

DUBLIN CITY ARCHIVES

RDFA/107
Rosemary Savage VAD
(20 Jan. 1893 - 3 Feb.1983)

Royal Dublin Fusiliers at Dublin City Archives

Finola Frawley, Dublin City Archives
(August 2016) & Edited by Cillian Fearon



Dublin City Library and Archive
138-144 Pearse Street,
Dublin 2
Tel: 00 353-1-674 4996/4997
Email: cityarchives@dublincity.ie
Twitter: @dclareadingroom

Contents:

Fonds Level Description _____	3
Identity Statement _____	3
Administrative / Biographical History _____	3
Scope and Content _____	4
System of Arrangement _____	4
Archival History _____	4
Access and Descriptive Control _____	4
Index Terms _____	5
Descriptive List _____	6

Identity Statement

Reference Code: IE DCLA/RDFA/107

Title: Rose Mary Savages, Volunteer Aid Detachment

Dates: 1914-2002

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent and Medium: 29 items

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Administrative and Biographical History

Rose Mary Savage, second of three daughters, was born into an English military family in India of the British Raj in 1893. Her childhood was spent between continents, east and west taking in Northern Ireland where her father had connections. After receiving her secondary education in Sussex England she returned to India at seventeen to spend a number of seasons attending balls, festive ceremonies and doing the rounds expected of any young debutante of her age and social class. A keen observer, she kept a diary entering comments and sketches of what she saw.

By the end of 1914, R.M., newly trained in First Aid, offered her services as a voluntary nurse to help out in the war effort. She worked with St John's Ambulance Brigade in Belfast before being taken on as a V.A.D. nurse and sent to Rouen, France, where she would work with Number 12 General Hospital of the British Expeditionary Force until 30 January 1919. Her sketches of experience in that hospital camp were used in nurse-mate Olive Dent's autobiographical work, *A VAD in France*. Rose Mary and her father, who was commander of 13th Royal Irish Rifles and fought at the Battle of the Somme, both received recognition for their exceptional contributions during WWI.

Rose Mary married a Lieut. William E. Maxwell of the 3/10 Beluch Regiment in 1924 and the couple had a son and a daughter. They fled India just before the fall of the British Raj 1947 and found a permanent home in Bandon, Co. Cork where they lived out the rest of their lives. William died of a heart condition in 1951. R.M. remarried in 1960, a Richard Lee. She ran a farm and livery business along with her new husband and lived to the age of ninety. She died in February 1983 and is buried in Briny, Co. Cork.

Scope and Content

The collection contains correspondences relating to background of Rose Mary Savage's father, Col. William Savage, in England and India, and Northern Ireland; also records from

the British Red Cross and Order of St. John museums concerning Rose Mary Savage V.A.D.; newspaper cuttings of General Haig 1917 'Despatch Lists', photographs and book extracts of pertinent military individuals connected with WW1 and Amritsar, India; poems; portrait photograph of R.M. Savage; group photographs of V.A.D.s and hospital orderlies; a diary of Col. William Savage (1863-1951) giving insight into life under the Raj; sketches of a V.A.D.s life in wartime France; posters and brochures. Also included is a short biography of Rose Mary Savage by Tom Burke (RDFA).

System of Arrangement

The collection is arranged partly in chronological order.

Archival History

This collection of documents, including letters, newspaper cuttings, a diary, and other ephemera, was donated to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association (RDFA) by Honor Lee, grand-daughter of Rose Mary Savage. It was donated to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive via Tom Burke (chairman of RDFA), 1999.

Access and Descriptive Control

Access Conditions: Available to view by public who apply for research card in Dublin City Library and Archive Reading Room, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Access: The terms of the Copyright and Related Acts (2000) allows DCLA to provide photocopies of material for research purposes only.

Language: English

Related material: The Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association archive (IE DCLA/RDFA) is located at the Dublin City Archives *A VAD in France*, by Olive Dent, with sketches by Rose Mary Savage. Published by Grant Richards Ltd., 1917. Freely downloadable on:

<https://archive.org/details/vadinfrance00dentrich>

Finding aid: Descriptive catalogue.

Existence of Copies: Collection has been digitised & will be added to digital.libraries.dublincity.ie

Archivist's note: Catalogue compiled by Finola Frawley, Library Assistant and edited by Cillian Fearon, Dublin City Archives intern.

Conventions: ISAD(G), IGAD.

Date of description: 17 November 2016.

Index Terms

Savage, Rose Mary, 1893-1983

Savage, William, Colonel (1863-1951)

Voluntary Aid Detachment (Great Britain)

St. John Ambulance (England)

Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 1881-1922

Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

World War, 1914-1918

Somme 1916

Descriptive List

Reference Code: RDFA/107/001

Title: Correspondence between Tom Burke and Captain J. Knox

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 4 January 2002 – 16 January 2002

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 6 pp.

