PARK date and signature of the sender. Senty required may be crosed. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

I have been admitted into hospital.

sick and am going on well.

counded and hope to be discharged soon.

I am being sent down to the base.

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have received no letter from you { lately.

for a long time.

Signature only.

Date

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post eard addressed to the sender of this card.]

This is how you sent a postcard home from the front. You were only allowed to cross out what didn't apply, and then add your signature. Longer postcards might have given away important information about your location.

#### THE BRITISH ARMY



The Navy



The Land Army



The Airforce





## REGIMENTS BATTALIONS

COMPANIES



PLATOONS



**SECTIONS** •



PRIVATES Irish regiments in the **British** army



The Royal Dublin Fusiliers were one example.

If you joined the army with no special skills or training, you would enter as a Private, the lowest rank.

WHICH DIVISION OF THE ARMY WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED TO JOIN - LAND, NAVY, OR AIRFORCE - AND WHY?

Sometimes young boys tried to join the army, and if they looked over 18 and were taller than 5'3", they were accepted.

Take a look back down the path towards the temple. On either side of it are eight holly trees. Holly trees are an evergreen species. As an evergreen, they represent survival through hard times (winter for the trees, war for the soldiers). They way they are planted here in rows is similar to ranks of soldiers standing to attention. Some people call the holly trees 'generals'. The Generals stand in ranks, silently paying tribute to the soldiers who died in the war. Generals were not a specific rank in the army, but were a catch-all term for high-ranking officers. You can see how the army was organised in the image to the left. Regiments were divided into battalions, which were divided into companies, and so on down the graph.

For the first two years of the war, men volunteered to join the army. But in 1916 the army started running

low on men, so they introduced conscription in Britain. This meant that any unmarried man between the ages of 18 and 41 had no choice but to join up and go to war. In 1918 the British government tried to introduce this in Ireland, but they failed, and no men in Ireland were ever conscripted into the British army against their will. Lots of Irish men volunteered though - between 200,000 and 300,000 of them.

Women joined up as members of an organisation called the Voluntary Aid Detachment. They were called 'VADs'. You had to be over 23, have three months' hospital experience, and be unmarried. 2,000 Irish women volunteered. A lot of injured soldiers from the war were sent to Ireland to get better, so there were a lot of Irish VADs working as nurses in special hospitals for them here. VADs were mostly nurses but they also did lots of varied jobs that needed to be done, such as sewing bandages and pyjamas, raising money to send care packages to the front, and even spending days on Irish bogs collecting a moss which was used as cotton wool! The peat moss was packaged up and brought to Dublin port, and then exported all over Europe for use in military hospitals.



This photograph is from 1916, and shows Captain John Gordon of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in a trench in France.



Death Penny of James Devaney.
The inscription reads
'He Died for Freedom and Honour'.

Let's take a look at some of the items you see in this exhibition; for example, there is a cigarette box and a cover for a box of matches. Many more people smoked 100 years ago than they do now. So many soldiers smoked cigarettes that they were included in their rations. Rations were how much of anything (eg food and clothing) a person was allowed to own - it was important to make sure that everything was divided fairly when there were such shortages of everything in wartime. They did not know 100 years ago what we do

now about smoking, and some people even thought it would improve their health! Cigarette boxes like this one usually came with cigarette cards, which people liked to collect.

Many of them were decorated with mini recruitment posters aimed at convincing men to join the army.

There is also a prayer book. Ireland was a much more religious place then. This prayer book was issued by the army. It was small so that the soldier or nurse could carry it in their pockets (they had a lot to carry so it was important that things were portable and light). The soldiers were often in desperate circumstances in the trenches at the front line of the war, and books of prayers like these brought them great comfort. Another very portable item in the cases is the folding spoon. This particular spoon is German and was found in a trench, showing that both sides used a lot of the same day-to-day things in their lives as they fought the war.

The proper name for the big Death Penny (see the photo to the left) is a Memorial Plaque. There were over 100,000 of these made after the war. They were sent out by the British Army to the families of serving men and women who had died during the war. If you look very closely at the penny, there are lots of little clues telling you its story. The first is the figure of the woman. Her name is Britannia, and she is a symbol for the British Empire. She is holding a three-pronged spear called a trident, which used to be used for fishing, and there are two dolphins swimming near her. These are all symbols to say that the British Navy was very



# STOP THREE MUSEUM BOOKROOM





Princess Mary's gift box was sent to the soldiers as a Christmas present in 1914.

