William O'Shaughnessy

Irish Chief and Major-General of France
1673-1744.





Early Life

- Born into the Uí Seachnasaigh of Cenél Áeda na hEchtge (present day south County Galway).
- Father is The Ó Seachnasaigh, Roger O'Shaughnessy
- Mother was Helen O'Brien, daughter of Conor mac Donogh O'Brien, a son of Donogh O'Brien, 4th Earl of Thomond.
- Believed to have been born at the family strong house in Gort in 1673.
- Fought in the Williamite-Jacobite Wars (Cogadh an Dá Rí) of late 1680's.
- Moved to France ~1689 in the wake of Jacobite defeats, just 16 years old.

Monarchs



William III and Mary, 1689 to 1702

James II, 1685, deposed 1688 (Glorious Revolution), escaped to France





Louis XIV *le Grand*, *le Roi Soleil*, 1643 to 1715





O'Brien's Regiment Régiment de Clare The Irish Brigade

- The Irish Brigade was formed in May 1690 when five Jacobite regiments were sent from Ireland to France in exchange for a larger force of French infantry to fight in Ireland.
- These five Jacobite regiments, comprising about 5000 men, were named after their colonels: Lord Mountcashel, Butler, Feilding, **O'Brien** and Dillon.
- The French disbanded Butler's and Feilding's, The remaining three regiments, Mountcashel's,
 O'Brien's and Dillon's, formed the Irish Brigade which served the French during the remainder of the Nine Years War (1689–97).
- William O'Shaughnessy served with O'Brien's Regiment, which became known as the *Régiment de Clare*. *They are not the Wild Geese!*
- Treaty of Limerick ends Williamite War in 1691, Wild Geese transport to France.
- *Régiment de Clare* continues to serve in the French Army until 1775.



An officer of the *Régiment de Clare*, 1767

Letter of reply to Des from French Ministry of Defense

1182/3654



MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE

2 8 JAN, 2009 Vincennes, le DEF/SGA/DMPA/SHD/DAT/AH/LGE DIRECTION DE LA MÉMOIRE. 001105 DU PATRIMOINE ET DES ARCHIVES SERVICE HISTORIQUE DE LA DÉFENSE Département de l'armée de Terre Pôle archives / Section des archives historiques Affaire suivie par : LTN LAGARDE Benoît Tél.: 01 41 93 23 80 Fax: 01 41 93 22 04 Monsieur, En réponse à votre lettre du 8 janvier 2009, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance les

En réponse à votre lettre du 8 janvier 2009, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance les éléments biographiques concernant William O'SHAUGHNESSY conservés au service historique de la Défense – département de l'armée de Terre.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of January 8, 2009, I have the honor to bring to your attention the biographical elements concerning William O'Shaughnessy, preserved at the history service of the Ministry of Defence - department of the Army.

More from the reply to Des

En premier lieu je vous signale que son dossier personnel est conservé sous la cote 4 Y^d 1662, parmi les dossiers des maréchaux de camp. Y sont rassemblés des documents produits à la suite de demandes de pension que O'SHAUGHNESSY a faites.

First, let me point out that his personnel file is retained in file 4 Y^d 1662, among the records of field marshals. It is assembled from documents produced as a result of pension claims that O'Shaughnessy made.

En second lieu, vous trouverez des copies des répertoires dans lesquels sont enregistrées les nominations d'officiers généraux (cotes Y^a 76, Y^a 77 et Y^a 81): la première copie concerne sa promotion comme maréchal des camps et armées du roi le 1^{er} août 1734, les deuxième et troisième fixent ses nominations comme lieutenant-colonel puis comme brigadier d'infanterie.

Secondly, you can find copies of directories which are recorded in the general officer nominations (files Y^d 76, Y^d 77 and Y^d 81): The first copy concerning promotion to Marshal of the Camps and Armies of the King on the 1st of August 1734, the second and third set his appointments as Lieutenant-Colonel and Brigadier of infantry.

From the French archives

We also received a copy of p. 128-129, Des Marchaux de Camp from *Chronologie historique militaire*, vol VII, M. Pinard (Paris, 1760-1768)

D'OSHAGNUSSI (Guillaume) mort le 2. Janvier 1744:

Il étoit Capitaine d'une Compagnie de cent hommes en 1689. Et la commanda dans la guerre d'Irlande. Passé en France, on lui accorda une Compagnie dans le Régiment d'O-brien (depuis Clare) par commission du 10. Juillet 1691. il la commanda au siège de Montmélian la même année: à l'armée d'Italie qui se tint sur la désensive, en 1692. à la bataille de la Marsaille en 1693. en Italie en 1694. Et 1695, au siège de Valence en 1696. Et devint Commandant du troissème Bataillon cette année. Il servit en cette qualité à l'armée de la Meuse en 1697.

