**Thomas Woods**

Thomas Woods and his two brothers also served in the Great War from an early date. Thomas also served in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and he survived the Great War. He would have been 21 in 1914. We are having difficulty establishing his Army Service Number and which Battalion he served with. Most likely to have been the 2nd Battalion as it served mainly in Europe and most of the other battalions served in Gallipoli.
The three brothers were from Ballinamallard and were from a family of 13.
Thomas was born about 1892, his father was Arthur Woods and his mother Francis Stewart.

In the 1901 census, the family were living in Salary, Newparton, Fermanagh and Thomas was 9 years old. In the 1911 Census the family is living at House 48 Ballinamallard Town, Thomas is 18 and employed as a coachman.

After the war Thomas aged 28, married Margaret Coalter aged 20, on the 26th October 1920. He is noted as living at Forthill Road, Enniskillen and is working as a Railway Officer. It seems his brother John (Jack) was also working as a Railway Official at that time.

Thomas died on the 18th March 1962 aged 70 and Margaret died on 23rd April 1971 aged 69. Both are noted as buried at Woods Family plot at Sydare Methodist, Magheracross, Fermanagh.

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers – WW1

**1881 – 1914**

On 1 July 1881 the [27th (Inniskilling) Regiment of Foot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/27th_%28Inniskilling%29_Regiment_of_Foot) and the [108th Regiment of Foot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/108th_%28Madras_Infantry%29_Regiment_of_Foot) were redesignated as the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, respectively. In 1903 the Regiment was granted a grey [hackle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hackle) for their fusilier raccoon-skin hats to commemorate the original grey uniforms of the Inniskilling Regiment.

The regimental district comprised the City of Londonderry and the [counties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counties_of_Ireland) of [Donegal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Donegal), [Londonderry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Londonderry), [Tyrone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Tyrone) and [Fermanagh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Fermanagh) in Ireland, with its garrison depot located at [St Lucia Barracks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Lucia_Barracks%2C_Omagh) in [Omagh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omagh). The local [militia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia_%28United_Kingdom%29) regiments also became part of the new regiment, becoming the 3rd to 5th (Militia) Battalions. Militarily, the whole of Ireland was administered as a separate command within the [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland) with Command Headquarters at Parkgate ([Phoenix Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoenix_Park)) [Dublin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin), directly under the [War Office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_Office) in London.

 Following the war in South Africa, the system of rotating battalions between home and foreign stations resumed as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location of 1st Battalion (ex 27th Foot)**[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Inniskilling_Fusiliers#cite_note-1bn-6) | **Years** | **Location of 2nd Battalion (ex 108th Foot)**[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Inniskilling_Fusiliers#cite_note-2bn-7) | **Years** |
| Ireland | 1902–1907 | Egypt | 1902–1908 |
| [Crete](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crete) and [Malta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malta) | 1907–1911 | Ireland | 1908–1910 |
| China | 1911–1913 | England | 1910–1914 |
| India | 1913–1915 |

In 1908, the Volunteers and Militia were reorganised nationally, with the former becoming the [Territorial Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_Force) and the latter the [Special Reserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Reserve_%28militia%29). the regiment now had two Reserve but no Territorial battalions.

**First World War**

Soldiers of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917

**Regular Army**

The 1st Battalion, which had been serving in [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), returned home in January 1915. It was landed at [Cape Helles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Helles) as part of the [87th Brigade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/87th_Brigade_%28United_Kingdom%29) in the [29th Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/29th_Division_%28United_Kingdom%29) in April 1915. It was evacuated from [Gallipoli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallipoli) to [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) in January 1916 and then landed at [Marseille](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marseille) in March 1916 for service on the [Western Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Front_%28World_War_I%29). The 2nd Battalion landed at [Le Havre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Havre) as part of the [12th Brigade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12th_Armoured_Infantry_Brigade_%28United_Kingdom%29) in the [4th Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Infantry_Division_%28United_Kingdom%29) in August 1914 for service on the Western Front and was heavily involved at the [Battle of Le Cateau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Le_Cateau) in August 1914.

**New Armies**.

The 5th (Service) Battalion and 6th (Service) Battalion landed at [Suvla Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suvla%22%20%5Co%20%22Suvla) as part of the [31st Brigade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/31st_Brigade_%28United_Kingdom%29) in the [10th (Irish) Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_%28Irish%29_Division) in August 1915, but it was moved to [Salonika](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thessaloniki) in September 1915 for service on the [Macedonian Front](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonian_Front). It was moved to France in May 1918 for service on the Western Front. The 7th (Service) Battalion and 8th (Service) Battalion landed in France as part of the [49th Brigade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/49th_Infantry_Brigade_%28United_Kingdom%29) in the 16th (Irish) Division in February 1916 for service on the Western Front. The 9th (Service) Battalion (County Tyrone), the 10th (Service) Battalion (Derry), and the 11th (Service) Battalion (Donegal and Fermanagh) landed in France as part of the [109th Brigade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/109th_Brigade_%28United_Kingdom%29) in the [36th (Ulster) Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/36th_%28Ulster%29_Division) in October 1915 for service on the Western Front.

During the [Easter Rising](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Rising) of 1916 in Dublin, the 12th (Reserve) Battalion fought against Irish rebels who were fighting to end British rule in Ireland and to establish the [Irish Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Republic). Two Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers were killed and seven more wounded.