In the cases before you is a very special collection of items that soldiers would have used every day during their life at war. Photos of all of these items are also on our website. Everything that you see here has a personal story behind it, such as the name of the person who owned the thing, or why they owned it. Studying these items also gives us information about the First World War and how it was fought.

CAN YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THE DISPLAY CASES?

- an officer's watch
- a salt and pepper shaker
- a German helmet
- a Christmas card
- a German bus ticket
- a bottle for water
- a card from King George
- a poem
- a recruiting poster

What is your favourite exhibition item?

strong at sea. Just above the paw of lion are three tiny letters - ECP - which stand for Edward Carter Preston, the artist who designed the penny. At the very bottom of the penny is a squashed picture showing a lion fighting an eagle. The lion is on the coat of arms for Britain, and the the eagle is on the coat of arms for Germany, so here the penny shows the lion winning the fight against the eagle.

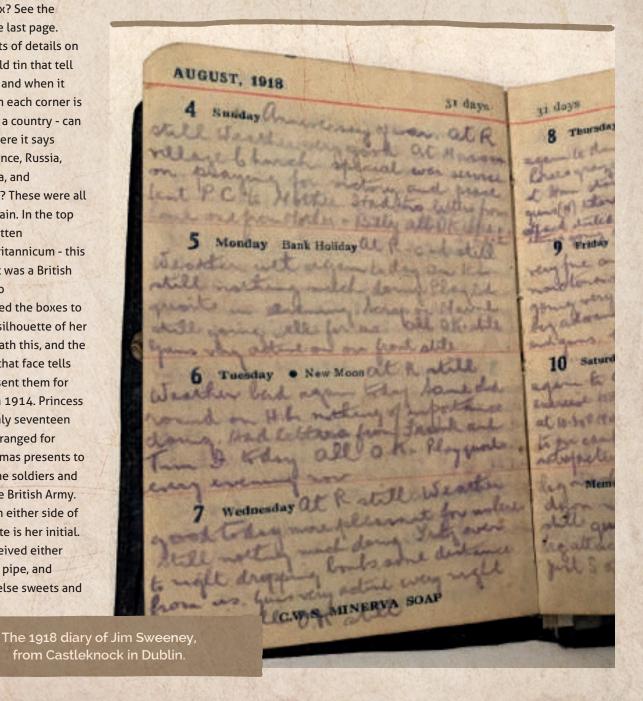
Can you find the Princess Mary gift box? See the photo on the last page. There are lots of details on this little gold tin that tell us what it is and when it was made. In each corner is the name of a country - can you read where it says Belgium, France, Russia, Japan, Servia, and Montenegro? These were all allies of Britain. In the top centre is written Imperium Britannicum - this is because it was a British Princess who commissioned the boxes to be made. A silhouette of her face is beneath this, and the date below that face tells us that she sent them for Christmas in 1914. Princess Mary was only seventeen when she arranged for these Christmas presents to be sent to the soldiers and sailors of the British Army. The big M on either side of her silhouette is her initial. Soldiers received either cigarettes, a pipe, and tobacco, or else sweets and

a pencil. Nurses got chocolate. All the boxes came with a photograph of the Princess, and with a little Christmas card inside, which you can see in the exhibition cabinet, next to the box. The card also has a

big M on the front. Over two and a half million of these little boxes were sent over the course of the war.

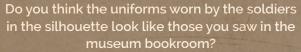
**HOW MANY OF THE THINGS** THAT YOU SEE IN THIS ROOM DO WE STILL USE TODAY?

There is a small diary on display, which was written in 1918 by a soldier called Jim who was from Dublin. Diaries are very important primary sources when you are studying history, as they give us first-hand information about what happened. Can you read any of his handwriting? What does he say?



# STOP FOUR

### HARRY CLARKE BOOKROOM









DELAHUNTY, JOHN Rank, Private, Irish killed in action, France, born Waterford.

