

New Ensign Recruitment 1867

83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot



Hand painted 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot Emblem
by Ensign George ES Cartwright circa 1867

During 1867, the 83rd Regiment recruited nine new Ensigns, filling vacancies created by promotions, retirements, and one death in service. Those nine gentlemen were:

1. Henry Warren Walker	by purchase	22 nd January
2. Thomas Perry Powell	by purchase	9 th March
3. William Stewart	without purchase	17 th April
4. William Cooke-Collis	by purchase	18 th April
5. Thomas Frederick Gibbs	by purchase	19 th April
6. Arthur Vivian Henry Brookes	by purchase	20 th April
7. Martin Oranmore Kirwan	by purchase	8 th June
8. Henry Cooke Bond	by purchase	4 th September
9. William Frederick Marriott	by purchase	25 th September

1. Henry Warren Walker 1846-1876

Born in Quebec, Canada, 29th December 1846, the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Warren Walker Royal Artillery 1787-1850 and Rebecca Hudson Walker (nee Wilson) 1816-1887.



On 28th June 1866, Henry married a Mary Ann Brennan in Quebec City, Canada. The following year Henry and his wife returned to England, where Henry purchased a commission as Ensign with the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot 22nd January 1867.

After only 17 months with the 83rd Regiment, Henry transferred to the 2nd Battalion 19th (1st Yorkshire, North Riding) Regiment of Foot, at this time garrisoned at Fort William, Bengal, India. Henry remained in India with the 19th Regiment, until retiring from the army in May 1871. In March 1874, Henry enlisted with the Darjeeling Volunteer Rifles as a lieutenant.

Henry Warren Walker died of cholera in Kurseong, Bengal, India, 31st May 1876, he was 29 years old.

2. Thomas Pery Powell 1845-1909

Born in St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, 5th February 1849, the son of Colonel Thomas Sydney Powell 53rd (Shropshire) Regiment of Foot 1820-1857 and Henrietta Elizabeth Powell (nee Hutchesson) 1824-1892. Thomas's father was killed in action at Khalsa during the Indian Mutiny 1st November 1857.



After qualifying at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Thomas purchased a commission as Ensign in the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot 9th March 1867. Joining his new regiment garrisoned at Gibraltar, Thomas was promoted to Lieutenant by purchase 15th February 1868.

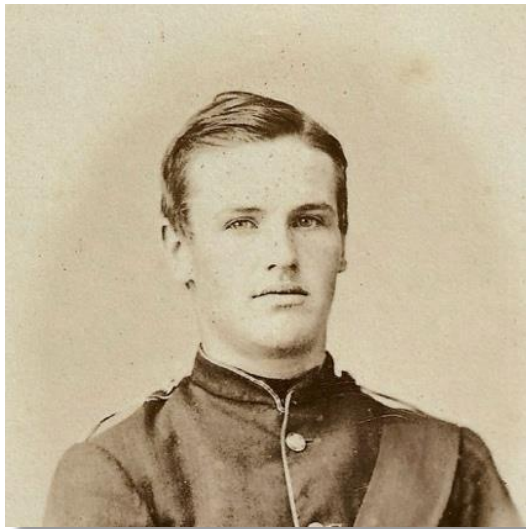
In March 1870, the 83rd Regiment was transported to Bombay, and then to Poona where it was to be garrisoned. In 1873 Thomas married Agnes Rollo Graeme at the Church of St Peter, the Port, Guernsey.

Thomas remained with the 83rd Regiment until November 1875, when he resigned

his commission and returned to England. In England, Thomas served with the 6th Royal Lancashire Militia as Captain, and then the 4th Battalion the Manchester Regiment, finally resigning his commission as Lieutenant Colonel Commandant 3rd and 4th Militia Battalions Manchester in September 1885. In retirement, Thomas and his wife lived in Kensington, London.

Thomas died at his home in Kensington 14th November 1909, he was 60 years old.

