

‘If we cannot stop the war, then we must do our best to stop some of the horrors of war’: World War I and the Irish Home Front



Dr Emma Lyons
UCD School of History

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ADVERTISING SLOGANS

Little and often

I should like to receive
a small parcel **regularly**
every week by post from
my friends at home.

HOW WE WORK

- Some slogans from flyers and circulars published by War Fund Committees

The wrong parcel

For your boy

Are you sending your
boy out there at-the-Front
exactly what he wants?

IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

(to aid Irish Regiments and Prisoners of War)

KENSINGTON PALACE,

Telephone No.
Park 4139.

LONDON, W.

This Association was formed in the early part of 1915, with the two-fold object of providing food, and—when necessary—clothing, for the Prisoners of War of Irish Regiments, and of sending “Comforts” to all Irish Regiments at the Front.

In the month of May, 1915, by the kindness of the Free Trade Union, we were lent two fine rooms in 65, Victoria Street, S.W. In July we had to take more rooms in the same building, but our work developed so greatly that before Christmas we had completely outgrown these premises.

His Majesty the King hearing of our inadequate accommodation, has most graciously lent us rooms in Kensington Palace, to carry on the work of the Association for his Irish Regiments.

- Est. London, 1915
- Aim: to provide ‘comforts’ to Irish soldiers
- Non-political and non-sectarian



THE IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

(to aid Irish Regiments and Prisoners of War).

KENSINGTON PALACE,
LONDON, W. 8.

IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Adopted
Shamrock as
emblem

List of
Patronesses to
encourage
subscriptions
and support

Lady Clonbrock
listed as a
patroness

Circulars and
press features



Patronesses.

THE MARCHIONESS OF SLIGO
THE MARCHIONESS OF ORMONDE
THE DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF
DUFFERIN AND AVA
THE COUNTESS OF STRATHSEY
THE COUNTESS OF GRANARD
THE COUNTESS OF HESBOROUGH
THE COUNTESS OF KINGSTON
THE COUNTESS OF ANTRIM
THE COUNTESS OF MAYO
THE COUNTESS OF BARDON
THE COUNTESS OF KENMARE
THE COUNTESS OF LIMERICK
THE COUNTESS OF KERRY
THE VISCONTESS GORMANSTON
THE VISCONTESS POWERSCOURT
THE VISCONTESS BRYCE
THE LADY ARDER
THE VISCONTESS ST. CYRES
THE LADY GWENDOLEN GUINNESS
THE LADY CECILIE GOFF
THE LADY CLONBROCK
THE LADY TEMPLEMORE
THE LADY ANDILAHN
THE LADY RUSSELL OF KILLOWEN
THE LADY BARKYMORE
LADY WELDON
LADY FITZGERALD (OF VALENCIA)
LADY FITZGERALD-ANNETT
LADY FOX
LADY BUTLER
LADY (EDWARD) HENRY
LADY MATHW
MADAM MACDERMOT
MRS. JOHN REDMOND
MRS. COOPER
MRS. DEANE
MRS. LOFTUS
MISS EMILY HICKEY
MISS ELEANOR HULL
MISS MAHAFFY



President.

THE LADY MACDONNELL OF SWINFORD
3, BUCKINGHAM GATE,
LONDON, S.W.



Vice-President.

MRS. BRYANT, D.S.C., LITT. D.
6, ELDON ROAD, HAMPTON,
LONDON, N.W.




Executive Committee.

MRS. JOHN BOLAND
MRS. CRILLY
MISS FITZGERALD
MISS MARGARET GOUGH
LADY (EDWARD) HENRY
MISS E. McDONNELL
MISS RITA OLDHAM
THE MARCHIONESS OF ORMONDE
THE MARCHIONESS OF SLIGO
MRS. LOUGH, *Hon. Treas.*
HON. ANNE MACDONNELL, *Hon. Sec.*



Printers.

MESSRS. WRIGHT, WAKE, PRICE & CO
Chartered Accountants.



