

# *THE NAVY AND ARMY ILLUSTRATED*

January 14, 1899

## **Royal Hibernian Military School, Dublin -- I**



Colonel Hale, Commandant, and Staff

There is no military institution in Ireland that is looked on with more favour and sympathy by the public of all creeds and classes than the Royal Hibernian Military School. Indeed, it should arouse similar feelings among the English people, but so little is known of it, while of the kindred institution — the Duke of York's School — a good deal is heard from time to time, although somewhat younger than its Irish brother.

The Royal Hibernian Military School was founded in the year 1769, and from that date to the present it has supplied our various regiments with a constant relay of young soldiers — so far as its limited means would allow, the average number being about 110 per annum. The school is situated on the southern border of the Phoenix Park, on high ground overlooking the valley of the Liffey, which can be seen winding its way for miles through the beautifully-wooded country to the south and east, till it is finally lost to sight amid the smoke and haze of the city.

Many distinguished officers have held the position of commandant of the school, an office now held by Colonel Hale, under whose rule the institution fully maintains its past reputation. With the commandant there are a considerable number of other officers, on each of whom a very full share of labour and responsibility devolves, particularly upon the adjutant, Captain Smyth, the head-master, and the sergeant-major. There are also three chaplains — the Rev. Robert Foster, B.A., Church of

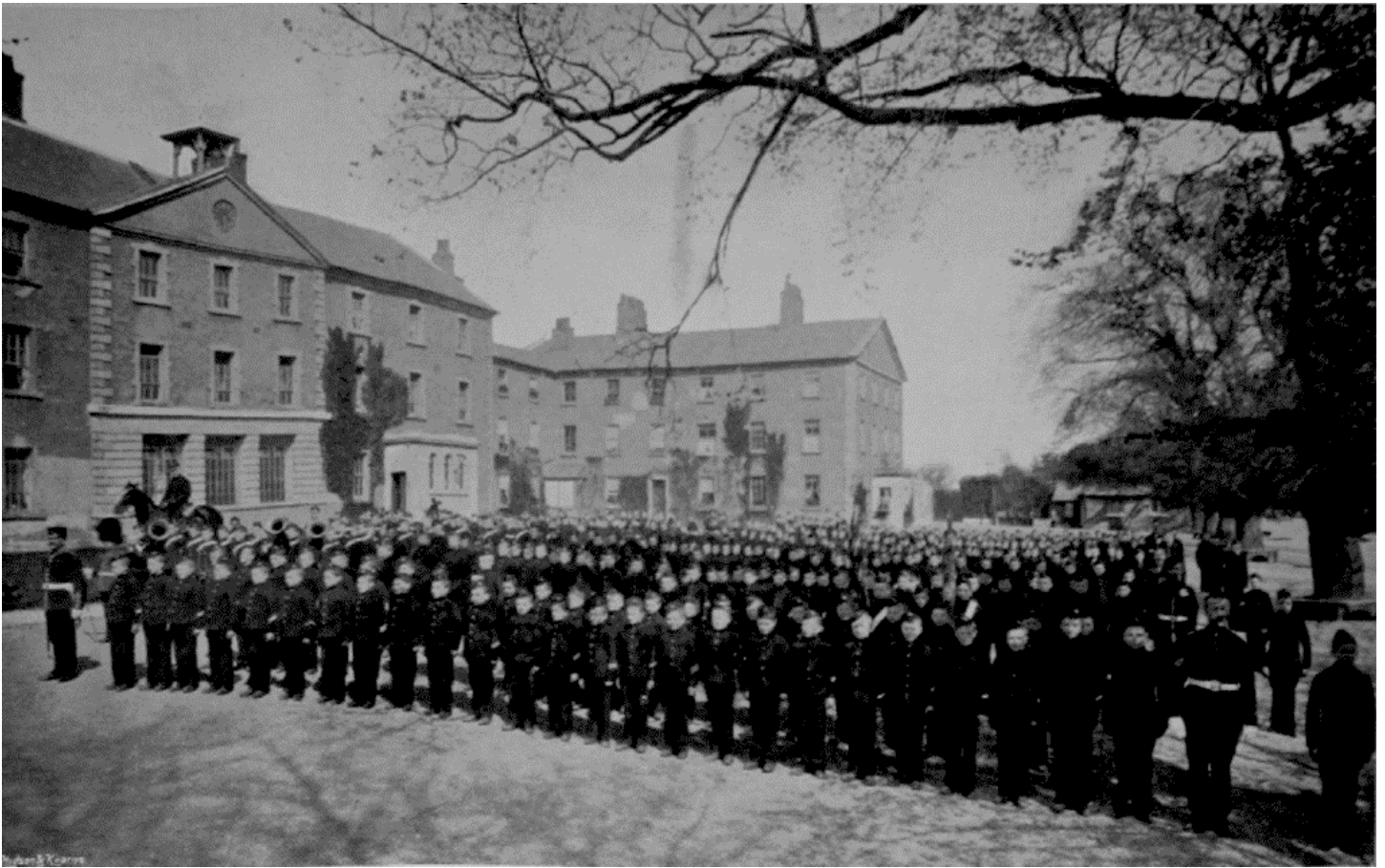
England; the Rev. M. Donovan, P.P., Roman Catholic; and the Rev. J. M. Hamilton, M.A., Presbyterian — to whom the moral and religious training of the boys of their several denominations is entrusted. There is besides a resident doctor, so that in every way the boys are admirably cared for.



