

GAS! GAS! GAS!

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# GAS / GÁS

On 22nd April 1915, the German Army used chlorine gas for the first time in Langemark near Ypres, Belgium, violating the 1907 Hague Convention on Land Warfare. Poison gas caused severe damage to the eyes, nose and lungs of the soldiers – with a fatal outcome in some cases.

This new kind of warfare was soon adopted by all major armies involved in the conflict as a method to put the enemy out of action before attacking the trench lines.

An 22 Aibreán 1915 d'úsáid Arm na Gearmáine gás clóirín den chéad uair, ag Langemark láimh le Ypres, an Bheilg, ag sárú Coinbhinsiún na Háige ar Chogaíocht ar Talamh. Rinne an gás nimhneach seo damáiste do shúile, do shrón agus do scamhóga na saighdiúirí. Bhí saighdiúirí ann a fuair bás de.

Níorbh fada go ndeachaigh gach mór-arm a bhí páirteach sa chogadh i muinín na cogaíochta nua seo mar shlí chun an namhaid a cheansú sula bhféadfadh sé línte na dtríní a ionsaí.



Depending on the direction of the wind, the poisonous clouds could harm both attackers and defenders.

Ag brath ar threo na gaoithe, d'fhéadfadh na néalta nimhneacha damáiste a dhéanamh d'ionsaithe agus do chosantóirí araon.



Instruction photograph: How to put on a gas mask (c. 1917)

Grianghraf treorach: Conas masc gáis a chur ort (c. 1917)

## Gas Attack on Irish Soldiers

3 days into the battle, on 25th April, soldiers of both the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Royal Irish Fusiliers were gassed. As the defenders were unprepared and had nothing but pieces of moistened flannel to protect them, great losses were recorded.

Many of the survivors never fully recovered and died of chronic lung damage after the war. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers suffered 1,528 men killed, wounded or missing from 25th April to 25th May.

## Ionsaí Gáis ar Shaighdiúirí Éireannacha

An tríú lá den chogadh, an 25 Aibreán, rinneadh ionsaí gáis ar shaighdiúirí d'Fhiúsaléirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath agus ar shaighdiúirí d'Fhiúsailéirí Ríoga na hÉireann araon. Ní raibh coinne leis, mar sin ní raibh ag na saighdiúirí chun iad féin a chosaint ach ceirteacha beaga taise. Is iomaí fear a cailleadh. Mórchuid díobh siúd nár cailleadh, níor tháinig siad chucu féin riamh agus fuair siad bás tar éis an chogaidh de dhamáiste ainsealach do na scamhóga, Idir an 25 Aibreán agus an 25 Bealtaine, cailleadh 1,528 fear de dheasca báis, gortaithe nó bheith ar iarraidh sa chomhrac.



## Thomas McEnroe

brother in arms

Thomas McEnroe had left the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1910 after eight years service, but as a reservist he was called back when war broke out.

On April 25th, 1915, Thomas was on the receiving end of the first gas attacks at Ypres, and was shot through the hip. While recovering in hospital, he received these patriotic postcards.

Now ‘no longer physically fit for war service’, Thomas was discharged in June 1916. Joseph, his brother, joined the same regiment one month later.

Postcard album and postcards of Dublin brothers Thomas and Joseph McEnroe, Royal Irish Fusiliers, WWI. HA:1986.17

## Thomas McEnroe

deartháireacha san arm

D’fhág Thomas McEnroe Fiúsailéirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath i 1910 tar éis ocht mbliana, ach eisíodh gairm slógaidh dó nuair a bhris an cogadh amach.

An 25 Aibreán 1915, bhí Thomas os comhair na ngunnaí ag Ypres. Chuaigh piléar isteach ina chromán le linn na gcéad ionsaithe gáis. Scríobh sé na cártaí poist tírghrácha seo fad a bhí sé ag téarnamh san ospidéal.

Ní raibh sé ‘aclaí go fisiciúil le haghaidh fiannas cogaidh níos mó’ agus scaoileadh amach é i Meitheamh 1916. Chuaigh a dheartháir, Joseph, isteach sa reisimint chéanna, mí níos déanaí.

Album grianghraf agus cártaí poist de chuid na ndeartháireacha Thomas agus Joseph McEnroe, as Baile Átha Cliath. Fiúsailéirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath, CCD. HA:1986.17



## John McClelland

survivor

Before the war, John McClelland had been a blacksmith. Although nearly 30 years old, in April 1915 he enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers – one of the thousands of volunteers who came forward to replace casualties among the veterans, such as Thomas McEnroe (above).

Apparently John was so badly injured late in the war that he continued to receive medical attention for years afterwards, but he was one of the lucky ones, living to the age of 85.

World War I medals of Private John McClelland. HA:2004.120

## John McClelland

marthanach

Gabha ab ea John McClelland roimh an chogadh. Bhí sé 30 bliain, nach mór, in Aibreán 1915 nuair a liostáil sé i bhFiúsailéirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath – fear amháin de na mílte óglach a ghabh áit na seansaighdiúirí, leithéidí Thomas McEnroe (thuas), nuair a bhain gortú dóibh.

Is cosúil gur goineadh John chomh hólc sin i dtreo dheireadh an chogaidh gurbh éigean cóir leighis a chur air go ceann blianta fada ina dhiaidh sin, ach ina dhiaidh sin is uile, shlánaigh sé 85 bliain d’aois.

Boinn ón gCéad Chogadh Domhanda de chuid an tSaighdiúra John McClelland. HA:2004.120