

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive



A Guide to The Monica Roberts Collection

Information

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association was established in 1996 to commemorate all Irish men and women who volunteered, served and died in the First World War 1914-1918. The RDFA fulfils its remit by organising public exhibitions, lectures, seminars, visits and the publication of a journal, Blue Cap. In 2005, the RDFA decided to place its archive with Dublin City Library & Archive, where it is available for public consultation in the Reading Room. The RDFA Archive is managed by Dublin City Archives.

The Monica Roberts Collection is a part of the RDFA Archive and was donated by Mary Shackleton daughter of Monica Roberts. The collection consists of eight volumes housed in ring binders and the contents date from 1914 to 1918. This guide aims to provide information on what the collection contains and what it tells us about the experiences of the men in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War. This collection is very visual and the physical qualities of the letters can be seen in the images in the guide.

Please Note: The bracketed numbers throughout the guide correspond to the endnotes at the end of the guide. The endnotes will provide the reference information for the letters mentioned.

*This guide was created for Dublin City Library and Archive by Ms. Lisa Murphy,
M.Phil Public History and Cultural Heritage, Trinity College Dublin, 2012.*

The Monica Roberts Collection

An Introduction

The Monica Roberts Collection consists of some four hundred letters from soldiers at the front. It also contains beautiful embroidered postcards(1) as well as other pieces of ephemera such as concert tickets (2)and song sheets(3) that the soldiers sent to Monica Roberts. These soldiers were extremely grateful for all the goods that Miss Roberts sent to them and many built up a correspondence with her. Even the types of paper they are written on and the writing utensils that they used are interesting, as they tell us what was available to the soldiers at the time. Some letters have parts that are written on postcards as well as normal paper while some letters have beautiful scenes depicted at the top of the letter.(4) Most importantly, the letters provide us with an insight into the personal stories of these brave men and show us the very human element of war experience.



A scene from the top of a letter from a soldier in the Belgian Army.
J. Verachtert to Miss Monica Roberts, 2 Jun. 1917, Volume 8, Monica Roberts Collection.

Monica Roberts: The woman behind the letters

At the time of the First World War Monica Roberts was a young woman living at Kelston, Stillorgan in County Dublin. Her father was Vice Provost of Trinity College Dublin(5) and we know from the 1911 census and the fact that she had time to write to the soldiers and send goods that she was an upper class young lady. She set up a society called 'Band of Helpers to the Soldiers'. The primary aim of this society was to supply comforts to soldiers at the front. The rules of the society can be found in Volume 1 of the collection and tell us that she primarily intended to help men of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Royal Flying Corps. The rules list the types of goods she wished to send out to the front and this corresponds with what we know the soldiers received from her. The rules also give us insights into how she got funds to send goods as it says that members paid money upon joining the society and then they had to contribute a small amount of money or goods each month. Though the collection only contains one letter written by Miss Roberts herself(6) we still get some insight into her life in the letters from the soldiers. Stillorgan, at this time, was much more rural than it is today and from the letters we know that Miss Roberts kept a small farm with chickens and ponies.(7) She also went on holidays quite regularly visiting London frequently to see her sister as well as making trips to both Cork and Bray. The soldiers often mention being envious of her frequent travels.

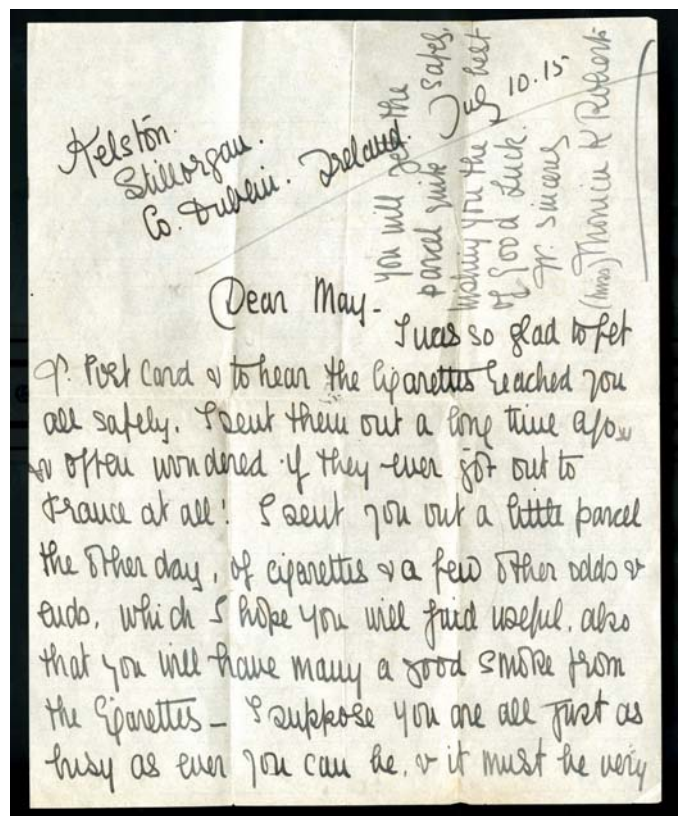


Monica Roberts

The collection also contains her 1916 Diary which documents her experience of the Easter rising.(8) From this we know that she felt a sense of betrayal and did not agree with the actions of the Sinn Féinners. This is understandable from a unionist woman who was dedicating so much time and effort to helping the men at the front. Her diary tells us that the lack of news from France was making her very anxious and this is an indication of just how devoted she was to her cause and how the war had become such a big part of her life. The letters also tell us that Miss Roberts was very well liked by the soldiers and they were extremely grateful to her for all the goods she sent out to them. Many men express the feeling that they cannot properly thank her enough for what she did, while we also know from the letters that many soldiers went to Kelston personally to thank her and speak fondly of the warm welcome that they received there.

The collection contains only one letter from Monica herself . It was written to a soldier Private J. May who was killed in action and the letter was returned to Monica. This is one of the pages from that letter.

Letter from Monica Roberts to Private J. May, 10 Jun. 1915, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection.