3. William Stewart 1848-1906



Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, 30th December 1848, the son of William Stewart and Katherine Stewart (nee Hardie).

Having attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, William joined the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot as Ensign without Purchase, 17th April 1867.

William remained with the regiment garrisoned at Gibraltar for 3 years, until in March 1870 the 83rd Regiment was transported to India. In January 1875, William returned to Ireland from India where he joined the regiment's depot companies attached to the 91st Highlanders

stationed at Newry.

In March the same year, William was promoted to Captain, replacing George Edward Sheward Cartwright who retired. On 9th June 1877, William retired from the army, having served with the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot for 10 years.

Captain William Stewart died 2nd May 1906, aged 57 at Harrogate, Yorkshire.

In 1907, William's son Alexander McCulloch Stewart 1882–1962, married Elinor Davenport 1881-1960, the daughter of a former 83rd Regiment officer and friend. The couple were married 5th May 1907 at Christ Church, St Leonard's-on-sea, Sussex.

4. William Cooke-Collis CMG ADC DL JP 1847-1933

William Cooke-Collis was born 1st August 1847 at Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland, the son of the Reverend Maurice Atkin Cooke-Collis DD 1812-1882 and Anne Cooke-Collis (nee Talbot) 1812-1896.



William grew up at the family home Castle Cooke in Ireland, part of an extensive estate owned by his father. Following his formal education in England, William became the first Irishman to purchase a commission as Ensign with the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot 18th April 1866.

In July 1868, William was promoted to Lieutenant and made Adjutant with the 83rd Regiment garrisoned at Gibraltar, a position he held until the regiment was moved to India in 1870.

In India, William joined the Bombay Staff Corps, a branch of the Indian army created during the British Raj. The Staff Corps

provided trained British officers for the Indian native regiments.

In 1875, William married Katherine Oliphant, the daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Oliphant Royal Engineers. Between 1876 and 1885, the couple had six children.

In April 1877, William was promoted to Captain, before being appointed as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General with the Bombay Staff Corps.

During the second Anglo-Afghan War 1878-1880, William's brigade operated between Sibi and Kandahar via the Bolan Pass, maintaining a vital supply route, a distance of 261 miles. Following the British defeat at the Battle of Maiwand in July 1880, William took part in the relief of Kandahar, marching 93 miles in just ten days.

For his part in the Anglo-Afghan War 1878-80, William was mentioned in dispatches by Brigadier General Phayre.

During 1881, under the Childers Reforms, the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot was combined with the 86th (Royal County Down) Regiment of Foot, to form the Royal Irish Rifles.

In April 1883, William joined the Staff of the Northern Division at York as Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General.

During 1885, William joined the staff of Sir General Gerald Graham as part of the Suakin Expedition, a British military campaign on the Red Sea coast of Sudan, launched during the Mahdist War. In despatches, General Graham singled out William, amongst other staff officers, for special mention for services rendered by him during the campaign.

Returning from the Sudan, William was promoted to Major and resumed his position as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General for the Northern District based in York.

By December 1889, William had returned to Ireland and was appointed second in command of the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles.

In January 1891, William's wife Catherine died in Ireland, she was only 40 years old.

In 1892, William was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, before retiring in May the same year.

Two years later, in 1894 William was appointed to command the 9th Battalion King's Royal Rifles, better known as the North Cork Militia.



During the same year, William married Elizabeth Marion Shrubsole Cunliffe 1864-1926, 4th Sept 1894, at All Saints Church, Marylebone, London. The couple went on to have five children, born between 1896 and 1906.

During the Second Boer 1899-1903, the 9th Battalion King's Royal Rifles were one of the first militia battalions to volunteer for active duty. William's battalion carried out escort and guard duties, protecting lines of communications, railway tracks, and bridges.

For his service in South Africa, William was awarded the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George C.M.G.

In 1904, in addition to his military duties, William was appointed to the office of High Sheriff for Cork County. William was also a Justice of the Peace and held the office of Deputy Lieutenant.