The Boys of the Royal Hibernian Military School at Dinner

The school is organised on a strictly military basis; the boys wear a military uniform, and when on parade they have quite a soldierly appearance. They receive an education well calculated to fit them for a military career in after life ; and although it is not compulsory on them to join the Army, the great majority of them voluntarily follow the calling of their fathers. While in the school they are taught drill, and are trained either for musicians or as tailors or shirt-makers, and at the same time habits of cleanliness, regularity, and obedience are inculcated in their young minds. The first and most necessary qualification for a boy seeking admission is that his father must have had a good character in his regiment; he must also be certified free from mental and bodily infirmity. Total orphans have a first claim; secondly, those whose fathers have been killed in action or died on foreign service; thirdly, those who have lost their mothers and whose fathers are serving abroad. The age of admission is from seven to eleven years.

Smart deserving boys gain promotion to the various grades, from lance-corporal to colour-sergeant, and are paid from 1d. to 6d. per week, according to the rank they hold. Good conduct secures for each boy a good conduct badge for each year he may be in the school, and for each badge he may be in possession of he receives a small additional emolument, besides book prizes, as a further reward.



The Boys on Parade

The entrance gate is situated at the south-east side of the enclosure, and passing the gate lodge we see on the right-hand side a substantial stone building, which is the commandant's residence, and nearby is that of the doctor and the adjutant, also that of the Church of England chaplain. These buildings form the east and north-east portions of the block which stands around three sides of the square and parade ground. Passing these by, we find near the north-west angle the Roman Catholic chapel, a neat Gothic structure substantially built of limestone, and approached by a pretty avenue of trees.



Commandant's House and Entrance Gate

A little further north is the church, for those who are members of the Church of England, and under the shadow of whose walls lie the remains of those boys who have died while attending the school; here, too, have been interred many of the past officers of the institution. The church was built in the year 1775, and the stained glass windows of the chancel possess considerable interest. That in the centre is in memory of the late Earl of Carlisle, who was twice the popular representative of Her Gracious Majesty in Ireland, and those on either side were erected by the officers of the 7th Hussars in memory of Trumpet-Major George Henry King of that regiment, who died at Secunderabad on November 11,

1887. Trumpet-Major King was for several years a pupil in the school. There is a brass plate on the sill of one window bearing the following inscription: — “This window is placed here by John Poyntz, Earl



The Avenue

Spencer, K.G., Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in memory of his cousin and friend, Lord Frederick C. Cavendish, Chief Secretary. “Born November 3, 1836, killed in the Phoenix Park, not far from this church, on May 6, 1882.” This inscription tells its own sad tale, the horrible details of which are still fresh in the public mind.



The Church



The Roman Catholic Chapel

Our last picture shows an old veteran — Sergeant James Crawly, late of the 107th Regiment. He served through the Indian Mutiny and other campaigns, and was discharged after twenty and a-half years' service. Beside him are two boys of the Royal Hibernian Military School; next to him is Colour-Sergeant W. Manning, aged 14, son of Sergeant-Major Manning, Lincoln Regiment. The boy to the left



is Colour-Sergeant James Brown, aged 14, son of the late Garrison Sergeant-Major Brown. This boy has distinguished himself through his entire school career; recently he gained the £5 prize — the chief school distinction. He has since left, and is studying for the position of Army schoolmaster.



“Sons of the Blood”

## *THE NAVY AND ARMY ILLUSTRATED*

January 28, 1899

### **Royal Hibernian Military School, Dublin -- II**

To the Russian War, or, more correctly the enthusiasm evoked by the proclamation of peace, the boys of the Hibernian School owe what may be called the red letter day in the school calendar.