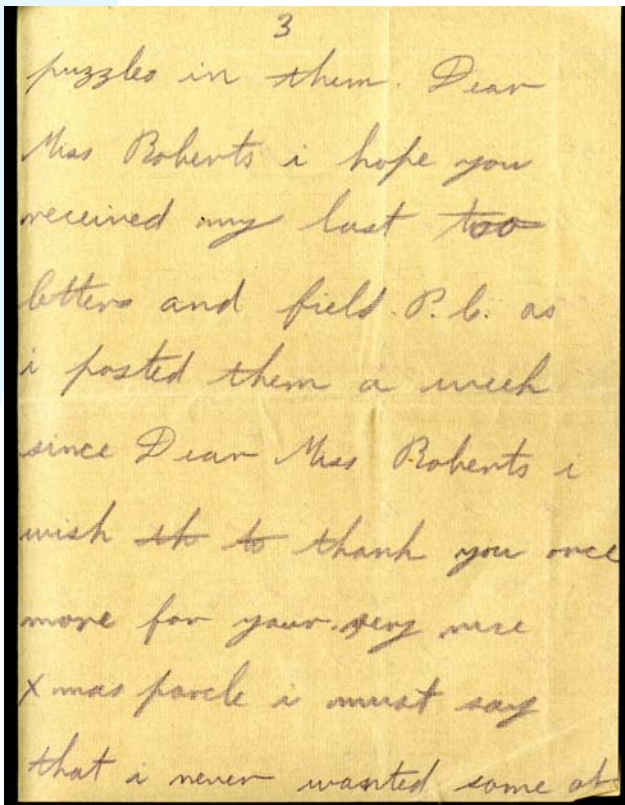
Life in the Trenches

The letters in the collection provide us with a small glimpse into what life was like for the Irish soldiers who fought, lived and died in the trenches of the Western Front. They tell us much about the basic human needs of these men and the appalling conditions they encountered on a daily basis as well as other aspects of the war. The men were not allowed to divulge their precise location in the letters presumably in case they were intercepted by the Germans. They could not even send postcards with scenes of a specific area and as a result the letters and postcards usually just say France, the front, or trenches.

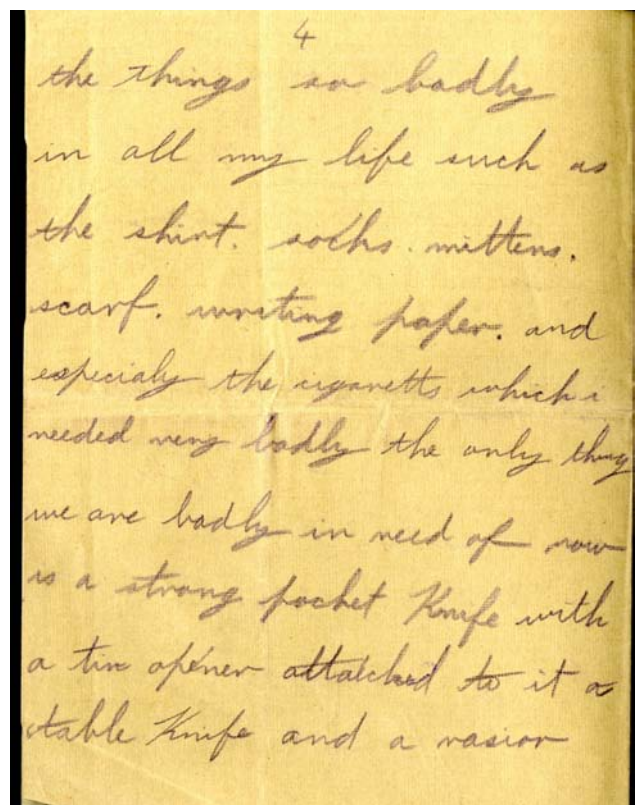
From topics such as the weather to the types of pastimes they enjoyed, we learn directly from the ordinary privates themselves, in their own words, about life in the trenches. These men were largely privates in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and men from the Royal Flying Corps. The Royal Dublin Fusiliers originated in India and were called the Royal Madras Fusiliers. In 1857 they merged with the Bombay Corps and became the Royal Dublin Fusiliers with their depot at Naas in County Kildare. During the Great War the Royal Dublin Fusiliers fought in Madras, France, Gallipoli and Salonika and were involved in the major battles at the Somme and Ypres. They contributed significantly to the war effort and lost almost five thousand men by the end of the war.

Items from Home

One of the most interesting things that we learn from the letters is the types of things that the soldiers needed the most while they were at the front. Monica Roberts's society sent many packages to the Irish soldiers and the letters tell us a great deal about the types of things she sent. One of the most common things that were sent out to the soldiers were cigarettes. Many soldiers talk of how much they appreciated being sent cigarettes as they could not easily be obtained at the front and they cheered the men up.(9) They also served the purpose of helping mask the smell in the trenches created from human waste, corpses of dead soldiers and the men themselves who were unable to wash frequently due to the lack of water. The way that many of the soldiers talk about sharing around their cigarettes also gives us a sense of the camaraderie that existed between the men.



3
puzzles in them. Dear
Miss Roberts i hope you
received my last too
letters and field P.C. as
i posted them a week
since Dear Miss Roberts i
wish to thank you once
more for your very nice
Xmas parcel i must say
that i never wanted some of



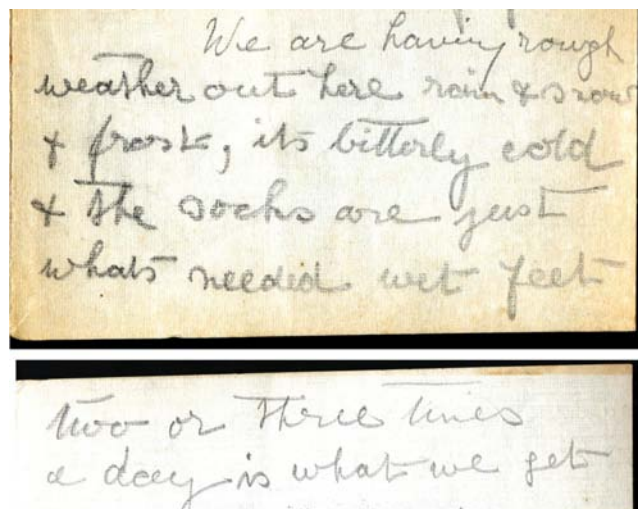
4
the things so badly
in all my life such as
the shirt. socks. mittens.
scarf. writing paper. and
especially the cigarettes which i
needed very badly the only thing
we are badly in need of now
is a strong pocket knife with
a tin opener attached to it a
table knife and a razor

Private Edward Mordaunt thanks Monica for the items that she sent to him. It is a good example of the types of items that were sent to the men and the items that they requested.

Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection.

Another very important item to the soldiers were socks. This most basic of items that we take for granted was essential to men in the trenches. During the bad weather the trenches were prone to becoming muddy and flooded. The men were forced to stand in water and mud for long periods of time. (10) They would also wear their boots for up to seven days at a time.(11) This led to foot rot, also known as trench foot, becoming commonplace. This condition could lead to a loss of toes or the entire foot and so a change of socks was a necessary and most welcome item to receive. Underclothing and shirts were also asked for as often in the cold wet winters the men would have very few changes of clothes and would often have to stay in their wet clothes for days on end.(12) Having clean dry clothing to change into would have been a huge luxury to them. Foodstuffs were often sent out to the front but they had to be goods of a non-perishable kind. Some of the soldiers describe surviving on hard biscuits and bully beef for long periods indicating that regular dinners were not commonplace.

Private Joseph Elley speaks of the necessity of socks.
Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 15 Dec.
1915, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection



Often the men ask for specific items from Miss Roberts and the most common included electric lamps. Lamps were important for the soldiers to be able to see their way around the trenches and to have with them if they were on guard at night. One soldier writes that these lamps were ideal because the light from them could not be seen over the trenches meaning that it did not provide a target for the Germans.(13) Books are often asked for, particularly by the men in the Royal Flying Corps, and other items to pass the time such as board games and mouthorgans are requested on occasion too. Long periods spent sitting in the trenches would have been quite tedious at times and items such as these would have relieved boredom. It underlines the monotony of much of the experience of war. Newspapers are often asked for . This was likely to be one of the main ways that the men knew what was occurring outside their world of the trenches and what was being said about the war by those back home.(14) Other items that soldiers asked Miss Roberts for included watches, soap, shaving kits, notepaper and pens.

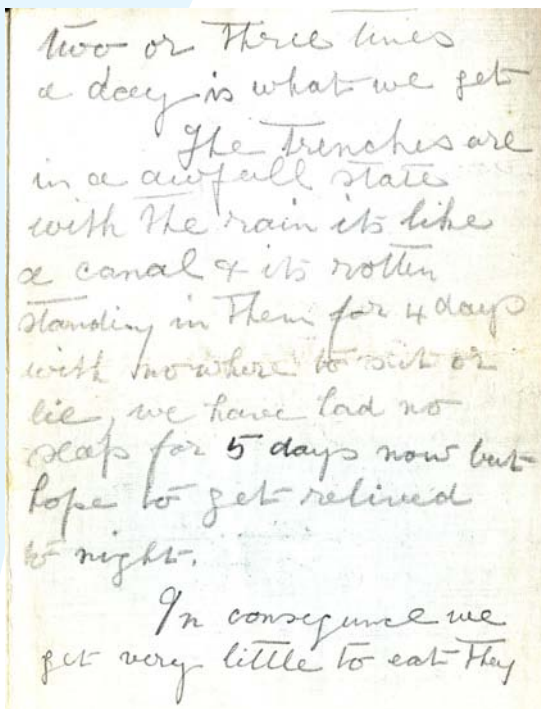
Weather at the Front

During the war every soldier's letter was checked by the base censor prior to it being sent. Many of the envelopes in the collection have stamps on them which say passed by base censor. The letters would have been checked to ensure they did not contain any sensitive information that could be used by the Germans if they fell into their hands. Due to this strict censorship the soldiers were quite limited as to what they could write about in their letters. As a result, one of the most common themes in the letters is the weather. Although this could also be related to the fact that they were writing to a stranger and so it was just easier to discuss the weather, much like we do when making conversation with acquaintances.



An envelope showing the Passed Field Censor stamp.
Monica Roberts Collection.

From the letters we can tell that the winters in France were especially harsh during the war, particularly in 1915 and 1916. Many soldiers describe how they were often standing in water or mud that was up to their knees and sometimes their chests.(15) They write that, sometimes, it would rain for days on end and that it was difficult to lie down and sleep in these conditions. Snow and severe frost seems to have been commonplace during the winters in France. As a result, the men often suffered from colds and coughs(16) and, as mentioned before their feet suffered badly from the damp wet conditions.



Two or three times
a day is what we get
The trenches are
in a awfull state
with the rain its like
a canal & its rotten
standing in them for 4 days
with nowhere to sit or
lie, we have had no
sleep for 5 days now but
hope to get relieved
to night.
In consequence we
get very little to eat they

Private Joseph Elley describes the condition of the trenches 'The Trenches are in an awful state with the rain its [sic] like a canal & rotten standing in them for 4 days with nowhere to sit or lie'.(17) The trenches had no shelter for the men and so they were completely exposed to the elements.(18) The frequent mention of the weather in the letters shows us how the men's existence had shrunk right down and their life was so much affected by the weather. The weather dictated their quality of life as if it rained it meant standing in water for hours and not being able to sleep.

Private Joseph Elley talks about the condition of the trenches.

Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 15 Dec. 1915, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection.