THE IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
(to aid Irish Regiments and Prisoners of War)

KENSINGTON PALACE,
LONDON, W. 8.

27th April, 1918.

Dear Lady Clonbrock,

Mother has given me your letter to answer as I do all the "Adoptions". I understand that you will very kindly subscribe for Parcels A, B, C and the bread to be sent fortnightly, divided between 6284 Pte. Egan and 3837 Pte. Breen. I suggest sending Parcel C and the bread fortnightly in your name to Breen and Parcels A and B in your name to Egan. If this suits you please do not trouble to answer. I enclose the "Adoption" Docket.

Many thanks for your kind enquiries. My father is very much better and will, I hope, be quite himself again in a very short time. Our difficulty is to keep him from working and going about too soon.

Yours sincerely,
Anna MacDonnell
Hon. Secretary.

Patronesses.

THE MARCHIONESS OF DUNDALK
THE MARCHIONESS OF SLIGO
THE MARCHIONESS OF ORMONDE
THE DOWAGER MARCHIONESS OF
DUFFERIN AND AVA
THE COUNTESS OF MAON
THE COUNTESS OF STRATHSEY
THE COUNTESS OF GRANARD
THE COUNTESS OF HESBOROUGH
THE COUNTESS OF KINGSTON
THE COUNTESS OF ANTRIM
THE COUNTESS OF MAYO
THE COUNTESS OF BARDON
THE COUNTESS OF KENMARE
THE COUNTESS OF LIMERICK
THE COUNTESS OF KERRY
THE DOWAGER COUNTESS ROBERT
THE COUNTESS OF KERRY
THE VISCONTESS GORMANSTON
THE VISCONTESS POWERSCOURT
THE VISCONTESS BRYCE
THE VISCONTESS ST. CYRES
THE LADY GWENDOLEN GUINNESS
THE LADY CECILIE GOFF
THE LADY CLONBROCK
THE LADY TEMPLEMORE
THE LADY ANDILAHN
THE LADY RUSSELL OF KILLOWEN
THE LADY BARKYMORE
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LADY FOX
LADY BUTLER
LADY (EDWARD) HENRY
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MADAM MACDERMOT
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HON. ANNE MACDONNELL, *Hon. Sec.*
MRS. GOUGH, *Asst. Hon. Sec.*

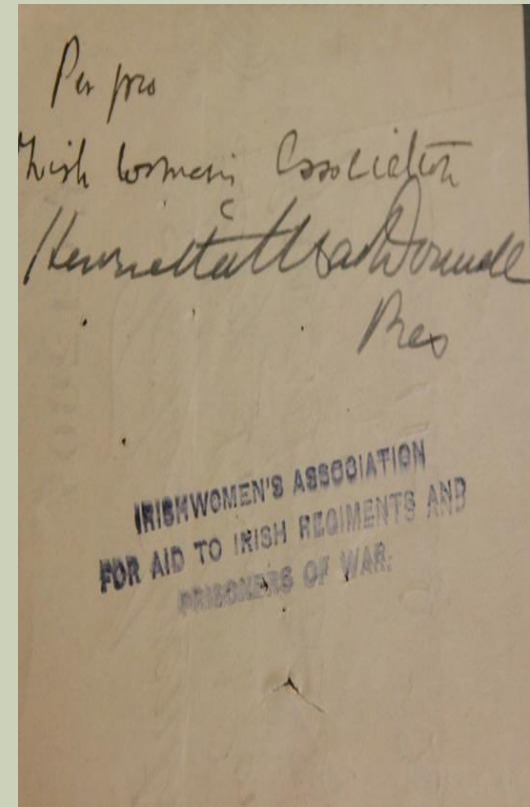
Printers.

MESSRS. WRIGHT, WAKE, PRICE & CO,
Chartered Accountants.