Scope and Content: Correspondence between Capt. (Retd) Jackie Knox MBE, Curator of The Royal Ulster Rifles Association / Museum Belfast and Tom Burke of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association. Dated 16 January 2002 concerning the career of Colonel William Savage.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/002

Title: Copy of City of Belfast Peace Day Reception

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 09 August 1919

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 11 pp

Scope and Content: Colour copy of: 'Official Order of March – City of Belfast Peace Day Reception on Saturday the ninth of August 1919 to Men and Women of Ulster who served in the WAR.'

Reference Code: RDFA/107/003

Title: Photocopy of the Diary of Colonel W. H. Savage

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 18 April 1882 – July 1915

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 45 pp.

Scope and Content: Copy of hand-written diary of Col. W.H. Savage C.M.G. Indian Army and 13th Royal Irish Rifles. Born 18 April 1863 at Aldershot. Diary outlines his service in Indian Army in India. Life in India, being offered command of 13th Royal Irish Rifles by Major-General C.H. Powell C.B. Early day of battalion in Ulster and Seafort. Diary ends at Seafort with parade of Ulster Division.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/004

Title: Photocopies of Medal Rolls for Rose Savage

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1st July 1916 – 30 January 1919

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 3pp

Scope and Content: Photocopies of Medal Rolls of VAD Rose Savage. Served in France from 1 July 1916 to 30 January 1919. One A3 in size.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/005

Title: Photocopied pages from Pax Britanica

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1968, 1973 & 1978

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 7 pp.

Scope and Content: A4 photocopied pages titled, 'A Muddled Progress'. From Pax Britanica Trilogy. By James (Jan) Morris. Published by Folio Society. Pages: 222,223,230, 231, 242, 243, 280-283, 148-151. Biographical information on Sir Philip Chedwood and Richard Edward Dyer.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/006

Title: Photocopy of Irish Times obituary of Colonel W. H. Savage

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 16 May 1955

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p.

Scope and Content: Newspaper cuttings *The Irish Times*. Obituaries of Col. W.H. Savage CMG. Also engagement announcement of Lieut. PWS Maxwell dated 16 May 1955.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/007

Title: Photocopy of Photograph of Colonel Savage talking with ex-servicemen

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: [1914-2002]

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p.

Scope and Content: Copy of photograph of Colonel Savage CMG, 'chatting with ex-Servicemen at Downpatrick. No date. Ex-Servicemen were probably ex-13th Royal Irish Rifles. Also in the photograph is The Right Hon. R.D. Perceval-Maxwell DSO.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/008

Title: Photocopies of sketches made by Rose Mary Savage

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1 July 1916 - 30 January 1919.

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 6pp

Scope and Content: Selection of black and white copies of drawings and sketches done by Rose Mary Savage of scenes and characters at her Field Hospital in France. Many of her sketches can be seen in book titled *A VAD in France* written by Olive Dent.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/009

Title: Photocopy of Letter by Major-General C.H. Powel to Rose Mary Savage

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 25 July 1916

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 3pp

Scope and Content: Colour copy of letter by Major-General C.H. Powel from Wickam in Hants to Rose Mary at No. 12 General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force, France, dated 25 July 1916. Letter expresses concern about the safety of her father following the Ulster Division's attack at Thiepval (Somme) on 1 July 1916.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/010

Title: Copies of Photographs of Rose Mary Savage

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: [c1915]

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 3pp

Scope and Content: Colour copies of photograph of Rose Mary Savage as a young lady.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/011

Title: Correspondence between Tom Burke and the British Red Cross

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 09 August 1999 – 26 April 2000

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 10 pp

Scope and Content: Letters of correspondence between Mr Tom Burke and British Red Cross concerning the career and service of Rose Mary Savage.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/012

Title: Photocopy of Rose Mary Savage Service Record

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Date: 07 January 1916 - 1st February 1919

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 4pp

Scope and Content: Service record for Rose Mary Savage as a nurse VAD.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/013

Title: Photocopy of Poem by Samuel K Cowan, "The Charge of the Ulster Division at Thiepval"

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1st July 1916

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p

Scope and Content: Copy of poem Samuel K. Cowan M.A., titled *The Charge of the Ulster Division at Thiepval, July 1st 1916*. Reprinted from Belfast news Letter of 19 July 1916.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/014

Title: Copy of page from 'The Con Camp Chronicle' with poem "The Munster Fusilier"

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: [7 July 1917]

