

Richard Alexander ROTH

Born St Pancras, London 22 March 1866
Lieut Colonel

Died 25 April 1915, aged 49
Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 1st Battalion

Richard Alexander Rooth was born to John Wilcoxon Rooth (1835-1874) and Elizabeth Creedy Rooth (1825-1917) at 44 Camden Square, Kentish Town, London on 22 March 1866. His father was a barrister and his mother was formerly E C Smith.

Richard Rooth married **Amy Mary Cann** (1867-1950) on 25th June 1895 at the Parish Church, Dawlish. She was the daughter of Francis M Cann (1839-), a surgeon and general practitioner in Dawlish.

*In 1871 Francis Cann and his wife Amy lived at 6 Plantation Terrace with three children, **Amy Mary**, 3, Francis T H, 1 and George, 1 month. Francis Cann had been born in Bruton, Somerset and his wife in Exmouth.*

By 1881 the Cann family were living at 5 Plantation Terrace, but there is no record of George, but another child, Mark, 1 has taken his place. Francis Cann was a doctor and they were supported by five servants.

The Kelly's Directory of 1910 shows that Francis John Hughtrede Cann (1869-1944) was also a surgeon and medical practitioner and living at Sefton House. He had moved to Ilex Lodge in 1923 and was one of four doctors at the Cottage Hospital.

Richard Rooth joined the regular army and at the time of his marriage he was Adjutant to the 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers and posted to India.



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In 1911, **Richard Rooth**, 45, and his wife Amy Mary, 43, were at 4 Pemberton Villas, Netley Street, South Farnborough, Hants with one child Nancy Rooth, 2, who had been born in Kildare.

Richard was then a Major in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Another child, Richard Goodwin Rooth (1900-1984) had been born in 1900 and later married Gwendolen M Watkin in 1933. His sister, Nancy Rooth (1908-2001) married William Henry Priddle in 1946.

After a series of foreign postings **Richard** was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and returned to England in December 1914.

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers were sent to Torquay to prepare for further posting and they gave their colours into the care of Torquay Council while they were away from England.



Richard lost his life in the ill fated Gallipoli campaign on 25 April 1915, aged 49. A brass memorial plaque stands on the north wall of St Gregory's church, Dawlish.



The Royal Dublin Fusiliers proceeded to the Dardanelles in March 1915.

"Lieut. Colonel Rooth was killed instantly the moment he stepped on 'V' Beach at Sedd El Bahr, Gallipoli - the 'River Clyde' and the tows containing the Royal Dublin Fusiliers approached 'V' Beach together at 6.20am. As the 'River Clyde' grounded and the tows were within a few yards of the shore, all hell was let loose as a tornado of fire swept the boats. Men were killed as they waded ashore and the badly wounded stumbled into the water and drowned. Boats drifted helplessly away with every man in them killed or wounded. Men poured out from both sides of the ship - most fell before reaching shore - the gangways and lighters were choked with the dead and dying ..." (Christie's Sale catalogue of medal group)



The Dawlish Gazette of 8th May 1915 reported, "Our respectful and sincere sympathies are extended to those residing in this town to whom the war has brought grief and distress this week. On Tuesday the Dardanelles casualty lists included the name of Lieut-Colonel R A Rooth, 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who is brother-in-law of Mr F J H Cann, M.B., and is well known in Dawlish. Deceased joined the army about 30 years ago. He became Captain in 1894, Major in 1896. He served as Adjutant of his regiment from 1893 to 1897, and as an adjutant to the Indian Volunteers from 1897 to 1902. He was a graduate of the Staff College, and served at Aden during the operations in the interior in 1903. He became brevet lieutenant-colonel in 1906, and had commanded the 2nd Battalion since June last. Deceased leaves a wife (only daughter of Dr F.M.Cann) and two children."

The CWGC entry shows that Richard Rooth is buried in a joint grave F4, V Beach Cemetery, Cape Helles. It states that,

"The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force



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Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea.

At Helles, the 29th Division landed troops at 'S', 'V', 'W', 'X' and 'Y' Beaches, five small coves at or near the southern end of the peninsula. The landing at 'V' Beach was to be made by boats containing three companies of the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, followed by the collier 'River Clyde' with the rest of the Dublins, the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, half the 2nd Hampshire Regiment and other troops. The place was very strongly fortified and heavy casualties were sustained during the landing.

References:

Free Birth Marriage & Death records

Kelly's Directory

Birth certificate. (GRO duplicate)

Rooth family records

refs via subscription sites:

Census records

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