

The Great War and the CLB

Nearly 250,000 former members of the Church Lads' Brigade, from all parts of the world, enlisted for the war effort.

Hundreds of lads from Ireland served with Irish regiments, some in English, Welsh or Scottish regiments, while others who had emigrated returned to fight with the forces of their adopted countries.

Along with 1,000 others from Britain, men from Cork, Limerick and Portrush helped form the 16th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Nearly 20,000 Church Lads gave their lives during the First World War and another 20,000 were wounded.

More than 1,000 men were presented with bravery medals and 21 were awarded the Victoria Cross 'For Valour'.

A grateful French Government presented Brigade Headquarters with a Diplome D'Honneur and medal in recognition of the CLB's contribution to the war.

After the war, the St Martin's Banner was dedicated to the memory of the 20,000 Church Lads killed. It is in the safe keeping of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey in London.

"Even one hundred years later, the First World War grips the imagination of all, young and old alike. It's a great pleasure to commend this project, which will enable the coming generation to understand so much more of what the "Great War" meant at the time, and what it should still mean to us. By connecting with the contribution of Church Lads from Ireland to the War, the present membership may even feel that they are part of the story."

The Most Revd. Dr. Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland



"It is important that our lads and girls learn about the heroism and sacrifice of those that went before them. This is a forgotten story and one that deserves to be told. With the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War upon us, now seems to be an appropriate time to bring this story to the fore once again."

Melvyn Lockhart, Ulster Regiment C.O.



"We are pleased to award funding for this project. It is a very good example of an initiative which will teach young people important research skills as well as helping to bring to life a story which few today know much about."

Paul Mullan, Head of H.L.F. N.I.

THE CHURCH LADS' & CHURCH GIRLS' BRIGADE ULSTER REGIMENT



FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT

Commemorating the contribution of
Irish Church Lads to the Great War
1914-1918



Our Project

To create a permanent reminder of the extraordinary contribution of Irish Church Lads to the Great War.

To dedicate a new War Memorial Banner to the memory of Irish Church Lads killed in the Great War.

To engage our members in research and learning about the First World War.

To publish a book detailing the remarkable record of Irish Church Lads in the Great War.

To produce a booklet for our youngest members that tells the story in a more age appropriate form.

To provide a website so that the story reaches a wider audience.

To design a new woven badge that will be worn in uniform from 1914 to 1918.

To hold a Commemoration Event - in Seagoe Parish Church, Portadown, on Sunday 22nd March 2015.

Further information from Johnny Conn
E: johnnyconn@hotmail.com, T: 07925 353107

Competition #1

The Brigade is seeking to engage our lads and girls in research about a soldier from the Great War.

They are to learn about a soldier from their own parish or family and share the findings with the wider community.



Prizes

A First Prize of £50 and two Runners Up Prizes of £25 will be awarded to the most interesting projects.

Further details about this competition will be available through companies.

Competition #2

Design a badge for wearing in uniform from 2014 to 2018. The winning design will be manufactured.

The design should feature a logo and simple message in keeping with the theme of the project.

There will be **four prizes of £25** one for each section, The Martins, Y Team, JTC and Seniors.

An overall winner will have their design made into a woven badge.

The badge can be any shape – circular, square, diamond, oval, kite shaped. It should be between 4 and 5cm across or long. The closing date for entering a design is Friday 19th December 2014.