



THE GINCHY CROSS

The Ginchy Cross is a symbolic artefact of significant historical all-island military heritage and remembrance. For many residing on the island of Ireland and elsewhere, it is a precious and unique relic from the First World War.

In February 1917, the Ginchy Cross was erected in a field between the villages of Ginchy and Guillemont to commemorate the victories and the memory of the heroic 224 commissioned officers and 4,090 enlisted personnel of the 16th (Irish) Division, from the four provinces of Ireland, who lost their lives at these locations in September 1916.

Following its repatriation to Ireland, the Ginchy Cross became the most significant symbol of Irish remembrance of the First World War. From 1924 to 1939, it was the cenotaph and focal point for the annual November Remembrance (Armistice) Ceremony, initially with a replica Ginchy Cross, constructed in granite, in College Green (1924) and in St Stephens Green (1925), and after that with the original Ginchy Cross in the Phoenix Park.

Up to 2022, the Ginchy Cross was the focal point of remembrance for congregations from Ireland and Northern Ireland participating and attending shared ceremonies, conducted in the Irish National War Memorial Gardens, and in particular, the Annual Commemoration and Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Royal British Legion (Republic of Ireland).

The Irish National War Memorial Trust is undertaking a project, which includes the production of an exact timber replica of the Ginchy Cross. On completion of the project, the replica Ginchy Cross will be placed on display in the North-East Bookroom of the Irish National War Memorial Gardens.

Thereafter, the Trust will transfer the original Ginchy Cross for permanent display in a safer and more suitable environmentally controlled location, within the National Museum of Ireland's Soldiers' and Chiefs' Exhibition, in Collins Barracks, Dublin. Thus, the original Ginchy Cross will be protected and preserved for future generations.

The Trust acknowledges the valuable encouragement and support it has received from all quarters, and fully appreciates the significant contributions received from Regimental Associations, Trusts, and Museums, and in particular from the Royal British Legion (Republic of Ireland).

Irish National War Memorial Trust

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