Pastimes of War

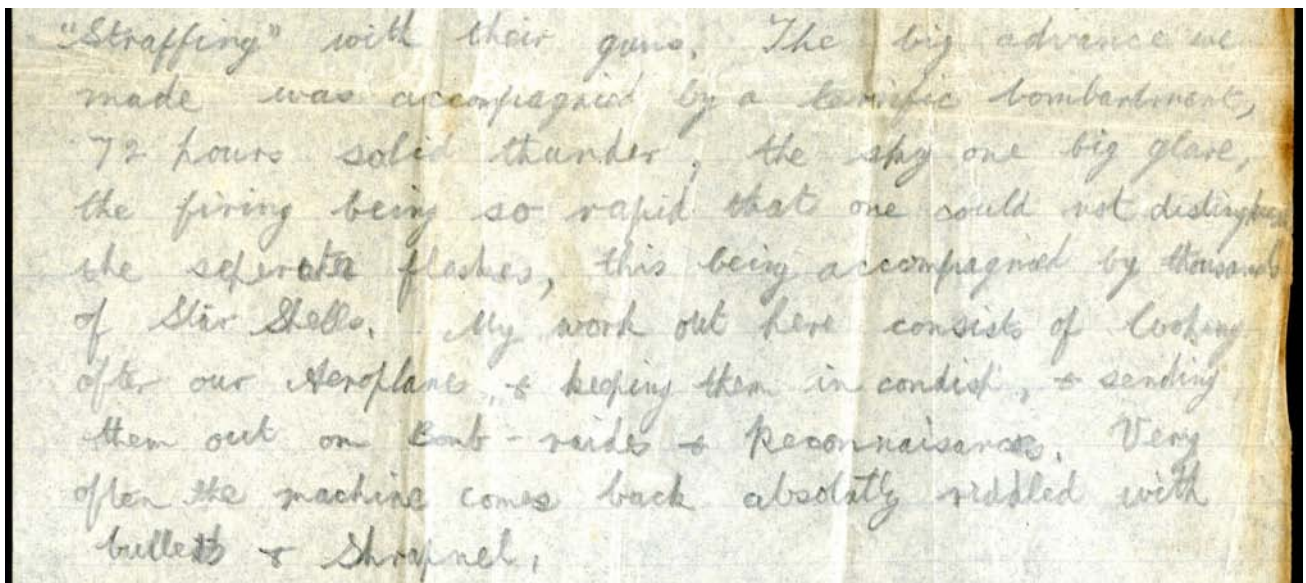
While life in the trenches was extremely hard on the men, they did occasionally get a break from the monotony of it by going on periods of rest. Often the men would spend a few days away from the trenches resting in billets. Billets were accommodation for the soldiers often located in nearby villages.(19) In the letters the soldiers speak of what they did to pass the time during their rest. Picture houses appear to have been very popular amongst the soldiers and they were often set up in old barns or factories.(20) They also held concerts on occasion and sent Miss Roberts the concert programmes. Miss Roberts would often send them programmes from concerts she held at Kelston. These moments would have been a welcome distraction for the men, if only for a few hours. In the trenches too, the men needed a way to pass time and often they did this by playing board games or reading and, of course, letter writing. Corporal Herbert Morris gives a sense of the pastimes that the RFC men liked to enjoy, saying that picture houses were a popular way for the men to spend their time when they were on rest.(21) He also says that their work is very monotonous and concerts provide a welcome break from their work.(22) Football matches were also played by the men and often they read books to pass the time. Miss Roberts sent many books out to the men and some of the titles included *The Virginians* by William Makepeace Thackeray,(23) *Montezuma's Daughter* by H. Rider Haggard and *Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens.(24)

Sometimes, the men left the trenches for other reasons such as to go on special training. Both Private Edward Mordaunt and Private Joseph Elley write of going to train to be bomb throwers or 'The Suicide Club' as it was known amongst the men.(25) We also get a glimpse into what some of the men enjoyed doing when they were on leave. Many write about going to the theatre to see the latest shows while one soldier in particular mentions going to see a football game, Manchester Utd against Everton(26) This shows us the very human element of the letters. These are just ordinary men caught up in extraordinary circumstances and the war does not consume every part of their lives. They are able to find some relief from it, even if for a short period of time.

Life in the Royal Flying Corps

Not only does this collection give us an insight into what life was like in the trenches, it also provides us with information on what life was like as a part of the Royal Flying Corps. Many RFC men corresponded with Miss Roberts and as a result we learn of their experiences of the war. The Royal Flying Corps had small beginnings formed in April 1912 for reconnaissance and artillery observation. Over the course of the war, the Royal Flying Corps expanded and took part in battles such as that at the Somme, as well as being responsible for defence against German Zeppelins and Gotha bomber raids. From crude basic aircraft when the war started, the Royal Flying Corps finally got machines that would equal the Germans during the latter stages of the war. By the war's end they had an inventory of twenty two thousand aircraft and had contributed substantially to the war effort at the front and also in the Middle East.

Leslie Coulson tells Miss Roberts what his job as an air mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps entailed. He writes that he has to look after the airplanes making sure to keep them in good condition and then sends them out on bomb raids and reconnaissance. He tells her that often the planes come back and are riddled with bullets and shrapnel.(27) He also gives a vivid description of a bombardment. '72 hours of solid thunder, the sky one big glare, the firing being so rapid that one could not distinguish the separate flashes, this accompanied by thousands of star shells.'(28) The weather is something which affects the men of the RFC just as much as the soldiers in the trenches. He also tells Miss Roberts that the ground is of a clay nature and as a result they are often ankle deep in mud after bad weather and often they are 'side slipping and nose diving all over the show'.(29)



