

**Name of memorial:** Gardiner Memorial

**Inventory No. 1087**

**Place:** Downpatrick Cathedral

**Address and map reference:** Downpatrick Cathedral, English Street, Downpatrick, Co. Down.

Map reference: J 482 444 (Sheet 21)

Co-ordinates: N 54.3274°; W 5.7222°.

**Access:** 9.30 – 4.00, Monday to Saturday, and on Sundays. **Parking:** adjacent. **Disabled access:** yes.

**Position:** on north wall of narthex (entrance hall).

**Description and dimensions:** bronze plaque.

Height: appx. 80cms. Width: appx. 80cms.

**Recorded by:** Michael Pegum 21 May 2018.

**Text:**

**(Badge of South Down Militia – 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Rifles)**

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

**AND**

**IN MEMORY OF**

**ROBERT CRAIG GARDINER**

**MAJOR 16<sup>TH</sup> BATT. ROYAL IRISH RIFLES**

**(CO. DOWN PIONEERS)**

**HE JOINED THE ROYAL SOUTH DOWN MILITIA AS BUGLER IN 1876, AND WAS SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE REGIMENT FOR MANY YEARS. HE WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN 1901-2. IN 1914 HE RECEIVED A COMMISSION AS CAPTAIN IN THE 16<sup>TH</sup> R. IR. RIF. AND SERVED AS 2<sup>ND</sup> IN COMMAND IN FRANCE BEING MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES. HE WAS INVALIDED HOME IN 1916 AND DIED ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1922 FROM DISEASE CONTRACTED WHEN ON SERVICE.**

**WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT**

**THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY OFFICERS WHO SERVED WITH HIM IN THE ROYAL SOUTH DOWN.**