In July 1905, the King approved the appointment of William Cooke-Collis, as Aide-de-Camp to King Edward VII and conferred upon him the rank of Colonel in the militia.

In June 1921, several British newspapers carried small articles regarding an incident at William's home in Ireland. The Westminster Gazette published 9th June 1921:

"Castle Cooke Burned – News has reached Cork that Castle Cooke, the residence of Colonel Cooke-Collis, situated between Fermoy and Glanworth, was destroyed by fire at a late hour on Tuesday night. It was a fine building occupying a commanding position in beautiful

surroundings. No particulars are available as to the circumstances under which the mansion was destroyed."

After the trauma of seeing his house destroyed by fire and with a potential threat to his life living in Ireland, William and Elizabeth decided to move to England, where in 1922 they purchased a 17th Century Rectory in Islip, Oxfordshire.

William died 22nd April 1933 at his home The Hall in Islip, Oxfordshire, he was 85 years old. He was buried with his second wife Elizabeth at St Nicolas' Church in Islip.

For a more in-depth story of William Cooke-Collis's life, to discover the circumstances surrounding the burning of Castle Cook, and to hear a personal account describing the events of that night written by William's wife, plus more photographs, [click here](#)

5. Thomas Frederick Gibbs 1847-1916

Born at Westbury upon Trym, Bristol, in January 1847, the son of James Gibbs 1819-1887 Solicitor and Chemical Manufacturer, and his wife Anne Brown Gibbs (nee Canning) 1815-1884.



Thomas was educated at Rugby School, attending the school between October 1860 and 1862. Having successfully passed his entrance examinations at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, Thomas purchased a commission as Ensign with the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot 19th April 1867.

In September 1868, Thomas was promoted by purchase to Lieutenant, at the time garrisoned at Gibraltar. In 1870, the 83rd Regiment was transported to India, before William returned to England with the regimental depot companies

during 1871.

The depot companies remained at Chatham until November 1872, when they were transferred to Newry in Ireland. William remained in Ireland until February 1874, then returned to India to rejoin the regiment still stationed there. William was accompanied on the journey by Captain Booth Hay Metcalfe, travelling on the troopship "Jumna," they arrived in Bombay 2nd March 1874.

In March 1875, it was reported that Captain Metcalfe and Lieutenant Gibbs had been granted six months leave to visit Cashmere in Northern India. William remained in India, until on 9th June 1877, he was promoted to Captain without purchase vice Captain William Stewart who retired.

Having returned to England, Thomas married a Julia Brown Canning 1860-1946, 18th October 1877 at Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. The daughter of Captain M B Dunn R.N., Julia was just 17 years old when she married Thomas, 13 years his younger. The couple went on to have two children together. On 12th February 1916, Thomas died at the Hotel Byron Villanuevue, Canton de Vand, Switzerland, where he had been living for some time, he was 69 years old.

6. Arthur Vivian Henry Brooke 1846-1885

Born 9th December 1846 at Cardington, Bedfordshire, the son of Captain Arthur Beresford Brooke 4th Dragoon Guards and Frances Maria Gibbs (nee Wemyss) 1818-1890. Arthur's Grandfather was Lt General Sir Arthur Brooke 1772-1843, of Colebrooke, County Fermanagh, who commanded the 44th Regiment and Colonel with the 86th (Royal County Down) Regiment of Foot.

On 20th April 1867, Arthur became the sixth ensign recruited by the 83rd Regiment that year. Joining his new regiment at Gibraltar, Arthur was soon promoted to Lieutenant 7th November 1868 vice Charles Horrocks who retired from the army.

In December 1869, Arthur exchanged into the 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment of Foot, at this time garrisoned in England. The 33rd remained at various locations in England and Ireland, until in August 1875 it received orders to be ready for embarkation for India.

In India, the 33rd Regiment was initially based at Kamptee, Madras, until 1879, before being moved to Lucknow in the Bengal Presidency. It was here that Arthur was put on half pay 31st December 1881, due to his ill health. Arthur had most likely succumbed to one of the many tropical diseases such as malaria, cholera, dysentery, or typhoid that posed a constant threat to the soldiers in India at this time.