It may be remembered that on the proclamation of peace a national banquet, was given in Dublin to the returned soldiers, and so lavishly did subscriptions pour in, that a large surplus was left after paying all expenses. To this fact the Crimean Banquet prizes at the Hibernian School owe their existence. And so we give in one picture one of the best-known survivors of the Crimean Campaign and one of the most promising boys of the Royal Hibernian Military School. The former — Hugh McGorian — served for over seventeen years in the Leicestershire Regiment, the old 17<sup>th</sup>, and is at present eighty years of age. He is now an inmate of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, of which we treated in our issue of April 1, 1898. He took part in the Afghan War of 1839, and in the Russian War, for both of which he holds medals.

The boy — James Curran — is the son of Sergeant James Curran, late of the 14<sup>th</sup> Hussars. He has passed a course of gunnery and signalling instruction, and is capable of taking a first-class certificate in general education. Both figures are characteristic of our past and future soldiers, a very considerable number of whom owe their success to the admirable training they receive at the Hibernian Military School, boys from which, at the present time, are to be found in almost every position in the Army — from drummer up to major-general.

On review days, such as the Queen's Birthday, the boys always take part in the march past, and the steadiness and regularity with which they pass the saluting point has often been remarked. On such occasions they are always in full dress, and march to the parade ground with colours flying and headed by their band and drum-major, the latter looking almost as imposing as if he belonged to the Guards.



The prize day last year was held on July 13, at the school. In the Large Hall a brilliant gathering assembled, both right and left of the dais, on which were seated Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, V.C., and Lady Roberts, Major-General Gosset, and the officers of the headquarters and district staffs. Colonel Hall, commandant, presided, and gave an interesting outline of the general working of the school. The conduct of the boys throughout the year was excellent, seven-eighths of the entire number being classed as "good," "very good," and "exemplary"; the remaining eighth were mostly "fair."



An Inspection by Lord Roberts

Out of 1,005 former pupils now serving in the Army, the reports of their various commanding officers show that no less than 947 are classed as "good," "very good," and "exemplary," and only seven "bad." Many of them had been on active service during the past years, and had done bravely in the Indian Frontier Campaign and in the Soudan; one of their number, Sergeant Hickie, of the Gordon Highlanders, was wounded in the attack on the Dargai heights — a fine young soldier, only twenty-two years of age.

In the action at Saran Sahr, on November 9, 1897, Private A. J. Simpson, Northampton Regiment, a former pupil, and hardly twenty years of age, with eleven others and a young officer of the same corps, were killed while defending some wounded comrades whom they could not remove, and for whom they all died rather than desert.

Lord Roberts referred in his subsequent speech to these and other incidents of bravery shown by the former pupils of the school in after life, and said how it delighted him to hear of soldiers behaving with such marked gallantry, and how proud the boys should be that these brave men were brought up in the Royal Hibernian Military School. He further added that only a few days before he had received a letter from the officer commanding one of the battalions of the Coldstream Guards, asking him to get

him a drummer. That officer said: "I want a Royal Hibernian Military School boy, as they are so well trained, and make such excellent soldiers."

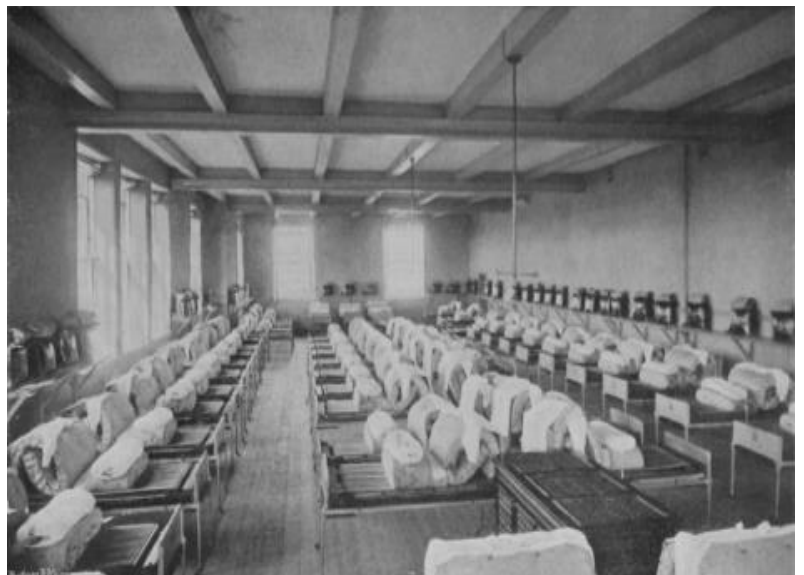


A Chat with Some "Old Boys"