LADY EIDITH GORDON OF THE IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONERE:

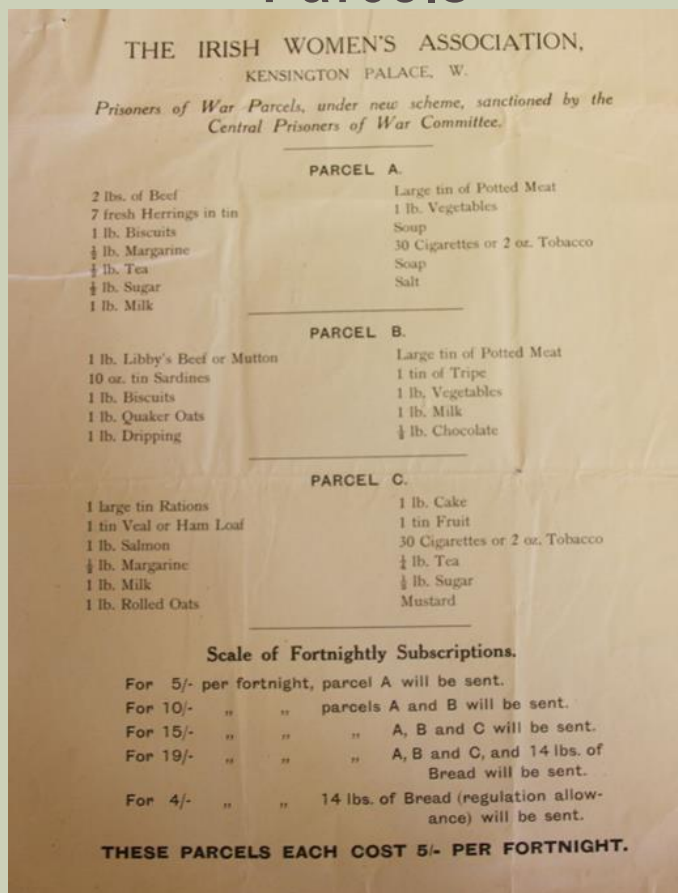
- It is ‘the paramount duty of every Irishman and Irishwoman whose heart has ever thrilled with pride at the immortal glory won by Ireland’s sons in every land to which they have “gone to do or die” to support the association’s work’

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION PARCELS


Circular with Itemised Parcels



Parcel Contents

- Contents usually included: biscuits, beef, vegetables, milk, soup, fish, Worcester sauce, jam or syrup, tea, sugar, fruit, cocoa, coffee or cheese, mustard, salt, cigarettes or tobacco, soap and a pair of socks or a towel

IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS PARCELS

 THE IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
(to aid Irish Regiments and Prisoners of War)
KENSINGTON PALACE,
LONDON, W.


With the Hon. Secretary's compliments and thanks.

Christmas Parcel 1916.

1 lb. plum pudding
½ lb. Christmas cake
Large tin of meat
1 lb. tin of tripe
Tea and sugar
Smokes
Tin of sweets
Tin of vegetables or fruit
Large tin herrings
One item which will be varied
Sprig of holly from Ireland.

*Prisoners of War
6/1: Per Parcel*

*67/6
22/40.9
20-*

 THE IRISH WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
(to aid Irish Regiments and Prisoners of War).
KENSINGTON PALACE,
LONDON, W. 8.

*In remembrance of our Happy Work together and of
the Shamrock Parcels we send you our Warm Christmas
Greetings and Best Wishes for Many Happy New Years.*

*Henrietta MacDonnell
Anna MacDonnell*

CHRISTMAS, 1918.

POSTCARDS FROM PRISONERS OF WAR

Pte Loran's Postcard to Lady Clonbrock

Kriegsgefangenenlager
Limburg, September 19. 1915

Dear Lady I live with a knowledge recall of faral
words fail to express my gratitude for same I am glad to state
everything was in good condition I am sure you lady if you could not
have chosen a better assortment of comforts to send if I could not be
two on board I would like if you lady if you could arrange to let me
have a pair of socks I trust your ladyship will accept
this card as my heartfelt thanks I Remain most
gratefully your Devotee Patrick Loran

6 11

Kriegsgefangenenlager
Limburg (Lahn).

