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Comdt Gen Lweeney

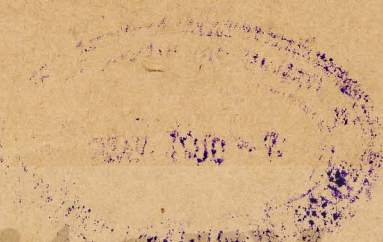
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Re death Vol. John Doyle.

Military Archives



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Military Archives



Military Service
Pensions Collection

BALDONNELL AERODROME

DUBLIN.

AVIATION.

2nd SEPT. 1922.

To:-

Adjutant-General.

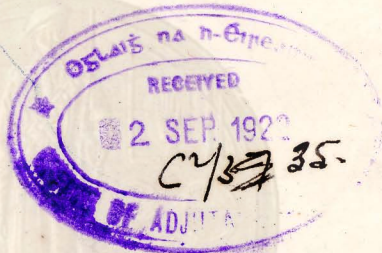
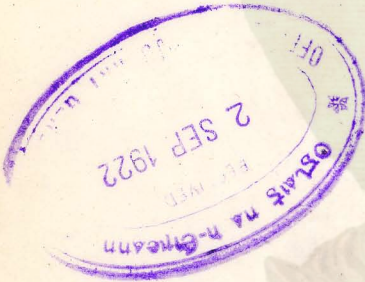


Accidental Shooting of Vol. John Doyle, Barrack
Staff, Baldonnell Aerodrome.

Please find attached, Report of a Court of Inquiry held at this
station to-day, to investigate the above.

Beir Buadh,

Col. W. C. Cunniff Com-General.
D/MILITARY AVIATION.



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COURT OF INQUIRY held at Baldonnell Aerodrome

2nd September, 1922.

To enquire into the causes of the death of Vol. John Doyle.

Com. General Mc Sweeney PRESIDENT
Lt. Com. E. Broy)
A/Capt. J. Wilson) MEMBERS

Vol. John Doyle was shot dead as the result of a rifle being discharged on the 1st inst.

1st Witness

Bugler Joseph Shelley

"I was sitting on a bed in the Staff Billet, Vol. John Doyle and Bugler Kennedy were in the room. Vol Doyle went out of the room to wash himself and Bugler Kennedy took up his rifle to unload it. I then turned away and suddenly heard a shot. On looking round I saw Vol. Doyle lying on the ground and Bugler Kennedy standing with his rifle at the ready. He appeared dazed. I then ran out for help." *Bugler Joseph Shelley*

2nd Witness

Sgt. Major William Williams

"I was walking down between the huts at 3.35 p.m. and heard a shot fired. I ran down and saw a crowd outside the Staff Billet. On entering I saw Vol. J. Doyle lying on the ground. He was bleeding from the nose and mouth and there was a large wound in his side. He was almost dead and I said an Act of Contrition in his ear. I did not see Bugler Kennedy. I went for the Garrison Adjutant - A/Capt. Wilson and he ordered me to put Kennedy under arrest. I went back to the Staff Billet and found Kennedy there. I put him under arrest and took him to the Guard Room. I asked

him how the accident happened and he said he was putting ammunition in the magazine and was sliding home the bolt; there was a round in the breech and the rifle went off shooting Doyle who was standing in front. Vol. John Doyle had just washed himself and his shirt was open and a towel was over his shoulder."

3rd Witness

Sgt. Wm. Williams

Sgt. Byrne

"Between 3 and 4 p.m. yesterday I went into the Staff Billet and saw Vols. Doyle, Kennedy and Shelly sitting on a bed singing songs. I left the hut and a few seconds later heard a shot. On going back I saw Vol. Doyle lying on the floor, dead. I asked who did it, and Kennedy said he did it. He was very excited at the time. He said he was unloading his rifle and did not know that there was one in the breech; there were four rounds lying on the bed."

4th Witness

Sgt. J. Byrne

Bugler Kennedy

"I had been tricking with Vols. Doyle and Shelly and had just come in from escort. I forgot that there was a round in the breech. Vol. Doyle went out to wash himself and I unloaded my rifle. As Vol. Doyle came into the room I forgot that there was still a round in the breech and pulled the trigger, - the bullet struck Vol. Doyle."

Bugler C. Kennedy

5th Witness

Capt. E. Mills. M.O.

"After the shooting of Vol. Doyle the Medical Sergeant arrived within 3 or 4 minutes and Doyle was then dead. Death was instantaneous due to haemorrhage and shock."

E. Mills. Med. Capt.

FINDING OF THE COURT

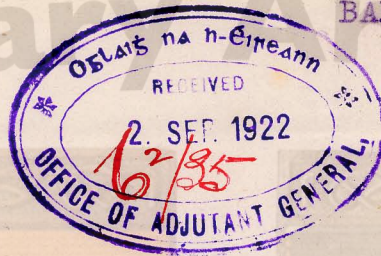
We find that the shooting of Vol. John Doyle was purely accidental and no blame is attached to anyone. Bugler Kennedy is guilty of negligence in that he had a round in the breech of his rifle contrary to standing orders. As Vol. Doyle and Bugler Kennedy were great friends and were inseparable we consider that Kennedy has been sufficiently punished already. However, minor disciplinary action will be taken as a result of his violation of standing orders.

to. J. Mc Sweeney, Com General. PRESIDENT

E. Brody Lt Colonel.
J. Wilson Capt. Brady) MEMBERS

Dept. of AVIATION.

BALDONNEL AERODROME,
DUBLIN.



Adjutant General.

A Chara,

At 3.30 p.m. to-day Vol. John Doyle, Barrack Staff, Baldonnell Aerodrome, was shot dead. It appears that Bugler Christopher Kennedy was unloading his rifle and it went off. I am holding a Court of Inquiry to-morrow morning and will forward a detailed statement in due course.

Beir Buadh,

W. J. McSwiney Com-General.

D/ MILITARY AVIATION.

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