

= Ernest Deane =

Ernest Cotton Deane MC (4 May 1887 ? 25 September 1915) was a medical officer of the British Indian Army and an Irish international rugby player . Born in the city of Limerick , Ireland , he went to school in Kingstown (present day Dún Laoghaire) in County Dublin and then studied medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) , graduating in 1909 . He was selected to play rugby for Ireland in one match , against England in February 1909 . His rugby career was cut short when he broke his leg in a match against Oxford University .

Deane was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1911 , after a period as house surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital , Dublin . In 1913 , he was posted to India and served in Burma . He was stationed in Meerut at the start of the First World War . From there , he travelled to France with the Garhwal Brigade of the Indian Expeditionary Force , landing in Marseille in September 1914 . He was deployed immediately to the Western Front , where he served first with the 20th Field Ambulance and then as medical officer of the 2nd Battalion , The Royal Leicestershire Regiment . His unit saw much active service . On 22 August 1915 , he was awarded the Military Cross after running out under machine gun fire to rescue four men who had been wounded by artillery fire . A month later , his regiment participated in the Battle of Loos , and was almost entirely obliterated . He was shot dead after going to help some injured soldiers : his action earned him a mention in despatches . Deane was one of 60 RCSI doctors to receive the Military Cross in the First World War , and one of 17 to be killed in action .

= = Early life = =

Ernest Deane , born in the city of Limerick , Ireland on 4 May 1887 , was the third of the four sons of Thomas and Aileen Deane of Kingstown (present day Dún Laoghaire) , County Dublin . He went to Corrig School , Kingstown , from 1901 to 1904 then went on to study medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland from 1904 to 1909 . He became house surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital , Dublin .

= = = Rugby = = =

Deane was an all @-@ round sportsman , skilled in golf , lawn tennis , horse @-@ riding and shooting . Furthermore , at Corrig , Deane was captain of the school 's rugby XV , and later he captained the Adelaide Hospital XV , and the Monkstown XV . He was selected to play wing for Ireland in the match against England at Lansdowne Road , Dublin , on 13 February 1909 , which Ireland lost 5 ? 11 . It was England 's first victory on Irish soil since 1895 . Deane 's opposite number that day was the New Zealand @-@ born Alexander Palmer of London Hospital FC , whose speed allowed him to get around Deane , and to score two of England 's three tries , and a conversion .

At the start of the next season , on 29 November 1909 , Deane was part of the Monkstown team to play Oxford University . During the game , he collided with Robert Bourne , breaking his own leg and bringing his rugby career to an end .

International appearance

= = Military service = =

At the start of the 20th century , many Irish doctors joined the British armed forces . Deane himself was commissioned temporary lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) on 28 July 1911 , confirmed 9 February 1912 . In October 1913 , he went to India and served in Burma . He was stationed at Meerut when the First World War broke out . He went to France with the Garhwal Brigade of the 7th (Meerut) Division of the Indian Expeditionary Force , arriving in Marseilles on 26 September 1914 . He was attached to the 20th Field Ambulance , and later served as medical officer of the 2nd Battalion , The Royal Leicestershire Regiment , in active service on the Western Front .

A few days before he died , Deane was awarded the Military Cross , one of 60 awarded to RCSI doctors in the war . Frederick Conway Dwyer , president of the RCSI , proudly read out Deane 's citation in an address to students of the college , and commended recent licentiates to enter the RAMC . The citation in the Gazette said :

For conspicuous gallantry on 22nd August 1915 , near Fauquissart . A standing patrol 120 yards in front of our line was bombed by the enemy at about 10 p.m. , the only notification being two loud bomb explosions . Captain Deane , without any knowledge of the enemy 's strength , at once got over the parapet and ran by himself to the spot under rifle and machine gun fire . Finding four wounded men he returned for stretchers and got them back into safety . This is not the first time that Captain Deane 's gallantry under fire has been brought to notice .

On 25 September , Deane 's battalion , the 2nd Leicesters , took part in the Battle of Loos , in a diversionary attack by the Indian Corps to draw away German reserves from the main attack . According to the personal account of George Wilfred Grossmith , after the battle , the battalion ceased to exist , and most of the other regiments of the Meerut Division were decimated . The artillery bombardment prior to the infantry assault had failed to destroy all of the German barbed wire defences , and some men got caught up in them . Deane went to help . Returning across the open , he was killed instantly by a bullet to the head . His Colonel , who was himself badly wounded , wrote to his family saying :

He was the most gallant fellow I ever met , and we all loved him in the regiment , both officers and men . He was just a part of us , and the few of us left mourn his loss very deeply . We had a big battle on the 25th , and your son went out to try and help some wounded in and got killed . I believe his death was instantaneous , but I am not sure , as I was wounded myself , and had to be taken back . His body was recovered and was buried by our Padre , and I will give you exact location of cemetery afterwards . Everyone knew Deane as one of the bravest of the brave , and it was only the other day that he got one of the best deserved and gallantly won honours , when he was awarded the Military Cross .

Following this action , he was mentioned in despatches .

Captain Ernest Deane was one of 17 RCSI doctors killed in action during the war . He is buried at the Rue @-@ du @-@ Bacquerot No 1 Military Cemetery (Grave II.D.14) , Laventie , France .