DELAHUNTY, JOHN Rank, Private, Irish killed in action, Franc born Kilkenny.





# HARRY CLARKE

Harry Clarke was an artist from Dublin, who designed the borders on all of the pages of these books. He lived from 1889 to 1931. As well as illustrating books, he was also very famous for stained glass windows. His style in illustration and in stained glass was similar - both had thick black outlines and showed people with long skinny bodies. His windows were very colourful, and can be seen in churches and other buildings all over Ireland, as well as in the UK, the USA, and in Australia.

He was only 15 years old when he began his apprenticeship to learn the techniques of painting on glass. In 1914 he married the artist Margaret Crilly, and she moved in with him in North Frederick Street in Dublin, and started a family. In 1931, Harry died of tuberculosis at the very young age of 41.

CAN

YOU SPOT

WHICH IMAGES



Above is a photo of Harry Clarke. The first book that he illustrated and published, years before these ones, were the fairytales of Hans Christian Anderson.

In 1923, sixteen years before the gardens were completed, the Memorial Committee commissioned a set of books that would have the name of every Irish man that died in war written down in it. It turned out that this list was very long nearly 50,000 names - and that it would take eight big books altogether to fit them all in.

The pictures around the edges of the pages were done by Harry Clarke. He didn't do

a separate one for each page because there are 3,200 pages altogether! He made seven border designs, and these are repeated throughout the books. He also made a front page and a

special last page. There are two types of illustration in these black and white borders - military and mythological. The

Celtic symbols showed that the men who were listed in the books were from Ireland, and the military silhouettes showed that they died as soldiers at war. The books cost the Memorial Committee £5,000, and they published a hundred copies of each book, because they wanted every library in Ireland to have one.

A lot of people died in the First World War. The list of Irish soldiers in these books has 49,435 names, but it didn't count all the Irishmen who died in the war. It doesn't include, for example, Irish people who were living in other countries when they joined up. So the figure is probably higher. Altogether, around 900,000 British Army soldiers (of all

> nationalities) died. This number is from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, who counted the graves in 2014. In 1918,

around 17 million people across

Europe, both soldiers and ordinary people, from both their lives due to the war.

IN THE BORDERS ARE sides of the conflict, had lost MILITARY AND WHICH ARE

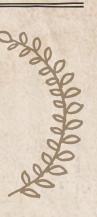
MYTHOLOGICAL? These books are often used by people who are interested in genealogy - this means that they research their ancestors. You might find your great-grandfather's name was listed here, for example. Take a look at what the books actually say about each soldier - there is quite a lot of information! You can see the man's rank, what regiment he belonged to, how he died, where he died, when he died, and where he was originally from. Sometimes the age of the soldier was also put in, if it was known.



# STOP FIVE CROSS BOOKROOM

THIS IS THE ORIGINAL OAK WOODEN CROSS THAT STOOD IN A FRENCH FIELD FOR A DECADE, IN HONOUR OF THE IRISHMEN LOST THERE IN 1916

ALSO IN THIS ROOM IS A
DATABASE OF ALL THE NAMES
LISTED IN THE BOOKS OF
REMEMBRANCE. TYPE IN YOUR
SURNAME AND SEE IF YOU HAD A
RELATIVE WHO DIED IN WW1.



After you had signed up to join the army, you could be stationed at lots of different places. Soldiers and nurses travelled far and wide. The war was fought all over the world - that's why we call it the First World War. A lot of Irish soldiers went to France and Belgium. They went to Turkey where they fought in the Battle of Gallipoli, and to Greece where they fought in Thessaloniki.

Soldiers in Irish regiments of the British army were also called upon to fight in Ireland itself, during the Easter Rising of 1916.







THE SOMME IS A RIVER IN THE NORTH OF FRANCE. FROM JULY TO NOVEMBER OF 1916, THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME TOOK PLACE.

About ten kilometres north of the Somme riverbank are two tiny villages, very close to each other, called Ginchy and Guillemont.





The Irish Brigade going back to a rest area after taking Guillemont in September 1916.



The cross was designed by Major General Sir William Bernard Hickie, who was the commander of the 16th (Irish) Division, and who was from Terryglass in County Tipperary.