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p

Scope and Content: Copy of page from 'The Con Camp Chronicle' with a poem titled *The Munster Fusilier*, written by Bombardier J. Marley. The 'The Con Camp Chronicle' was published in Rouen, France: Convalescent Depot. 1917. It consisted of humour, stories, sports news and camp news written by soldiers working and convalescing at the depot.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/015

Title: Photocopy of black and white photograph of hospital nurses

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1917

Level of Description: item

Extent and Medium: 3pp

Scope and Content: Black & White photograph (A4), copies of hospital nurses and VADs. Rose Mary is marked sitting on grass, five in from right hand side.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/016

Title: Photocopy of black and white photograph of hospital orderlies

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1917

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p

Scope and Content: Black & White photograph A4 size copy of hospital medical orderlies and Major Hornbrook RAMC.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/017

Title: Photocopy of Poem by W. Reid

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 01 January 1917

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p

Scope and Content: Black & White copy of a poem by W. Reid Murray dated 1 January 1917.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/018

Title: Photocopy of the London Gazette supplement

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Date: 21 December 1917 – 24 December 1917

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 3pp

Scope and Content: Copy of Third Supplement *The London Gazette* of Friday 21 December 1917. Name of Rose Mary Savage included in lists.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/019

Title: Photocopy of page from “Who Was Who”

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1941 - 1950

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p

Scope and Content: Copy of page from *Who Was Who*, 1941-1950, p 212. Biographical details on Sir Philip Chetwood.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/020

Title: Article titled “Caring for the Wounded from the Royal Army Medical Corps Journal

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1914-1918

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 4pp

Scope and Content: Article titled *Caring for the Wounded* taken from Royal Army Medical Corps Journal. Cover page has address of The Army Medical Services Museums, Aldershot.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/021

Title: Collection of brochures and articles relating to World War One and the Red Cross

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: October 1998

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 2 brochures, 1 magazine article, 1p.

Scope and Content: Brochure of The British Red Cross, Museum and Archives. Brochure of London’s Museums of Health and Medicine. Article on recent acquisition consisting of a 174 page album of life during WW1 in watercolour illustrations. Cover page letter from John F. Gray of British Red Cross HQ, Grosvenor Square, London

Reference Code: RDFA/107/022

Title: Photocopy of the Irish Times, article describes General Dyer in Amritsar

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 09 July 1920

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 2pp

Scope and Content: Copy of two pages from *The Irish Times*, 9 July 1920 describing action of General Dyer in Amritsar.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/023

Title: Photocopy pages from “Freedom at Midnight” by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 13 April 1919

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 3pp

Scope and Content: Copy of pages from book titled *Freedom at Midnight* by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre. Published by Granada Publishing Ltd, St. Albans in 1982. Pp.56-57 mentioning General Dyer and what he did in Amritsar on 13 April 1919.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/024

Title: Cutting from The Irish Times about Sir John Betjemen

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 24 April 2000

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p

Scope and Content: Paper cutting from *The Irish Times* relating to the life of Sir John Betjemen.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/025

Title: Card outlining Rose Mary Savage’s medal entitlement

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1914-1919

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p

Scope and Content: Card with First World War Medal entitlement of VAD Rose Mary Savage, Mrs Maxwell, mother of Honor Lee.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/026

Title: Colour Copy of Poster “In Aid of the Comfort Fund”

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: c1914-1915

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 1p

Scope and Content: Colour copy of poster: ‘In Aid of The Comfort Fund,’ 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifled. – The Celebrated Presto Conjuror and Ventriloquist. Performed at Dublin Castle and Viceregal Lodge. A3 sized

Reference Code: RDFA/107/027

Title: Copy of appointment letter for Rose Mary Savage for becoming a V.A.D.

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 16 May 1916

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 2pp

Scope and Content: Colour copy of letter (2 pages) of appointment for interview dated 16 May 1916 at Women's V.A.D. Department, Order of St John of Jerusalem and British Red Cross, Devonshire House, London of Rose Mary Savage. Letter lists hospitals in Ireland where interviews could take place for potential V.A.D.s. A3 sized

Reference Code: RDFA/107/028

Title: Biographical script of Rose Mary Savage, written by Tom Burke

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: September 1999.

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 20pp

Scope and Content: Copy of script of life story of Rose Mary Savage written by Tom Burke dated September 1999 and copywriter, see attached.

Reference Code: RDFA/107/029 – **CLOSED TO PUBLIC ACCESS**

Title: Correspondence between Honor Lee and Tom Burke

Creator: Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association

Date: 1998

Level of Description: Item

Extent and Medium: 14pp

Scope and Content: Correspondence between Tom Burke and Mrs Honor Lee, River View, Bandon, Co. Cork.