

Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive



RDFFA/035

Papers of
Herbert Justin Lemass and
Edwin Stephen Lemass

Rachel Richardson (11 March 2014)

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Reference Number: IE DCLA/RDFA/035

Title: Herbert Justin Lemass and Edwin Stephen Lemass Papers.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert Lemass

Dates: [1914] - 2012

Extent: 3 series, one sub-series, comprising of 3 files and 15 items.

Level: Fonds

Administration history: The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, Ayrfield, Dublin 13, was established in 1996 to commemorate all Irish men and women who volunteered, served and died in the First World War 1914-1918. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association archive is managed by the Dublin City Library and Archive.

Biographical history: Edwin Stephen and Herbert James Lemass were born in Monkstown, county Dublin. Their father Dr Peter E Lemass and mother Maria Patricia had six children, five of whom survived birth. Their father worked as the secretary at the Department of Education. Both Edwin and Herbert were successful in school. Edwin, the older of two brothers, studied law at Trinity College and at the age of 22 was called to the bar, where he practiced for some time on the North Western Circuit. At the outbreak of the First World War, Edwin enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps. Following the war, Edwin joined the Colonial Service where he was stationed in Cairo. Edwin went on to live in Alexandria where he became one of Egypt's leading judges and personalities. Edwin married Dori and died in Egypt.

Herbert was two years younger than Edwin. Herbert attended Trinity College in 1913, where he joined the medical school. In 1915, Herbert entered the Sandhurst Military College as a cadet and went on to receive permanent commission into the army later that year. In 1916, he was gazetted to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was sent to fight in France. On the 23 October 1916, Herbert was killed at the Battle of the Somme. He was buried at the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme in France and is also commemorated in the Hall Honour at Trinity College.

Archival history: The collection was donated to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association archive by Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert Lemass on the 16 May 2012. The Royal Dublin Association archive is managed by the Dublin City Library and Archive, which is where the collection is kept.

Scope and Content: The collection contains items relating to Edwin and Herbert Lemass during the First World War. Included in this collection are numerous photographs, particularly of Herbert, a framed memorial card and scroll in honour of Herbert, a newspaper clipping outlining Edwin's successful career as a judge and general biographical information of the two brothers, researched by their second cousin Owen Lemass and Ken Kinsella of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Arrangement: The collection was broken into three series. The first series, relates to records belonging to Edwin Stephen Lemass. The second series relates to Herbert Justin Lemass. In this series there is also a sub-series relating to portraits of Herbert. The final series relates to general information on the two brothers researched by Ken Kinsella of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association and Owen

Lemass. The collection was arranged chronologically as this reflects mostly accurately the original order in which the records were created, and provides a comprehensive context for the records.

Date of Description: The description list was created by Rachel Richardson on the 14 March 2014.

Rules or Conventions: ISAD(G), second edition (2000).

Reference Number: RDFA/035/1

Title: Items relating to Edwin Stephen Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: 1915 - 1954

Extent: 1 file and 4 items

Level: Series

Scope and Content: Contains items in relation Edwin Stephan Lemass, the older of the Lemass brothers. These items include a temporary sealed appointment, photographs, letters, and newspaper cutting in relation to his career as a judge in Egypt.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/1/1

Title: Temporary sealed appointment as 2nd Lieutenant.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: 21 October 1915

Extent: 2 pages

Level: Item

Scope and Content: A sealed, temporary appointment of Edwin as 2nd Lieutenant Royal Army Service Corps .The appointment is signed by King George V and by commander [G H Kennedy].

Reference Number: RDFA/035/1/2

Title: Copy extract of letter from Edwin Lemass to the War Office.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: undated

Extent: 1 page

Level: Item

Scope and Content: A copy and extract of a letter written from Edwin to the secretary of the War Office, London. Edwin writes that an officer was removed from service but kept his rank. Edwin goes on to outline the various ranks he held during his years of service between 1915- 1919.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/1/3

Title: Mounted photograph of Edwin Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1936]

Extent: 1 photograph

Level: Item

Scope and Content: A mounted, black and white, head and shoulder photograph of Edwin. Edwin is middle aged and is dressed in a jacket and tie.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/1/4

Title: Newspaper cutting of Edwin as judge in Egypt.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: undated

Extent: 2 pages

Level: Item

Scope and Content: Newspaper cutting, written by 'Bohemian' outlines the career of Edwin as a judge in Egypt. Edwin is described as one of the leading judges in Alexandria and hopes to reorganise the courts in Egypt.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/1/5

Title: Photographs of Edwin presiding in court

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: 31 March 1954

Extent: 2 photographs

Level: File

Scope and Content: An original and copy, black and white photographs, of Edwin as judge, presiding in court. On the verso of the original, the names of those present in court are noted in pencil. It is also noted that 'The president seems to have a Bullseye in his mouth, but this is an optical illusion'.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2

Title: Items relating to Herbert James Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914] - 2008