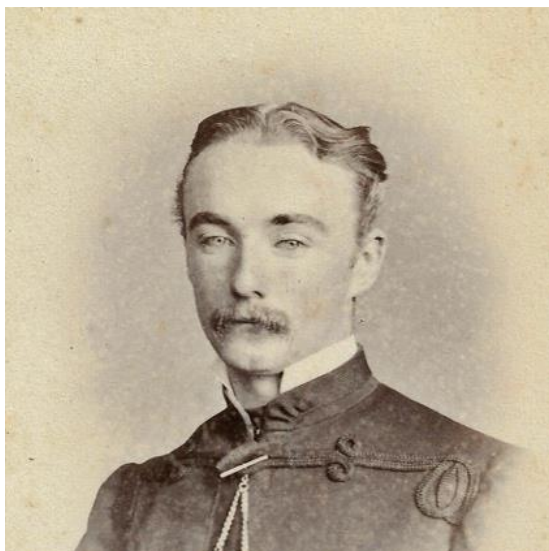
Arthur retired from the army 10th October 1884.

On 27th December 1885, Arthur Vivian Henry Brooke died at Charing Cross Hospital, London, he was only 39 years old. Records reveal that Arthur died of "Exhaustion after fracture and amputation of both legs." His death certificate reveals that Arthur had "jumped from a window of No 8 Norris Street, Haymarket, when of unsound mind but not with suicidal intent". An inquest into Arthur's death held 31st December 1885 by the coroner for Westminster, accepted the certificated cause of death.

Arthur was buried at All Souls Cemetery, Kensington, London, 1st January 1886.



7. Martin Oranmore Kirwan 1847-1904



Martin Oranmore Kirwan born 26th April 1847 at Dublin, Ireland, the son of Captain Richard Andrew Hyacinth Kirwan 1813-1886 of Baunmore County, Galway, and Agnes Jane Kirwan (nee Thompson) 1815-1884.

Following his formal education, Martin Kirwan purchased a commission as Ensign with 20th (East Devonshire) Regiment of Foot in May 1867, aged 20. Within weeks, however, he exchanged into the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot.

In joining the 83rd Regiment, Martin filled a vacancy left by Ensign Charles John Wyndham, who had been promoted to lieutenant, following the sudden death of Lieutenant

Charles Hay Tollemache 22nd April aged 24 years.

After spending some time with the regiment's depot companies in Colchester, England, Martin travelled to join his new regiment garrisoned at Gibraltar in December 1867.

During his time at Gibraltar, Martin like many of his fellow officers joined the Freemasons. He also played an active part in an amateur dramatics group that put on regular shows to entertain the troops. He was promoted to Lieutenant by purchase 11th January 1869.

Having served their time at Gibraltar, the 83rd Regiment embarked 11th March 1870 at the start of their journey to India. Arriving at Bombay 8th April 1870, the regiment then proceeded to Poona where it was quartered in Wanourie Barracks.

In June 1871, Martin Kirwan resigned his commission with the 83rd Regiment and return to Ireland.

On returning to Ireland, Martin joined the Dublin County Light Infantry, a part-time militia force, as a Supernumerary Lieutenant, and in April 1880 was promoted to Captain.

In 1881, the Dublin County Light Infantry were amalgamated with the Royal Bombay Fusiliers and Royal Madras Fusiliers, two army regiments stationed in India, and another militia unit from County Kildare as part of the Childers Reforms, to form the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

By 1884, a political war existed in Ireland between the Home Rule movement and the British administration. When an Irish Nationalist MP Tim Healy accused two high level British officials with being homosexual, it exposed Dublin's clandestine male homosexual community. What began as accusations in the press concerning two government officials, led to a number of high-profile court cases and the prosecution of several prominent individuals. Collectively, these cases became known as 'The Dublin Castle Scandals 1884'.