This is my address

Prisoner of War
Name: *Patrick Loran*

Comp. *6* Batl. *11* N.

Camp of Prisoners of War
Limburg (Lahn) Germany

The indications mentioned above must be reproduced in the address

6 11
Kriegsgefangenenlager
Limburg (Lahn)
28.11.16. 8-97.
16 Nov. 1916

Adresse:
F. a
M. *The Lady Clonbrock*
Clonbrock
Shas croag
Ireland.

PRIVATE JOSEPH CONNOLLY'S POSTCARDS

Bureau de secours
prisonniers de guerre
SECTION ANGLAISE
BERNE

5th January 1916

Sir, I am to day in receipt of bread forwarded by you on 30th Dec. 1915. For which I return thanks
Yours truly,
10760 Joseph Connolly
Bonnaught Rangers

30 DEC 1915

Please always give your Regiment and
Regimental No.

Bureau de secours
prisonniers de guerre
SECTION ANGLAISE
BERNE

Samedi
24/1/16

Madam,
I am today in receipt of two breads sent by you for which I desire to thank you.
Yours. Joseph Connolly
10760 Bonnaught Rangers

18 JAN 1916

Please always give your Regiment and
Regimental No. 70160

Bureau de secours
prisonniers de guerre
SECTION ANGLAISE
BERNE

27/5/16

Madam, I wish to inform you that I have received parcels of Bread. I wish to inform you that I have change my address to Lambury. Thanking you very much for parcels.
Yours truly
Joseph Connolly
Bonnaught Rangers

3 MAI 1916

Please always give your Regiment and
Regimental No.

Bureau de secours
prisonniers de guerre
SECTION ANGLAISE
BERNE

Samedi
3-4-16

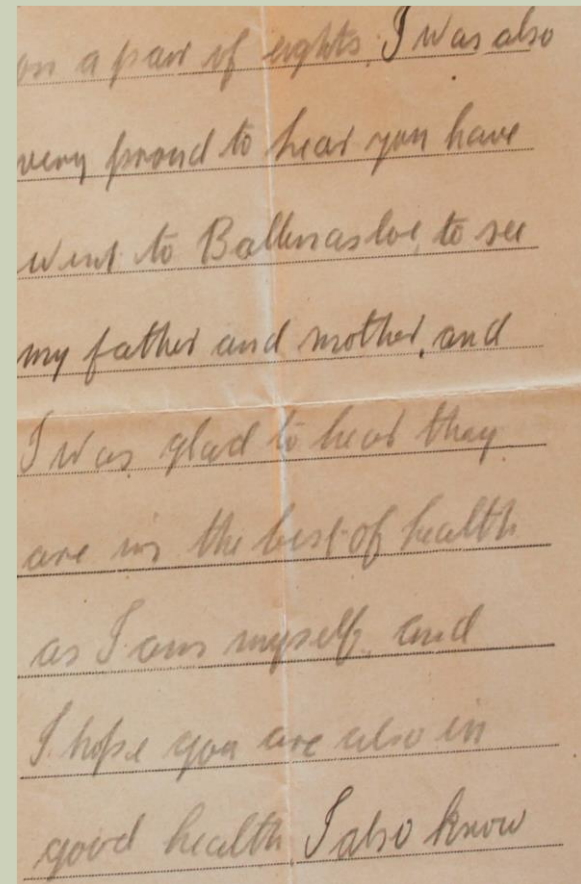
I wish to acknowledge with thanks receipt of two breads from Bureau this day. Yours truly
10760 Joseph Connolly
Bonnaught Rangers

29 MARS 1916

Please always give your Regiment and
Regimental No.