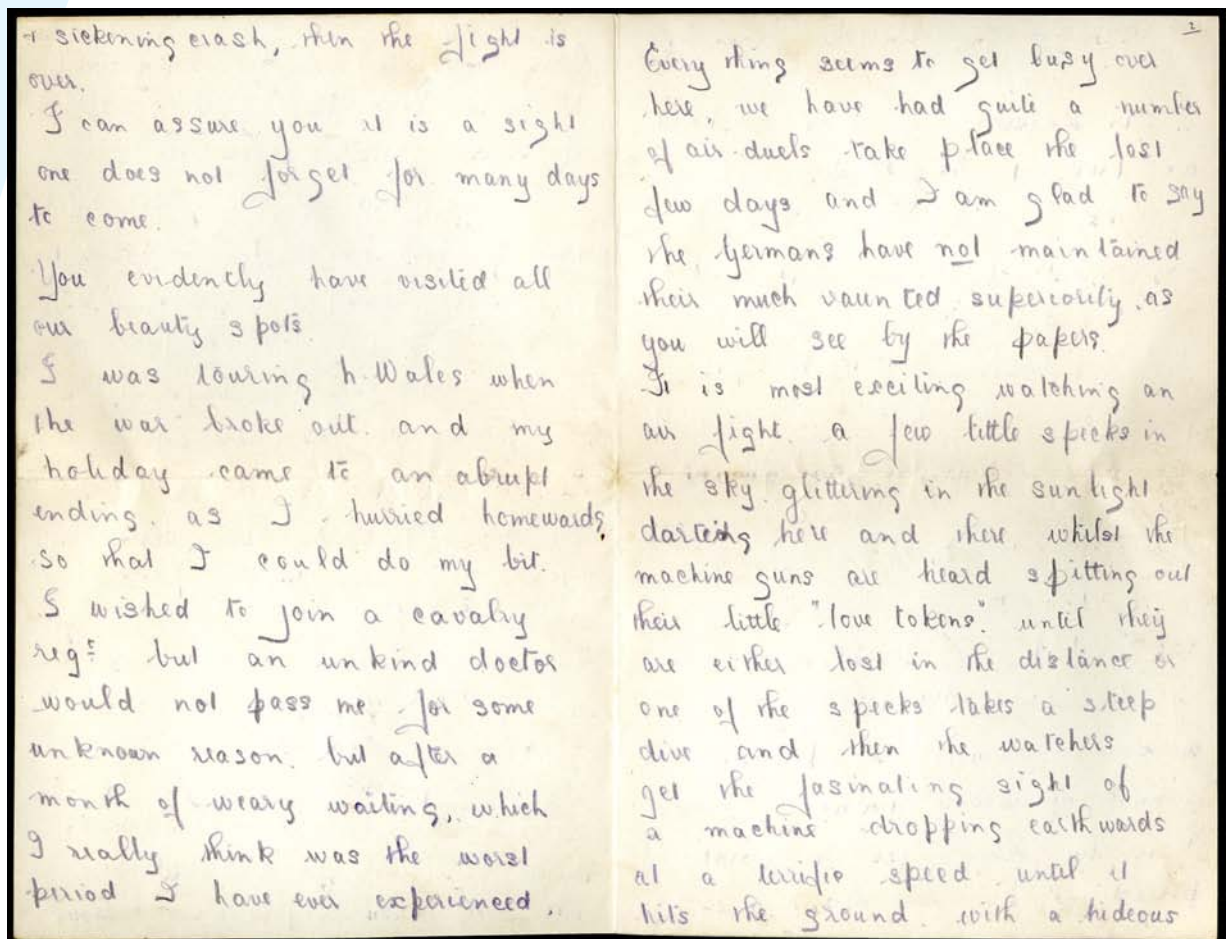
Description of a bombardment.

Leslie Coulson to Miss Monica Roberts, 11 Oct. 1915, Volume 5, Monica Roberts Collection.

Often we are given a glimpse into the personal stories of these men and how they came to serve in the war. Gunner George Brown was a man from Toronto, Canada who wrote to Miss Roberts. He tells her that he is a mechanic and was sent to England to make machines for making munitions for an engineering firm. He got his release from the army but he was thinking of going back to Canada to enlist in a Canadian regiment as he does not mind going back to the front.(30) This is a prime example of the courage of these men who believed so much in what they were fighting for. Canada as a part of the British Empire supported Britain in its war effort sending many Canadian troops to the front.

Men in the RFC provide much more detail regarding combat than the RDF men do, which may be linked to the fact they were better educated and their letters in general are more eloquent with a higher standard of writing and spelling. Corporal Herbert Morris provides an extremely descriptive picture of what an air duel was like:

a few little specks in the sky glittering in the sunlight darting here and there whilst the machine guns are heard spitting out their little 'love tokens' ...then the watchers get the fascinating sight of a machine dropping earthwards at a terrific speed until it hits the ground with a hideous & sickening crash...



Corporal Herbert Morris describes an air duel.

Corporal Herbert Morris to Miss Monica Roberts, 20/06/1916, Volume 6, Monica Roberts Collection.

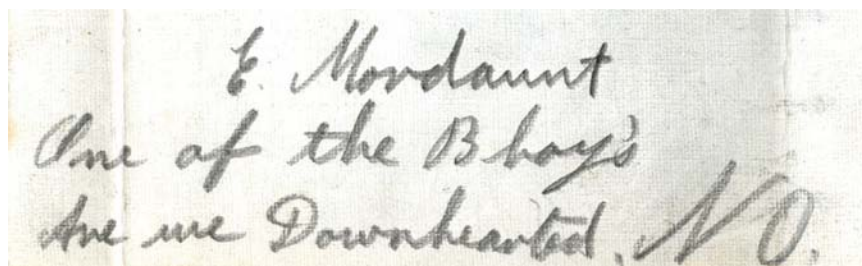
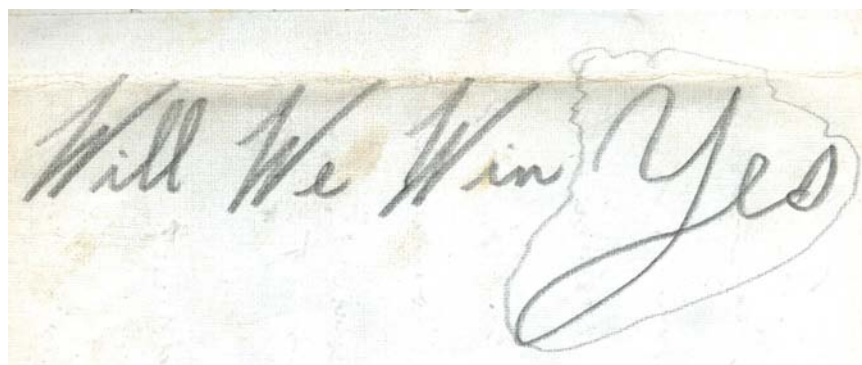
The men in the RFC were always kept extremely busy often working seven days a week. Wilfred Hunt writes 'I never have a day off, as the machines are flying every day, Sundays included.'(31) The cold weather also affected them as much as it did the soldiers in the trenches. Wilfred Hunt also writes that they were only supplied with one blanket(32) while Henry Harrington writes that they had to give back their blanket at the end of May. He says that they had to resort to other measures to keep warm:

that night we took off our clothes as usual + at midnight we had to dress + go for a good run about to get heat into our bodies...since then we found still a better plan we strip as usual lie on the waterproof sheet + put everything we got in our packs on top of us.(33)

