

Private Patrick Cronin©
Regimental number: 18447
7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

died: 17 May 1916

Private Patrick Cronin was born in Kilgobinet, Kerry, Ireland,¹ but enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in Dungarvan, Waterford—over 200 kilometres away—in about May 1915. He landed in France with the Northamptonshire Regiment about six months later, on 25 November 1915.

Another six months later, in mid-May 1916, Patrick’s unit, the 7th Battalion, was stationed near Wulverghem in Belgium. It is not known when Patrick was injured but, on 14 May, there were two direct hits on the battalion headquarters, with four casualties. Two men were injured at the Ration Dump on 15 May. The following day there was a lot of aerial activity but the artillery was fairly quiet. On 17 May, the situation was very quiet but the aerial activity continued. The artillery was shelling in the afternoon and snipers were active. A gas alert was received in the evening and machine guns were active in the night.²

Patrick died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 17 May of head wounds. No. 1 CCCS was stationed in Bailleul in northern France and Patrick was possibly one of two soldiers who died at the station that day.³ He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row B, Grave 97).⁴

Bailleul is in France, but near the Belgian border, about 15 kilometres southwest of Ypres. It was occupied in October 1914 and became an important hospital centre, not just for No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station but also for No. 1 Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations.⁵



Irish War Memorial at Dungarvan Castle, Waterford

Source: *Irish War Memorials*

The station’s chaplain did not have information on his next of kin, so a letter was sent to the officer in charge of “D” Company of his battalion to notify his unit of his death.⁶ No information was found about Patrick’s family in Ireland, except that his uncle, Patrick Glavin, received the monies owing to him from the army upon the soldier’s death.⁷

DUNGARVAN	
Biggs	Colin
Burke	Thomas
Colbert	Thomas
Coleman	Michael
Comerford	James
Connolly	John
Conroy	Samuel
Cronin	Patrick
Curran	Bartholomew
Dalton	Thomas
Dennehy	James
Driscoll	Augustine
Dunne	James
Dunne	Martin
Egan	Claude

Patrick was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).⁸ He is remembered on the Irish war memorial at Dungarvan Castle in Waterford.⁹

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¹ “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 August 2018), entry for Patrick Cronin. The record indicates that Patrick was born in Kilgolinet; however, searches for this community in County Kerry suggest that it should have been Kilgobinet.

² “UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 9 September 2018), Regiment or unit: Northamptonshire Regiment, Sub-unit: 7th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary dates: 1915 Aug–1919 Jun, Piece description: Piece 2218/2: 7 Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (1915 Aug–1919 Jun), Piece number: 2218

³ “War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31,” *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G)

⁴ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 4 August 2018), entry for Cronin, P., Service No: 18447

⁵ “Bailleul Community Cemetery, Nord,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 January 2017)

⁶ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2018), entry for Cronin, P.

⁷ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 August 2018), entry for Patrick Cronin

⁸ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 August 2018), entry for Patrick Cronin

⁹ “Waterford WW I Memorial,” *Irish War Memorials* (<http://www.irishwarmemorials.ie/Memorials-Detail?memoId=946>: accessed 22 December 2018)