PRIVATE B. WARD

- I was very proud to hear you have went to Ballinasloe to see my father and mother and I was glad to hear they were in the best of health as I am myself and I hope you are also in good health. [...] I was proud to hear the people at home had a good crop of potatoes. [...] I have had a photograph of my brother Lawrence and he is a good looking soldier, but I have not got a photo of my brother Martin, but my mother promised to send me one but I have not received it up to the present'.

A photograph of a handwritten letter on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive script and matches the text in the adjacent list item. The paper has horizontal lines and a vertical crease down the center.

on a part of night. I was also
very proud to hear you have
went to Ballinasloe to see
my father and mother, and
I was glad to hear they
are in the best of health
as I am myself, and
I hope you are also in
good health. I also know

Bulgaria Aug 30th
16

Dear Madam

I got no clothing sence
I was captured the Irish
Women sent me 2
shirts socks and some
Parches of good stuff
I want to tell you
I have no Boots on
my feet I take 9 size

PRIVATE
JAMES
MCDONNELL

ADVERTISING SLOGANS

Little and often

I should like to receive
a small parcel **regularly**
every week by post from
my friends at home.

HOW WE WORK

- Some slogans from flyers and circulars published by War Fund Committees

The wrong parcel

For your boy

Are you sending your
boy out there at-the-Front
exactly what he wants?

'TOBACCO FUND'

Little and often

I should like to receive a small parcel regularly every week by post from my friends at home.

Little and often

I should like to receive a small parcel regularly every week by post from my friends at home.



You can forget my Socks,
You can forget my Soap,
but don't forget my
weekly parcel of Smokes.

Best way to send your friend at-the-Front

When any of the goods in this booklet are sent to men at the Front through the "Weekly Dispatch" Tobacco Fund, one penny in every shilling is given to the special "Weekly Dispatch" Fund for Lonely Prisoners of War in Germany.

Address—Dept. X.

Weekly Dispatch
Carmelite House, London, E.C.

1000

Shows how you can send
worth for **1/-**

Post paid and duty free

The wrong parcel

For your boy

Are you sending your boy out there at-the-Front exactly what he wants?



The wrong parcel

For your boy

Are you sending your boy out there at-the-Front exactly what he wants?

The Wrong Parcel

"Of course, it's awfully decent of them at home to send me this parcel of 'comforts.' But, oh my! I wish they had sent more cigarettes and less soap. I can't get cigarettes out here, and I want something to smoke every minute of every day."



Do not send tooth-brushes, body-belts, mufflers, cough mixture, jam, cakes or pickles with cigarettes or tobacco. The "something-to-smoke" should be sent in a parcel by itself. It's cheaper. You save the duty.



The right parcel

The Right Parcel

"Ah! this parcel is a God-send. It's got the right stuff in it—nothing but smokes. My people at home have got the hang of things out here at last. They know I want smokes all the time. So they've now arranged to send me a parcel like this every week—through the "Weekly Dispatch" Tobacco Fund by post.

"Hooray!
"Hooray!!
"Hooray!!!"

It contains cigarettes, tobacco or cigars—and nothing else. Smokes are what he wants most. He wants something to smoke every minute of every day. And if you send his smokes in a parcel like this—through the "Weekly Dispatch" Tobacco Fund—duty free and post paid, you can send him twice as many as you could if you bought them at a shop and sent the parcel and paid the postage yourself.



You can send the right parcel through the
Weekly Dispatch Tobacco Fund,
Carmelite House,
London, E.C.

TOBACCO FUND

Over 500 Million Cigarettes and 400 Tons of Tobacco

have already been sent to Sailors and Soldiers at the Front by Martins, Ltd., on behalf of their customers and the many Newspaper and other Patriotic Tobacco Funds for which they are the official suppliers.

Martins, Ltd., employ nearly 400 people upon the work of supplying tobacco to the troops—apart from those engaged in the actual manufacture.

The principal road alone numbers over 200, and occupies a large building in St. Mark Lane, London.

Another 200—mostly girls—are employed at Martins In-bound Warehouses in Coventry.