In June 1884, Martin resigned his commission with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Despite being arrested 24th July 1883, held at Kilmainham Prison, Dublin, and being tried twice in court, Martin was acquitted of all charges, the jury returning not guilty verdicts, due to lack of sufficient evidence.

The scandal and subsequent trials subjected Martin to public scrutiny and social isolation. His involvement in the scandal, even without a conviction, led to a tarnished reputation.

Upon the death of his father Richard Kirwan in 1886, Martin succeeded to his father's estate. In addition to overseeing his estate, Martin Kirwan served as a governor of the County Infirmary, was an active committee member of the County of Galway Horticultural and Home Industrial Society and regularly contributed to local taxes as a cesspayer.

Martin Kirwan lived at Baunmore House, County Galway, and never married. He died Tuesday 17th May 1904, aged 57.

For a more in-depth story of Martin Oranmore Kirwan's life, detailed accounts of his involvement in the Dublin Castle Scandal 1884, and for previously undiscovered photographs [click here](#)

8. Henry Coote Bond 1848-1882

Henry Coote Bond was born at Chatham, Kent, in 1848, the son of Major Wadham Wyndham Bond 1816-1872 and Catherine Charlotte Bond (nee Wilkins) 1825-1879. Henry's father had served with the 4th (Kings Own) Regiment of Foot and Armagh Light Infantry.

Henry joined the 16th (Bedfordshire) Regiment of Foot as Ensign 4th September 1867, but within weeks had transferred to the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot, joining them in Gibraltar. On 1st September 1869, Henry was promoted to Lieutenant by purchase.

In 1870, the regiment was shipped to India, initially garrisoned at Poona in the Bombay Presidency. The 83rd Regiment remained in India for the next 11 years, until towards the end of 1880, the 83rd Regiment was ordered to return to England.

On 9th April 1878, Henry was promoted to Captain.

In January 1881, however, the 42 Officers and 1,308 men of the 83rd Regiment on board the troopship Crocodile were diverted to Natal in South Africa, where an outbreak of hostilities with the Boers would see the regiment on active field service.

In July 1881, the 83rd Regiment became the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, under the Childers reforms. After spending much of its time on rear-area labouring duties in South Africa, the Battalion returned to England in January 1882.

Within two months of returning from Natal, it was reported that Henry Coote Bond, aged 34, had died 27th March 1882, quite suddenly, after only a few days illness.

9. William Frederick Marriott 1848-1935

Born 22nd March 1848, at King's Lynn, Norfolk, the son of Thomas Bateman Marriott 1816-1906 and Elizabeth Marriott (nee Creake) 1811-1848. William's mother died 26th March 1848, four days after the birth of William, she was 38 years old and buried 31st March at St Margaret's King' Lyn.

On 25th September 1867, William purchased a commission as Ensign with the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot, who were garrisoned at Gibraltar. With only a year left of their posting at Gibraltar, William was promoted to Lieutenant by purchased 17th April 1869. Replacing William as Ensign was the newly commissioned Edric Frederick Gifford 1849-1911, who would later in his career be awarded the Victoria Cross.

Between 1870-1875 William remained with the 83rd Regiment in India, although returning to England on leave during 1874. In July 1874, William married a Francis Georgiana Ross at the British Embassy in Paris. The couple went onto have five daughters between 1876-1889.

In December 1875 William exchanged into the 41st (The Welsh) Regiment of Foot in December 1875. On 13th March 1880, William was promoted to Captain without purchase, before in December that year transferring once again, this time to the 66th (The Berkshire Regiment of Foot. William's transfer came only five months after the 66th Regiment had lost over 270 men, including 10 officers, in Afghanistan killed at the Battle of Maiwand 27th July 1880. William retired from the army in February 1886.

In retirement William and his family lived at Ryde on the Isle of Wight, where he was a member of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. William remained on the Isle of Wight, until his death 9th April 1935.

Researched and written by Gary Hynard 2025

