



On the home front, Orangemen also played a part in the war effort, in factories, on the land and through the Home Guard. The Association of Loyal Orangewomen of Ireland presented an ambulance for war use on the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, 1941.

In modern times Orangemen have continued to serve in time of need, including in the Ulster Special Constabulary, Royal Ulster Constabulary, Ulster Defence Regiment, Royal Irish Regiment and Police Service of Northern Ireland. Many have given their lives throughout troubled times in Northern Ireland, and all have served with honour.



Orangemen of the 8th Belfast AA battery who were in Burma in 1944 erected an arch and held a Twelfth parade many miles from the field in Ulster.

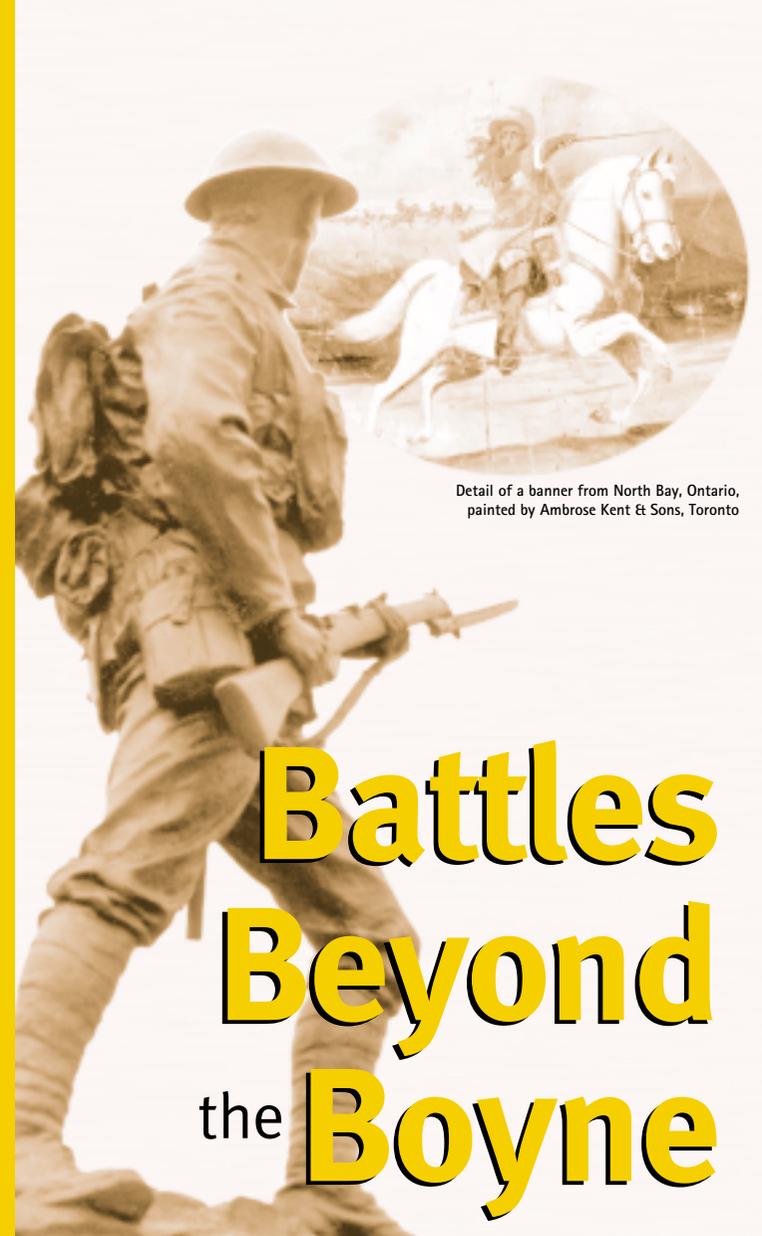
Did You Know

Facts about Orangemen in Service

- An Orange lodge from the Royal Artillery held their regular meeting in a cave under the walls of Sebastopol during the Crimean War
- Captain James Craig, later to be first prime minister of Northern Ireland, served in the Boer War with the 46th Company of the Imperial Yeomanry and presented Ballydonnell LOL 1446 with a captured Orange Free State flag in 1904
- Up to a quarter of a million Orangemen served in the First World War, 80,000 of them from Canada alone. Others were to be found in the ranks of the British Army, Australian and other Commonwealth forces.
- Among the Orange recipients of the Victoria Cross were;
 - Robert Quigg, Bushmills, a member of Aird LOL 1195
 - George Richardson, Killyshandra, County Cavan,
 - Robert Hill Hanna, Kilkeel, County Down, Ontario LOL 2226
- The brother of nationalist leader John Redmond was carried from the battlefield by a soldier of the Ulster Division. Private John Meeke from Dervock in County Antrim was also an Orangeman and had been a member of the Ulster Volunteers prior to enlisting for the war effort.
- Writing of the charge of the 36th Ulster Division at the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916 (when some of the men wore Orange ribbons and at least one a sash), Colonel Wilfred Spender said "I am not an Ulsterman, but yesterday, the 1st July, as I followed their amazing attack I felt that I would rather be an Ulsterman than anything else in the world."
- There were so many Orangemen in one Canadian battalion, from Manitoba, that the battalion was nicknamed 'The Orange Battalion'
- That Colonel Verner, one of the leading lights in the Orange Order in his generation fought at the Battle of Waterloo and brought back a horse from the battlefield, which he named Constantia. When the faithful animal died he had her buried on his estate and erected a gravestone in her honour.