These figures give some idea of the cigarette organisation Martins have built up to deal with the regular supplies of parcels by post to the soldiers.



Martins, Limited,
210, Piccadilly, W.



The main packing rooms at Martins In-bound Warehouses in Coventry, where more than 150 packers are employed.

Martins
210, Piccadilly,
London, W.



Never less than 3000 packets are sent every day from Martins. Sometimes as many as 5000.

10*3



Weekly Dispatch
Tobacco Fund.

Carmelite House,
Carmelite Street,
London, E.C.

Lady Clonbrock,
Ahascragh.

Please accept sincere thanks for your remittance of £ - 6: -
to our Cigarette and Tobacco Fund for Soldiers and Sailors.

Date April 26th 1915

L. Rainey

Hon. Treasurer.



MABEL C. WRIGHT'S LETTER ABOUT SPHAGNUM MOSS

Irish War Hospital Supply,
Royal College of Surgeons, St. Stephen's,
Dublin.
4/24/16

The Rt. Hon. the Lady Clonbrock,
President,
Connaught Rangers Comforts Fund Committee,
Ahascragh,
Co. Galway.

Madam,

At the request of the Director General of Voluntary Organisations this sub-depot which controls the Sphagnum branch of the Irish War Hospital Supply Depot, 40 Merrion Square, has undertaken for the War Office the Sphagnum Supply for Ireland. The Director General has suggested that in connection with this depot two main centres should be formed in the country for the collection and preparation of the moss, so that it may be sent to Dublin ready to be made up into surgical dressings.

would it be possible for your Committee to organise such a centre, as there are large supplies of the moss available in Co. Galway. We have already received most valuable help from Lady Mahon and others in the county, who would then contribute to your centre.

I enclose some literature and a copy of our leaflet, and if your Committee can possibly undertake this work, we shall be pleased to supply any further information.

The demand for moss dressings has increased with such unexpected rapidity that it is absolutely essential to organise its collection on a much larger scale than we have done up to the present.

Yrs. truly
Mabel C. Wright
Supt. Sphagnum Dept.

Irish War Hospital Supply

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE SUB-DEPOT.



SPHAGNUM MOSS.

This moss is a cheap and absorbent dressing for wounds, as good as, or even better than cotton wool, and there is now a large demand for dressings made of it from hospitals at home and at the front.

COLLECTING AND PREPARING.

Locality—Sphagnum or Bog Moss is the commonest moss on peat bogs. While it is most common on the lowland bogs, it is also found on mountains wherever a peaty soil is present. It lives sometimes in bog pools but usually occurs in great masses amongst the heather. Most mosses are only damp, Sphagnum is generally soaking wet, and, when squeezed, parts with its moisture like a sponge.


April 20th 1916.

THE CASTLE,
EYRECOURT.

Dear Lady Cloubert -
Several people here
have been collecting
Sphagnum Moss for a
long time. My sister-in-
law has been sending
some to a Depot she
is interested in Brighton.

COLLECTION
OF
SPHAGNUM
MOSS

DONATION OF AMBULANCE TO RED CROSS


In every power refer to
Motor Ambulance
Department.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.
Incorporated by Royal Charter 1888

81, PALL MALL,
LONDON, S.W.

6th January, 1918.

HT/RR

Dear Madam,

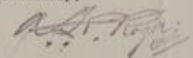
I must apologise for the delay in answering your letter of the 26th December.

We are having a brass plate prepared for the ambulance you so kindly presented to this Society, and the inscription will read:-

"For the Connaught Rangers and their Comrades,
" from the people of the County of Galway."


We regret however, that we cannot promise that this car shall go to any particular unit. On several occasions we have endeavoured to effect this at the express wish of people who have kindly given ambulances, but on each occasion the ambulance has been commandeered by the Army and has never reached its proper destination, although of course, it has been made everyuse of.

Yours faithfully,



To
Lady Clonbrock,
Clonbrock, Ahascragh,
Ireland.