This Battle of the Somme is very famous because so many soldiers were hurt or killed in it. There was no real victory on either side at the end of the battle, but the Allies did manage to move about six miles further into German territory.

On the 9th of September in 1916, Ginchy was taken from the Germans by the Allies, particularly by the 16th (Irish) Division. Can you see this carved into the big cross in the picture above? Between this battle, and the one at nearby Guillemont a week earlier, the 16th Irish Division lost over 4,000 soldiers, over 1,000 of which were from Ireland.

In 1917, this wooden cross was made as a memorial to these events, and the soldiers that died in them. It stood in a field near Ginchy for a decade. In 1926, three granite versions of the cross were made.

One was sent to Thessaloniki in Greece, and a second sent to Wijtschate in Belgium, both to commemorate the great loss of Irish soldiers in those places. The third was erected in the Ginchy field. The original wooden cross was sent back to Ireland, where it stands before you today as part of the Irish National War Memorial Gardens.



THE WAR STONE IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE STONE OF REMEMBRANCE AND WAS DESIGNED BY EDWIN LUTYENS. THERE ARE OVER 500 STONES, EXACTLY LIKE THIS ONE, IN WAR CEMETERIES AND MEMORIAL GARDENS AROUND THE WORLD.

THERE ARE NO
SOLDIERS BURIED IN
THE GARDENS, SO
THE WAR STONE IS
SOMETIMES CALLED A
CENOTAPH
WHICH MEANS

**'ЕМРТҮ ТОМВ'**.

MORE

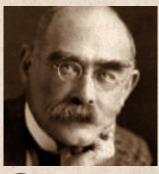
# ALSO IN THIS AREA IS THE GREAT CROSS AND THE FOUNTAINS

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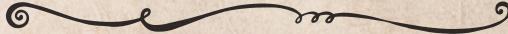
The War Stone is used in memorial sites where more than 1,000 soldiers are commemorated, and in graveyards where more than 1,000 soldiers are buried. It looks a little like an altar. From here you can also see the big cross behind you. The pillars in the middle of the fountains on your left and right are called obelisks. Next to the cross and the altar, they look like candles. The whole of this area is designed to make you feel quiet and serious, as you remember the people who died in the war.

Armistice Day was when soldiers on the Western Front stopped fighting. They didn't get to go home for another six months, however, until the peace treaty had been signed between the Allies and Germany. This was called the Treaty of Versailles, because they met up in Versailles in France. The peace treaty was signed on the 28th of June 1919. This was exactly five years since Archduke Franz Ferdinand had been killed - it was his death which had triggered the start of the war.



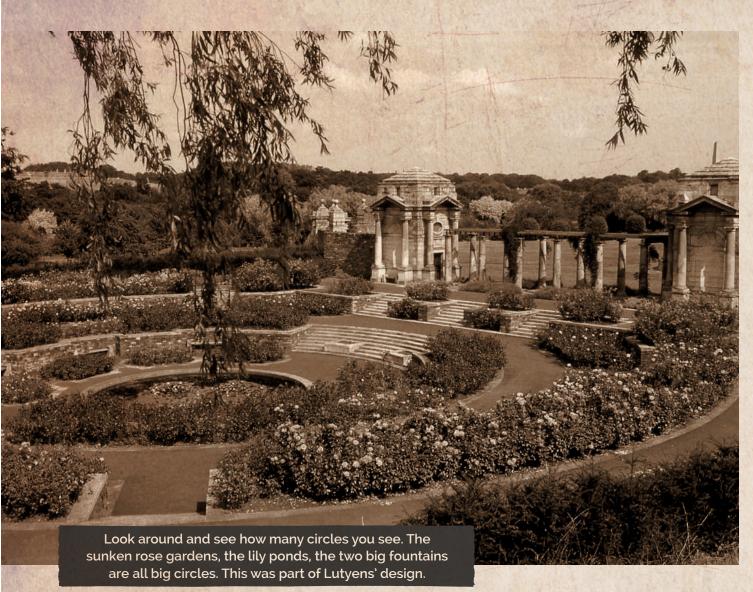
## "THEIR NAME LIVETH FOREVERMORE"

IS A QUOTE FROM THE BIBLE THAT WAS CHOSEN BY RUDYARD KIPLING, THE SAME MAN WHO WROTE THE JUNGLE BOOK.