We can see that the soldiers in the trenches and the men of the RFC both had very similar experiences of the war including the hardships of the weather and the pastimes they enjoyed. Both groups offer us other interesting glimpses into life during the war, including what life was like at the front during holidays. Many of the men say that the holidays pass like any other day as there is not much difference for them. It seems though that Miss Roberts did send out shamrocks to many men for St. Patrick's Day. (34) The men also often describe their Christmas and what they had for dinner. Major George Hillman writes that Christmas dinner consisted of roast pork, potatoes and cabbage, Christmas pudding and pineapple. And for afters they had oranges, apples, figs and smoking material and drinks. (35) Private Joseph Elley writes that they fancy geese and turkey with Christmas pudding. (36) A feast like this must have been a huge treat for the men compared to the meals that they had the rest of the year. It must have also given them a brief feeling of home to be able to celebrate the holidays, even in a small way.

Morale

The morale of the men is something which comes across very vividly in the collection. Rarely do we ever get a sense of negativity from the men and there is very little complaining despite the extreme hardships they faced. Private Edward Mordaunt when talking of the wet weather writes 'we are getting quiet [sic] use to it now no trouble to us at all'. (37) While Corporal Herbert Morris says that the only time the boys are downhearted is when they read in the papers about the petty squabbles at home: 'They seem to have a more depressing affect than all the Germans ever borne'. (38) It is the slogans which adorn many of the letters which give a real sense of the spirit of the men. These were obviously slogans that the men wrote to keep their morale up in those difficult times. Some of the common ones are 'Will We Win Yes. Are we downhearted No', 'Far From Home But Happy' (39) and 'Bravo the Dublin Fusiliers'. (40) These slogans were likely to have helped keep up the morale at home. If the soldiers appeared to be in good spirits then it would give their families less cause for worry.

A photograph of a piece of aged, yellowed paper with handwritten text in dark ink. The text is written in a cursive, slightly slanted script. It reads: 'E. Mordaunt' on the first line, 'One of the B boys' on the second line, and 'Are we Downhearted, NO.' on the third line. The 'NO.' is written in a larger, more emphatic script.A photograph of a piece of aged, yellowed paper with handwritten text in dark ink. The text is written in a cursive, slightly slanted script. It reads: 'Will We Win Yes'. The word 'Yes' is written in a large, flowing, and somewhat decorative script, with a long, sweeping underline that loops back under the word.

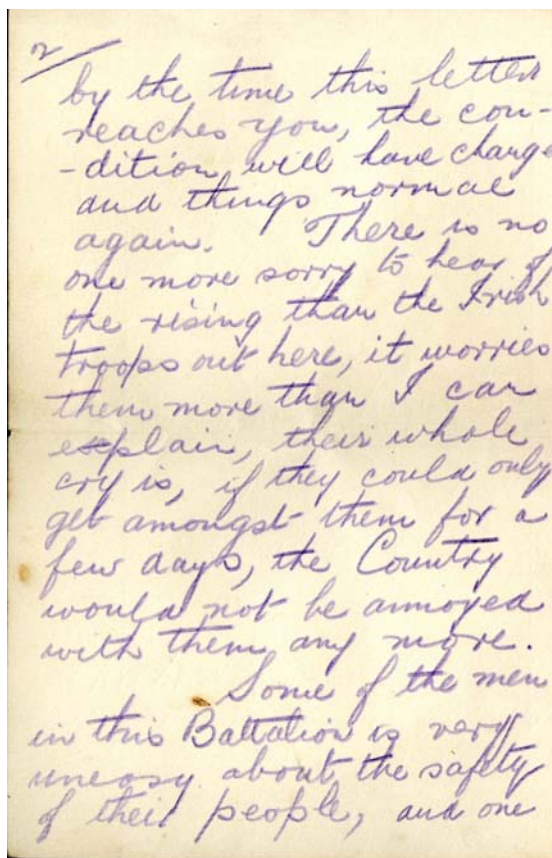
Examples of the slogans that soldiers often wrote on their letters.
Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, 04 Jan. 1915, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection.

Getting letters from home seems to have had an effect on their morale. Often they say it cheers them up to receive a letter and breaks the monotony of their work. It also probably gave them a feeling of not being forgotten. One man, Private Joseph Elley, wrote that he got Miss Roberts address from a parcel and he wrote to her as he has no family to write to and would like a few lines from home.(41) Perhaps it gave him some peace of mind to know that if anything happened to him that he would not be forgotten. That at least having someone to write to would mean it would be noticed if he stopped writing. Having someone to write to must have been extremely important for the men and gave them an outlet to express their experiences. E. Heafey writes that they tell Miss Roberts more details than they tell their family as they do not want to worry them.(42) Being able to confide in a stranger about the more horrific aspects of the war must have helped the men a great deal.

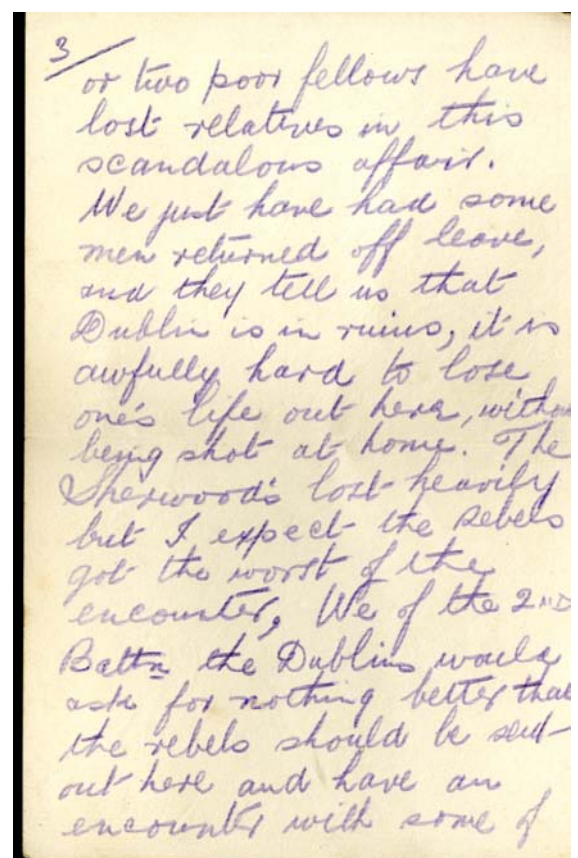
Trouble at Home

One frequent theme that occurs throughout the entire collection is the soldiers' reactions to the 1916 rising. It is a very interesting contrast to see how they felt about this prominent event in Irish history whilst they were out fighting as part of the British Army. The overall feeling that we get from the men is that they felt betrayed by the Sinn Féinners. They felt it was a stab in the back to all those Irish men who had gone to fight in the war. Private Joseph Clarke writes:

There is no one more sorry to hear of the rising than the Irish troops out here, it worries them more than I can explain, their whole cry is, if they could only get amongst them for a few days, the country would not be annoyed with them any more. ...it is awfully hard to lose one's life out here, without being shot at home.'



2/ by the time this letter reaches you, the condition will have changed and things normal again. There is no one more sorry to hear of the rising than the Irish troops out here, it worries them more than I can explain, their whole cry is, if they could only get amongst them for a few days, the Country would not be annoyed with them any more. Some of the men in this Battalion are very uneasy about the safety of their people, and one



3/ or two poor fellows have lost relatives in this scandalous affair. We just have had some men returned off leave, and they tell us that Dublin is in ruins, it is awfully hard to lose one's life out here, without being shot at home. The Sherwood's lost heavily but I expect the rebels got the worst of the encounter. We of the 2nd Batta the Dubliners would ask for nothing better than the rebels should be sent out here and have an encounter with some of

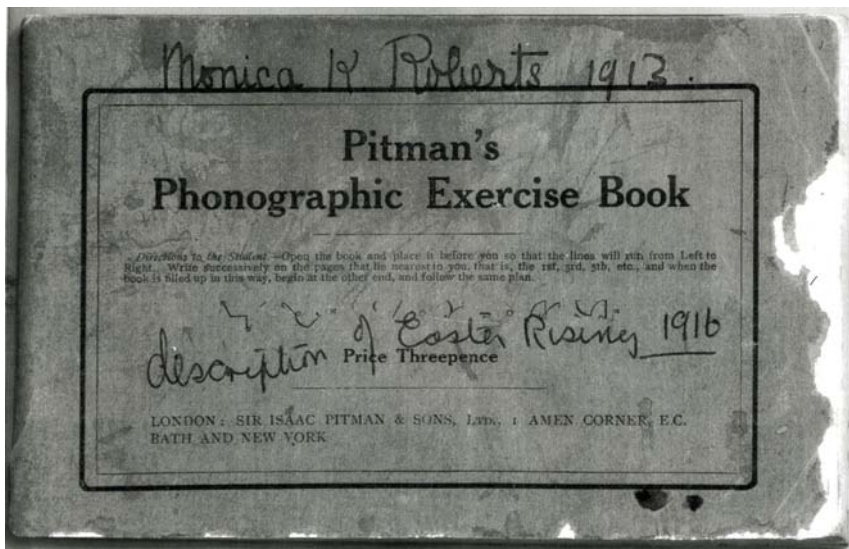
Private Joseph Clarke describes the soldiers reaction to the 1916 rising.

Private Joseph Clarke to Miss Monica Roberts, 11 May. 1916, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection.

The general reaction of the men is that they would like to see the rebels sent out to France so that they could see what war was really like. Some of the men were also very worried about their families back home in Dublin. Private Christopher Fox wrote 'Think of some of the poor fellows out here fighting for their country and them murdering cowards suppose have killed some of their mothers, fathers or their wives and children as the case may be.'(43) Henry Harrington even mentions that he used to see notices outside Countess Markievicz's house which said 'Don't join the English Army stop at home & fight for Ireland.'(44) This gives us an insight into the political climate in Ireland at the time. The way the soldiers felt about the rising is even more poignant considering the way in which they were treated when they returned home. While the rising was initially unpopular public opinion was changed after the harsh execution of the leaders. This led to the soldiers returning to a changed Ireland in which they were now seen as having fought for the wrong side.

Monica's 1916 Diary

Monica Roberts Diary of the 1916 rising, which is located in Volume 8 of the collection, is an interesting account of her experience of the rising. She writes about the sights and sounds near her home in Stillorgan and how the rising was affecting them on a daily basis. It is an incredibly vivid account that offers us a glimpse of how the rising affected the ordinary people of Dublin. She writes about how the Sinn Féinners had taken over the GPO, Harcourt St, the Bank of Ireland and were entrenched in St. Stephen's Green. The rising affected public transport to a large extent and Miss Roberts mentions that 'the "enemy" were in possession of H. Street Station'. She says it was very difficult to get around and they were challenged everywhere. Some of the ways in which she says it affected people range from exams being called off in Trinity College to all the shops being closed as well as the post offices in various locations. Due to the post offices being closed and the lack of newspapers it was very hard to get any news from France, something which Miss Roberts was understandably very anxious about. One of the major problems during the rising was the shortage of bread. She writes about having to try and find bread as it is running out.



The front cover of Monica's 1916 Diary.
Volume 8, Monica Roberts Collection.

She describes the atmosphere saying: 'The very air is electric, it is so hot, there is an occasional boom of a gun over Dublin.' She says that amongst the people there is 'feeling of uncertainty & excitement.' Even from where she lived in Stillorgan she could see that the sky was red with the burning buildings in town and the firing over Dublin was very heavy and incessant. She writes that there were wild rumours flying around and that reports said that the GPO was in ruins and there were dead lying in the streets. On 29th April she writes you 'can hear the machine guns pounding away tonight.' The last entry in her diary is dated April 30th and says 'Such a lovely, lovely day'.(45)

Conclusion

As we can see the Monica Roberts Collection provides us with both a fascinating and heartbreaking insight into what these men experienced during their time at the front. From the ranks given in the letters we can see that the majority of men writing to Miss Roberts were Privates, they were the ordinary soldiers. Only a few men of higher rank wrote to Miss Roberts and so we are largely learning of the experiences of the ordinary men in the trenches. We can also tell a little about their education from the way that they write, many of the men in Royal Flying Corps write very well while often the ordinary Privates writing is of a lower standard with both spelling and grammatical errors. This may indicate that the men in trenches were of the lower class and therefore been less educated.