In case of reply,
please quote
REFERENCE No.

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.
Incorporated by Royal Charter 1888

Motor Ambulance Department

81, PALL MALL, S.W.

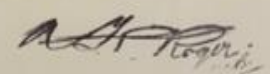
March 10th, 1918.

County of Galway.


Madam,

We think it will probably interest you to know that the Motor Ambulance so kindly presented to this Society carried 39 wounded men from 23rd February to 25th February.


Yours faithfully,



Lady Clonbrock,
Clonbrock,
Ahascragh,
Ireland.


BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1888.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND.
Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1887 & 1888.



JOINT WAR COMMITTEE
 Chairman, The Hon. ARTHUR STANLEY, C.B. M.V.O. M.P.
 Vice-Chairman, Col. Sir HERBERT CHARLES FERROTT, Bart., C.B.
 Chairman of Joint Finance Committee, Sir ROBERT A. HUDSON.

Telephone No. SIXTYY (100-12) (West).
 Telegraphic Address "Ambulance Charles, London."
In reply please refer to Royal Ambulance Department.

**85, Pall Mall,
 LONDON, S.W. 1.
 11th Oct. 1917.**

MY/LOW Please quote Ref. No. 1004.

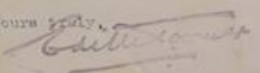
The Lady Clonbrock,
 Abingdon,
 IRELAND.

Dear Madam,

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that the ambulance which you so kindly presented to us is still doing excellent work at our Boulogne Base, where it has been since December last.

We have a thoroughly equipped Garage and Works at Boulogne, where our cars are periodically overhauled and, when necessary, repaired, and it is no doubt due to this fact that we have been able to keep so many of the ambulances which were despatched early in the war running until the present time.

It is indeed good of you to suggest sending us a further contribution toward the upkeep of this car and we should be very grateful and happy to receive it.

Oct 16. Sent Bank order for £107-2-1. I am,
 Yours truly,


For SIR ERNEST M. CLARKE,
 DIRECTOR, ROYAL AMBULANCE DEPT.



**RED CROSS
 AMBULANCE**

We first heard that Norman was killed on the railway at Armentieres on Sunday Oct 18th the day we were expecting you all to luncheon at Glaslough.

He was seen carried from the field by his men later. An officer has now arrived in London who spoke to him shortly before he was killed. He says that he was struck in the breast by Maxim fire and sank under it in a very few minutes.

He was unable to say a word and though probably conscious his plight did not live long. He was certainly lifeless by the time he was carried away.

NORMAN LESLIE'S DEATH

LADY LEONIE LESLIE (1859-1943)



BELGIAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE

- First efforts to assist Belgian refugees made by Heléné Fowle, a Belgian already living in Ireland and Mr Edward White, a solicitor and Chairman, Irish Automobile Club
- Raised £2,300 in first months of existence
- Taken over by Local Government Board's Belgian Refugees Committee (Ireland) in September 1914
- 2,500-3,000 Belgian Refugees arrived in Ireland between 1914 and 1918

BELGIAN REFUGEES IN MONAGHAN

- Leonie Leslie selected 15 Belgian Refugees from London who were to be housed in Monaghan
- Arrived by train to Monaghan town
- 4 cars arranged to bring them to their accommodation
- The child 'seemed full of joy at the prospect of a motor car drive'
- 'Belgian Square' and 'Maline Terrace'



St. Wellant



Francine + M^{rs} van Crombrughe



R
v
M



St. Wellant

CONCLUSIONS:

- 'If we cannot stop war, then we must do our best to stop some of the horrors of war'
- mobilisation took place across a range of civilian activities
- Irish Women's Association; Tobacco Fund; Irish War Hospital Supply Depot; Galway War Fund; Red Cross Society
- Belgian Refugees



EMMA@EMMALYONS.IE

WWW.EMMALYONS.IE
[@EHLYONS](https://twitter.com/EHLYONS)