Can we help with further information?
Please do not hesitate to contact us.

028 9070 1122



Detail of a banner from North Bay, Ontario, painted by Ambrose Kent & Sons, Toronto

Battles Beyond the Boyne

The War Memorial, Holywood, County Down

ORANGEMEN IN THE RANKS

A leaflet produced by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland

Sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Ireland
Educational Affairs Committee

Soldiers are we...

THE most famous battle associated with the Orange Order is, of course, the Battle of the Boyne. It was fought on July 1st 1690, when the forces of William of Orange were victorious over King James II. The victory had enormous significance in terms of the future development of the history of the British Isles.

One commentator, Gerald Straka, notes that “The events of the winter of 1688-89 gave the victory to the (idea)...that the king was the chief servant of the law, but not it’s master, the executant of the law, not its source; the laws should only be alterable by Parliament - Kings, Lords and Commons together...Thus the Revolution of 1688 has come to mean, through implication, that modern political democracy and limited monarchy began with the Revolution Settlement”

Among the important battles of the Williamite and Jacobite war were the following;

- The Siege of Derry, the longest siege in British military history, in which the Williamite defenders of the city held out against the odds for 205 days. Miciah Browning, a Londonderry man, broke the boom at Culmore in his ship the Mountjoy to end the siege and bring relief supplies.
- The Battle of Newtownbutler, 1689, at which Protestant forces routed a Jacobite army
- The Battle of the Boyne, July 1, 1690, at which James II was defeated and fled the field, sailing back to France
- The Battle of Aughrim, July 12, 1691, a much bloodier battle than the Boyne, in which Jacobite forces were decisively defeated
- The Battle of Killiecrankie in Scotland saw defeat for Williamite forces, but the death of James Graham of Claverhouse, the Scottish Jacobite leader, which spelt disaster for James II's supporters there.



The Normandy Landings in June 1944 are portrayed on the banner of Newtownards Ex-Serviceman's lodge LOL 1952, unveiled in 1948

Orange banners traditionally highlight the Williamite period, to which the Orange tradition looks back.

But although we tend to associate the Battle of the Boyne more with Orangeism than any other event, the truth is much more rich and varied. Orangemen have often served their respective countries in their hour of need. Their service has seen them participate in battles across the world, from Balacava to the Boer War, from the trenches at the Somme to the beaches of Normandy.

During the 1798 Rebellion in Ireland, fencible regiments sent from Scotland and England to assist the authorities first came into contact with the ethos of Orangeism. They formed lodges within their regiments, taking the Orange system back to their homes, where, eventually, civilian lodges would be formed.

Orangeism continued within the military for some time, and Orange warrants were taken by military lodges to far-away parts of the British Empire, accounting for the origins of the Orange Order in Australia, for example. The tradition of military warrants is an interesting and noble one.

During the Boer War, references are made to soldiers from various regiments forming a Lodge at the front. This was quite a common occurrence during World War I, when numerous Warrants were issued, not only to troops but also to sailors.

The first British Naval casualty of World War I was Able Seaman George Vincent Williams, a member of L.O.L. 92, Melbourne, Australia, killed in action on 11th September 1914.

It is estimated that in excess of 200,000 and up to a quarter of a million Orangemen from across the world, saw service during the first War, with some 80,000 from Canada alone. This has been described as Orangemen's greatest triumph and its heaviest defeat. Triumph in the number of volunteers who joined the war effort but defeat in that the Institution lost so many of its young men.



Orangemen who were members of the Royal Irish Rifles pictured before leaving for France, August 29, 1915

During the Second World War many Orangemen served their country and fought for the freedom of the world. There are a number of Orange lodges, which trace their origins to ex-servicemen returning after the war, while during the conflict itself a famous Twelfth of July parade took place among the soldiers of the 8th AA Regiment (the Twelve Mile Snipers) who were in Burma at that time. The men, who belonged to lodges back home, ensured that the Twelfth was marked by making banners, erecting an arch and holding a parade.

A letter from Corporal David Fallis, North Irish Horse, who was from Enniskillen, reprinted in the Weekly Telegraph in August 1943 details that a twelfth parade was held that year while the regiment was “serving in a remote camp”, lambegs being produced from large empty petrol containers, arches being erected, and banners painted on large truck covers. A platform proceedings in the army camp saw Bro. Sergeant Hubert Brown of Lisbellaw give a detailed account of the events leading up to the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 and the principles which the Order stood for, something which English soldiers who had not known about the Institution found of interest.