Extent: 1 file and 10 items

Level: Series

Scope and Content: Items relating to Herbert James Lemass, the younger of the Lemass brothers and who died at the age of 19 at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Included are numerous photographs, a memorial card and scroll, and information on his location of death at the Somme.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/1

Title: Portraits of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 6 photographs

Level: Sub-series

Scope and Content: Original sepia portrait photographs of Herbert Lemass in uniform. Also includes an ink and watercolour portrait of Herbert.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/1/1

Title: Photograph of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 1 photograph, 180mm x 125mm

Level: Item

Scope and Content: An original, mounted sepia, head and shoulder portrait of Herbert Lemass, dressed in army uniform. Photograph is by C Neville Cook, Kingstown under royal patronage.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/1/2

Title: Photograph of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 1 photograph, 195mm x 122mm

Level: Item

Scope and Content: An original sepia photograph of Herbert Lemass. He is wearing his army uniform with a greatcoat and is holding gloves in his right hand.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/1/3

Title: Photograph of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 1 photograph, 180mm x 130mm

Level: Item

Scope and Content: An original, mounted, sepia photograph of Herbert Lemass at a writing desk. He is dressed in his army uniform and is holding a pen.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/1/4

Title: Photograph of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 1 photograph, 350mm x 250mm

Level: Item

Scope and Content: An original, mounted, sepia photograph of Herbert Lemass at a writing desk. He is dressed in his army uniform and is holding a pen.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/1/5

Title: Photograph of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 1 photograph, 85 mm x 65mm

Level: Item

Scope and Content: An original, mounted sepia, head and shoulder portrait of Herbert Lemass, dressed in army uniform.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/1/6

Title: Ink and water colour portrait of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 1 drawing, 140mm x 85mm

Level: Item

Scope and Content: An original ink and watercolour drawing of Herbert Lemass on card. He is wearing his army uniform. On the verso of the drawing, a message is written in pencil. The message reads 'Lieutenant Herbert Lemass fell at the Somme France 23 October 1916. RIP.'

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/2

Title: 'Our Heroes' newspaper supplement .

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: 24 November 1916

Extent: 16 pages

Level: Item

Scope and Content: A newspaper supplement to *Irish Life* called 'Our Heroes'. The supplement contains a photograph and short biography of the soldiers who have been killed at war. Included is Herbert who died on 23 October 1916 (p. 294-295).

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/3

Title: Framed memorial card in honour of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 1 page

Level: Item

Scope and Content: Framed memorial card from Buckingham Palace, following the death of Herbert Lemass. The card is signed by King George V and it bears the British Royal Arms emblem.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/4

Title: Framed memorial scroll in memory of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [1914-1916]

Extent: 1 page

Level: Item

Scope and Content: Framed memorial scroll issued by King George V under the Royal Arms. The scroll bears the British Royal Arms emblem and wishes to commemorate Herbert Justin who 'was numbered among many...by giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom'.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/5

Title: Copy of Letter

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James.

Dates: 11 August 1919

Extent: 2 pages

Level: Item

Scope and Content: Letter from Herbert's father, P E Lemass, Dublin, to the secretary of the War Office, Imperial Institute, London. PE Lemass writes that he has had no reply from the War Office in relation his late son's war service gratuity.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/2/6

Title: Information relating to the location and death of Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: 29 January 2008

Extent: 9 pages

Level: File

Scope and Content: Printed information relating to the death of Herbert Lemass and the location of his death. Included is the details of Herbert and numerous maps of Lesboeuifs, Somme, France, with the British trenches highlighted and marked.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/3

Title: Items relating to the Lemass brothers

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James.

Dates: 2009 - 2012

Extent: 1 file and 1 item

Level: Series

Scope and Content: Information researched by Ken Kinsella of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association and Owen Lemass regarding the biography of the Lemass brothers and events in which the bothers were involved in.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/3/1

Title: Information on events in the First World War in which the Lemass brothers were involved in

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [9 March 2009]

Extent: 14 pages

Level: File

Scope and Content: A collection of information from a variety of sources relating to events during the First World War which the Lemass brothers were involved in. Included copies of columns from the New York Times, the Otago Standard, and the Wallace County Chronicle which describe battles the Lemass brothers fought in. Included also are copies of pages from the book *Crown and Company: The historical records of the 2nd battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers* by Arthur Edward Mainwaring, which mentions the death of Herbert Lemass.

Reference Number: RDFA/035/3/2

Title: Biographical notes on Edwin and Herbert Lemass.

Creator: Owen Lemass, second cousin of Herbert James

Dates: [16 March 2012]

Extent: 3 pages

Level: Item

Scope and Content: Biographical notes, written by Ken Kinsella of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association, of Edwin and Herbert Lemass. The notes outline mostly the military careers of the two brothers. However, there is a brief description of their family and education, with their cousin, Sean Lemass, also mentioned.