

**Grange U3A Family and Social History
Group Project on the Grange WW1 War Memorial**



Royal Irish Rifles

**A short biography in commemoration of
Daniel Hadwin 1893- 1917**

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Daniel Hadwin was born at Urswick near Ulverston in 1893. He was the son of John and Mary Alice Hadwin of Bardsea. John was a fisherman in his own right.

In the 1911 Census, Daniel was working at the Crown Hotel for Mrs Borwick as “Boots”. Another woman working there was an American!

The only information to have come to light on Daniel so far, is an article from the Westmorland Gazette which reported Daniel as being killed in action in France.

The article reads as follows:

Grange.

KILLED IN ACTION

Hadwin, Corpl., aged 24 was killed in action on the 22nd May. He joined the 16th Lancers in August, 1914, subsequently being transferred to the Royal Irish Rifles. He was wounded at Ypres in September, 1916*, and sent to an English hospital. On recovery he served throughout the troubles in Ireland. He returned to France in September last and was made a corporal. In February, 1915, he married Miss Beattie Bennett, who some time previously had the misfortune to lose a leg through being accidentally knocked down by a train at a level crossing at Grange. Prior to joining the army he was employed by Mrs Borwick, Crown Hotel.

Daniel's war career can be traced in general from the above article. He and James Bland both joined the 16th (The Queen's) Lancers in August 1914. The Lancers were a cavalry regiment and as both the boys may have been able to ride, chose the more exciting regiment to join. The 16th were raised in August 1914 at the Curragh, Ireland, as part of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade in the Cavalry Division. The regiment later moved to France.

After initial training with the Lancers, Daniel was transferred to the Royal Irish Rifles 3rd Battalion as his Medal Card indicates. The battalion was a training and depot unit based in Belfast. The battalion moved to Dublin and then returned to Belfast in April 1916.

In February 1915 Daniel married Beatrice Annie Bennett. Beatrice in the 1911 Census was working and living at the Grange Convalescent home, Brown

Robins in Windermere Road. Her work was as “Matrons Maid, Domestic”. The home was run by the North Eastern Counties Friendly Societies. The convalescent home may have looked after soldiers injured in the war.

Daniel must then have been sent to France to join the 2nd Battalion as the 3rd never went abroad.

This battalion was also formed in 1914 as part of the 7th Brigade in the 3rd Division. The Battalion was sent to France and landed at Rouen on the 14th August 1914. On the 8th October 1914 the Battalion was transferred with the 7th Brigade to the 25th Division.



GPO in ruins 1916: Soldiers survey the interior of the post office in Sackville Street, Dublin, during the Easter Rising of 1916. (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

In September 1915* he was wounded and was sent home to recover at a military hospital. It seems he was sent back to the 3rd Battalion, stationed at Belfast. It was also a depot unit which on mobilisation moved to Dublin. Daniel was probably not fully fit but was able to do light duties. The battalion and Daniel remained in Ireland until April 1916. This was the month in which the Easter Rising occurred. The article confirms that Daniel was in Ireland at the time, so it is possible that he was in, or at least close to, the action in that fateful event. Daniel was subsequently posted to the 2nd Battalion when he had regained full fitness.

The 2nd Battalion was now in France in the Ypres area operating within the 25th Division.

On the 18th of October 1915 they transferred with 7th Brigade to 25th Division. They were in action in defence of the German attack on Vimy Ridge in May 1916. They then moved to The Somme and joined the Battle just after the main attack, with 75th Brigade making a costly attack near Thiepval on the 3rd of July. The Division was in action at The Battle of Bazentin, The Battle of Pozieres and The Battle of the Ancre Heights. In 1917 they were in action at The Battle of Messines attacking between the Wulverghem-Messines and Wulverghem. The first quarter of 1917 was spent in the Ploegsteert sector: a relatively quiet time punctuated by frequent raids and minor operations. In late May 1917 and into June 1917 Daniel was in action on the Messines Ridge. The main attack commenced in June but Daniel was killed in the pre-attacks on some very strong German defences. His body was never recovered or if it was there was insufficient information to identify the body.

Daniel is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial on Panel 40.



Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres, Belgium (CWGC)

**The article is incorrect about this date.*

Author: David Clapp