In wishing the assembled boys good-bye, Lord Roberts's parting words of advice deserve to be recorded: " Be truthful, be honest, be obedient, be determined to do your best, and you are sure to get on in life." The boys were subsequently paraded in the square, and were inspected by his Lordship. There was, also, on the opposite side, a small gathering of past pupils from various regiments, to each of whom Lord Roberts said a kindly word as she passed. The boys then marched past in column and quarter-column, and went through a number of battalion movements, physical drill" exercise, gun drill, and signalling, all of which were executed with a precision which could hardly be expected from such young lads.

The internal arrangements of the school are models of what such institutions should be. The dormitories, in particular, are spacious, well ventilated, and cheerful, while the boys' kits and bedding are faultlessly arranged. The neatness and cleanliness observable in every detail are a credit to the boys themselves, as well as to those who have the care of them.

On the ground floor are the ablution-room and the bath. The former is ingeniously and tastefully fitted up, so that the boys can wash without confusion or crowding. Each has his own numbered place, with coat-hook, towel, and niche for soap, as well as a separate tap and spraying arrangement—all fitted in the most compact manner possible.



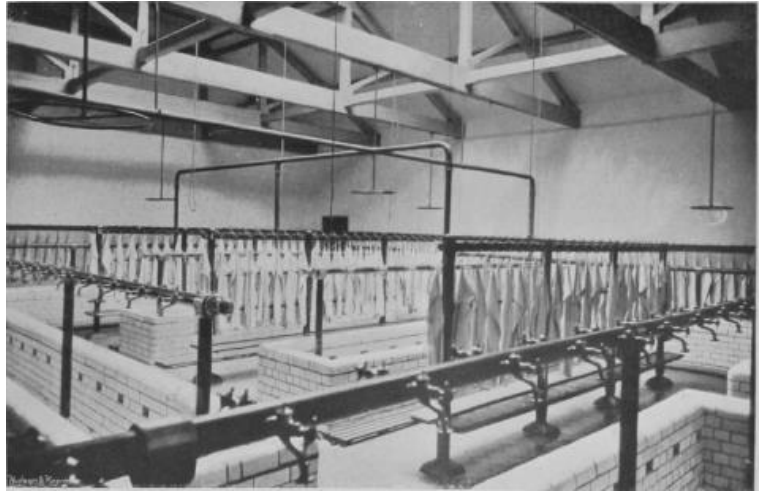
One of the Dormitories



In a large room adjoining there is a splendid swimming-bath lined with white enamelled bricks. The water has a depth of 3-ft. at one end, gradually increasing to over 5-ft. at the other. The temperature of both the room and the water is regulated, so that both winter and summer the boys have the advantage and pleasure of a swim, an art which each boy has to learn while attending the school. There is, besides, a very extensive recreation-room, where a gymnasium is fitted up, and an excellent training is given them by Colour-Sergeant Holland, in proof of which may be quoted the words of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. John J.S. Napier, Inspector of Gymnasia. In his report of July 5 last he said, "The boys' work on the apparatus is far in advance of any that can be shown at the numerous public schools and institutions which I have inspected."

In this building, too, there is ample space for the boys to enjoy all sorts of games in the event of the weather being unfit for outdoor amusement, which at all seasons is promoted by the school authorities. Cricket and football, as well as other sports, are carried on vigorously according to the season of the year. So that from early morning till bedtime in the evening between work and play the young minds, and bodies, too, are kept actively engaged.

As a result of all these excellent arrangements the health of the boys is exceptionally good; the average percentage of sick during the past year has been only 1.46. There was no epidemic, and not a single death occurred during the twelve months. This is a matter for congratulation and thankfulness — it might almost be said a matter for surprise — since there are so many as 410 boys living together under the same roof, but brought together from a variety of places, and possessing very different constitutions. Repeated visits to the school on ordinary working days, warrant us saying in conclusion how much of its success must be due to the careful and unremitting attention of Colonel Hall, commandant, as well as to his most efficient staff of helpers, notably Captain Smyth, adjutant; Dr. Marshall Day, resident physician; Rev. Robert Foster, B.A., chaplain; the head-master; Sergeant-Major Abernethy; and all the other officers. Happy is the boy who is fortunate enough to be admitted to the Royal Hibernian Military School, and if he is not happy there it is his own fault, and we are inclined to think he won't be happy anywhere.



"Wash and Brush-Up"



The Swimming Bath