It is easy to remember when the war ended, because it was at eleven o'clock in the morning, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918. This day had a special name - Armistice Day. It is still commemorated every year, although it is called Remembrance Sunday (or Poppy Day) in the UK and Veterans Day in the US. Over 100,000 people came to Dublin in 1918 to celebrate the first Armistice Day. So many people in Dublin commemerated the day each year in the 1920s that they sometimes had to go to the Phoenix Park to fit everyone in!

The Irish soldiers who did survive came back to a different Ireland, one that was fighting for independence from Britain. Just three years after the Treaty of Versailles had been signed, Ireland had won independence. The Irish regiments which had fought in the war, such as the Royal Dublin Fusiliers or the Royal Munster Fusiliers, were disbanded.





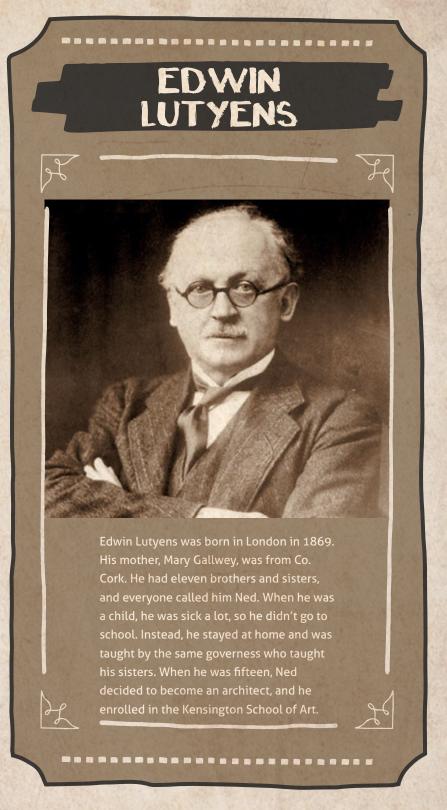
Soldiers in the British Army were mostly buried in the same place where they died, so a lot of Irish soldiers are buried in France, Belgium, Greece, or Turkey. Even though these graveyards are in far off places, they are called British cemeteries. After the war was over, they were made permanent by replacing temporary wooden crosses with stone headstones, and by planting trees and flowers. Sometimes the headstones touch each other, and this means that those soldiers died in the same trench. There is a graveyard near here called Grangegorman Military Cemetery where 613 soldiers who died in the war are buried. Because soldiers were buried where they died, and because there was a military hospital in Dublin where soldiers from all parts of the British Empire came to recover from their wounds, you can find gravestones for soldiers from as far away as Australia there.

Just two weeks after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, a meeting was held in Dublin, and it was decided to build a war memorial to commemorate all the Irish people that had been killed in the war. A lot of money had to be raised first, and a place had to be found where gardens could be planted. It also took a long time to sort out because Ireland had only just become independent from Britain. Many people, including the government, thought that commemorating Irish people who had joined the British Army was a step backwards, and went against the nationalist atmosphere of the time. In the end, the Taoiseach decided that this part of Dublin - called Islandbridge - was suitable. The government also decided that the war memorial gardens should be part of a public park that everyone could enjoy, so they helped to pay for it too.

#### WHAT KIND OF GARDEN WOULD YOU DESIGN? WHAT FLOWERS AND TREES WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO PLANT?

During the 1930s, most of what you see around you here today was put in place. Half of the men who worked on the construction of these gardens had once been soldiers in the British Army, and the other half had been soldiers in the Irish National Army. They built everything by hand, and didn't use any heavy machinery.

Edwin Lutyens was a British landscape architect who designed over 100 British cemeteries in France and Belgium. With TJ Byrne, OPW architect, he also designed these War Memorial Gardens that you are standing in today. It wasn't Lutyens' first time working in Ireland - he had also worked on big estate gardens for private houses in north Dublin.



There are two of these sunken rose gardens. In the centre of both are lily ponds. In the 1930s, special types of roses were planted. One of these was called Shot Silk, and had been developed in Belfast. Another was the Peace Rose, which had just been cultivated in France. Altogether, 4,000 roses were planted.



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