State Commemoration of the Connaught Rangers Mutiny in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Wreath Laying Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath.

On a dull, windswept afternoon, on the 28th of June 2020, a wreath was laid at the grave of Private James Daly in Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath. The weather conditions contrasted with the high temperatures and humidity in India, where exactly one hundred years ago, the infamous Connaught Rangers mutiny began. James Daly and his fellow Rangers mutinied as a consequence of the atrocities committed by the British forces in Ireland during the War of Independence. Daly was the last British soldier executed for mutiny. Earlier that day, members of the CRA were present at the official State ceremony to commemorate the mutineers in Glasnevin Cemetery. An Tánaiste, Mr Leo Varadkar, T.D., laid a wreath at the CR memorial. Also present was the British Ambassador, Mr Robin Barnett and Indian Ambassador, Mr Sandeep Kumar. An army piper played “Lay him away on the hillside” which was written to commemorate the leader of the mutiny, James Daly. The CRA were honoured and privileged to be invited to the ceremony, which observed social distancing regulations.
The Connaught Rangers Memorial Group in Tubbercurry was established to commemorate the centenary of the Connaught Rangers mutiny in India, 1920. This commemoration project is designed to tell the story and honour the memory of those courageous men who, whilst far away from home, stood in solidarity with their fellow countrymen fighting for Irish independence. The centenary event in Tubbercurry is part of Sligo County Council’s Decade of Centenaries, the state's commemoration of significant historical events that took place between 1918-1923.

The committee are delighted that President Michael D. Higgins will be dedicating and unveiling a monument to the mutineers on the 2nd of November next in Tubbercurry, which is the centenary of the execution of James Daly. Many of the descendants of the mutineers have indicated they are looking forward to attending and it will be an opportunity for them to meet for the first time. The event will be held in adherence to social distancing regulations. The CRA are looking forward to attending this important ceremony. If you are a relative of the mutineers, please contact Mary Henry, Secretary of the Memorial Group at brenmarhenry@gmail.com

The centenary of the Connaught Rangers Mutiny in India has been the subject of a number of very interesting podcasts, online debates, and newspaper articles. A public talk by Dr Tony King, Historian and C.R.A. Committee member, exploring the historiography surrounding this seminal event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Plans are afoot to re-schedule this talk, and a venue and date will be published on all social media platforms once finalised. All are invited to attend, and the association look forward to re-engaging with old friends while welcoming some new converts into the fold. Should the unthinkable happen and government restrictions be re-imposed, the committee will endeavour to deliver Dr King’s talk by other means with details of the same to be made public. We will keep you updated.

We are currently in the process of updating our current website. Any suggestions are welcome. We have also a private Facebook page—Connaught Rangers Association and Friends. If you wish to be added, please state in your request you are a member and we will add you to it. It is a useful platform for sharing of ideas. Our official Facebook page will engage with the wider public.

The Association has sourced a new distributor for our blazer and tie at a greatly reduced cost. The cost including an embroidered CRA crest is €75. Ties are €15. Please see accompanying photographs. We have several sizes in stock. For orders please contact Brian Quinn.

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