As we see in the letters, the more educated men had higher ranks or worked as mechanics in the RFC. The physical letters themselves also offer us insight into the wartime experience of the men. We can see the types of paper that were available to the men and the writing utensils that were available. The handwriting in the letters, the underlining and the marginalia also makes each letter unique. The postcards were often bought by the men in villages from local women in France when they would receive some money. Thus, the collection tells us not only about life in the trenches but about the men themselves. It offers us a rare opportunity to engage with these men and almost live through their experiences with them. It may also provide us with more detailed records of these men as there may not be other records of them or their views and experiences. It tells us about men whose stories may not otherwise have been heard, making it a poignant and hugely valuable collection.



Examples of the postcards sent to Monica from soldiers at the front. *Volume 8, Monica Roberts Collection.*

The Monica Roberts Collection is in the process of being digitised and will eventually be made available online. However you can currently access the collection in the Reading Room of the Dublin City Library and Archive 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

Suggested Reading

Cook, Tim, *At the sharp end: Canadians fighting the Great War, 1914-1916* (Toronto, 2007)

Dungan, Myles, *Irish Voices from the Great War* (Dublin, 1998)

Dungan, Myles, *They shall grow not old: Irish soldiers and the Great War* (Dublin, 1997)

Fitzpatrick, David, *Ireland and the First World War* (Dublin, 1986)

Horne, John, (ed), *Our war: Ireland and the great war* (Dublin, 2008)

Jeffrey, Keith, *Ireland and the Great War* (Cambridge, 2000)

Louisa, Mary and Norway, Arthur Hamilton (eds.), *The Sinn Fein rebellion as they saw it* (Dublin ,1999)

Luddy, Maria, *Women and philanthropy in nineteenth-century Ireland* (Cambridge, c1995)

MacMahon, Bryan, 'Letters to Stillorgan from the Western Front', In *Obelisk: Journal of the Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society* (Issue 2 2007)

MacMahon, Bryan, 'Monica Roberts' Diary of Easter Week 1916', In *Obelisk: Journal of Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society* (Issue 3, 2008)

Mark, Graham, *British censorship of civil mails during World War I, 1914-1919*(Bristol, 2000)

Sheehan, William, *The Western Front : Irish voices from the Great War* (Dublin, 2011)

Simpson, Andy (ed.), *Hot blood and cold steel: life and death in the trenches of the First World War* (Kent, 2002)

Storey, Neil and Housego, Molly, *Women in the First World War*, (Oxford, 2010)

For more information on the Royal Dublin Fusiliers see:

<http://www.greatwar.ie/>

For more information on the Royal Flying Corps see:

<http://www.airwar1.org.uk/>

Endnotes

1. Embroidered Postcards to Monica Roberts from Various Soldiers, Volume 8, Monica Roberts Collection RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
2. Private Harry Loughlin to Miss Monica Roberts, 5 Nov. 1916, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
3. Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
4. J. Verachttert to Miss Monica Roberts, various dates, Volume 8, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
5. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, William R Westropp Obituary, Meeting Minutes, Vol xliii, 1935-1937
6. Letter from Monica Roberts to Private J. May, 10 Jun. 1915, Volume 3, , Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
7. Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 14 Oct. 1915, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
8. Monica Roberts Easter Rising Diary, Volume 8, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
9. Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
10. Harry Loughlin to Miss Monica Roberts, 14 Jan. 1917, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
11. Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
12. Private George Soper to Miss Monica Roberts, 03 Nov. 1915, Volume 4, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
13. Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, 16 Oct. 1915, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
14. Sgt E. Heafey to Miss Monica Roberts, 18 Jun. 1917, Volume 2, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
15. Private Edward Mordaunt to Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
16. Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 2 Jan. 1916, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
17. Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 15 Dec. 1915, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
18. Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 24 Dec. 1915, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
19. Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
20. Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
21. Corporal Herbert Morris to Miss Monica Roberts, 2 Apr. 1916, Volume 6, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
22. Corporal Herbert Morris to Miss Monica Roberts, 1 Jun. 1916, Volume 6, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
23. Leslie Coulson to Miss Monica Roberts, 27 Nov. 1915, Volume 5, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
24. Leslie Coulson to Miss Monica Roberts, 12 Jan. 1916, Volume 5, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
25. Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 20 Nov. 1915, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
26. Private J. Kirwan to Miss Monica Roberts, 15 Oct. 1917, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
27. Leslie Coulson to Miss Monica Roberts, 11 Oct. 1915, Volume 5, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
28. Leslie Coulson to Miss Monica Roberts, 11 Oct. 1915, Volume 5, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.

Endnotes Continued

29. Leslie Coulson to Miss Monica Roberts, 28 Oct. 12(he made a mistake with the date), Volume 5, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
30. Gunner George Brown to Miss Monica Roberts, 28 Feb. 1916, Volume 5, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
31. Corporal Wilfred Hunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 7, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
32. Corporal Wilfred Hunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 7, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
33. Henry Harrington to Miss Monica Roberts, 13 Jun. 1916, Volume 7, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
34. Private P. Mulligan to Miss Monica Roberts, 20 Mar. 1917, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
35. Major George Hillman to Miss Monica Roberts, 1 Jan. 1915, Volume 7, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
36. Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 21 Jan. 1916, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
37. Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
38. Corporal Herbert Morris to Miss Monica Roberts, 2 Apr. 1916, Volume 6, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
39. Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
40. Private Edward Mordaunt to Miss Monica Roberts, n.d, Volume 1, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
41. Private Joseph Elley to Miss Monica Roberts, 21 Sept. 1915, Volume 3, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
42. Sgt E. Heafey to Miss Monica Roberts, 15 Aug. 1917, Volume 2, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
43. Private Christopher Fox to Miss Monica Roberts, 31 May. 1916, Volume 2, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.
44. Henry Harrington to Miss Monica Roberts, 23 Jul. 1916, Volume 7, Monica Roberts Collection, RDFA1/001, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive.