

Name of memorial: Collins Glass Sculpture

Inventory No. 1519

Place: Waterford Treasures Museum, Bishop's Palace.

Address and map reference: Bishop's Palace, The Mall, Waterford City.

Map reference: S 60982 12319

Co-ordinates: N 52.2595°; W 7.1075°.

Access: opening hours. **Parking:** adjacent **Disabled access:** yes.

Position: in the museum

Description and dimensions: cloth banner and glass sculpture.

Height: appx. 100cms. Width: appx. 60cms.

Recorded by: Edward Bourke 24 November 2023.

Text:

**Band of Brothers
One Waterford Family's Story Of The
First World War**

(Photographs of the six brothers)

**Six Collins Brothers from Baunteen Lane off Phgilip Street
Waterford, served in the British Army in the Great War.
Stephen, Michael, John and Patrick Collins were killed and a
fifth brother Joseph was badly wounded.**

**Following the death of Patrick in March 1918, the last of the
brothers, William was sent home on compassionate grounds.**

Stephen

who lied about his age to the recruiting officer was the first to die at age 16 in Flanders October 19th 1914 just two months after the start of the war.

Michael

fell in May 1915 at Aubers Ridge in Flanders, aged 24 like the rest of his brothers his body was never found.

John

was killed in the Battle of the Somme, which saw more than one million allied soldiers injured or killed. He was only 22 years of age.

Joseph

was badly injured on the eastern front in Salonika. An exploding shell lodged shrapnel and he was for many months presumed dead.

Patrick

Aged 30 was killed on March 29th 1918 he served in a Tunnelling Company Royal Engineers. He was the eldest and last son to die in the war.

William

was sent home from the army on compassionate grounds following Patrick's death.

The story of the Collins Brothers is Ireland's own *Saving Private Ryan* event. However for William there was no hero's welcome for since he had enlisted, Ireland had changed dramatically and support for Irish men fighting with the British army had waned.

*This commemorative glass sculpture by Sean Egan
was commissioned by the Collins family.*