Il fut fait Capitaine de Grenadiers lors de la réforme des

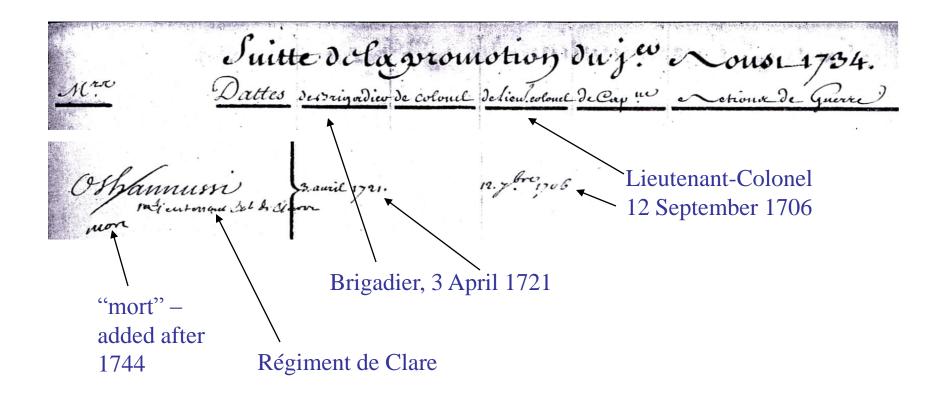


OSHAUGHNESSY (William) died 2 January, 1744, aged 70 years.

He was Captain of a Company of one hundred men in 1689 and commanded in the war in Ireland. Arriving in France, he was accorded a Company in the Regiment of O'Brien (from Clare) by commission of July 10, 1691. He commanded at the siege of Montmélian the same year, in the Italian army who stood on the defensive in 1692. at the Battle of Marseille in 1693, Italy in 1694 and 1695 at the siege of Valencia in 1696, and became commander of the third battalion that year. He served in that capacity in the army of the Meuse in 1697.

The Battle of Marseilles, 1693

Army List - Suitte de la promotion 1734



Note spelling of "Oshannussi"

General Officer Nominations Oshagnussy

Déla Copitaine de Clare?

Capitaine de 1689, Lieutenam Colonel du

12.7641,06, Brigadia du va aveil 1722.

Mon

- Captain 1689
- Lieutenant Colonel 12 September 1706
- Brigadier 3 April 1721

Pension Request to Lord LeBlanc, Minister and Secretary of State for War, 1722

Monseigneur & Blanc Ministre Et Secretaire 2 Etat de La Guerre ant Colonel du Negiment de Charel douce nte que l'amée dernière il aperdu beaucoup demonde cequi joint aux billete de banque qu'il areceu sur lesquelail a perdu considerablement de trouve en dette. C'est cequi l'oblige de Sous Suplier devouloir bienluy accorder one gratification consideration de 31 amos de Services, de cequil Expo Deequil n'ajamais lu D'autre grace dela lous qu'one pension Suo le 4! Deniev à Goo qui luy aeste otte et dont ilne luy reste autre res, unce pour rejoindre que la grace quil Sous demande et qu'il espere obtenio de Soi bonter ordinaires lameme grace ayant esté accordée ad autres.

Pension Request, 1722 (est)

ÔShannussy, Lieutenant Colonel du Régiment de Clare...

Nous represent que l'année dernier, il a perdu beaucoup de monde ce qui joint aux billets de banque et il a reçu...il a perdu considerablement se trouve en dette...

We represent that last year, he lost bank notes to many people and he has received...which he has lost and finds himself greatly in debt...

C'est ce qui l'oblige de nous suplie de vouloir bien luy accorder une gratification en consideration de 31 année de service...et dont il ne luy reste autre resource pour rejoindre que la grace qu'il nous demande et qu'il éspere obtenir de nos bontes ordinaires la même grace ayant ete accordeé à d'autres.

This is what compels us to beg of him to kindly grant a gratuity in consideration of 31 year of service... he is left with no other resource than [the] favor he asks of us and hopes to achieve [via] our common kindness, the same grace having been granted to others.

Pension Request 11 March 1726

mon eversin issie de germain Se he dois par douses

My Lord,

I have the strong assurance... the honor of your protection...

...it is my fortune to contribute to your grandeur...

...In effect, my Lord, knowing your kindnesses...

Pension Request 11 March 1726

Voicy le temps e Monseigneux deme marquer vos

Sentimens, Jay de ja eu Romeux dinstrure vitro

Grandeux ved biens que jaij abandonne a pour luivre

mon prince, demes longs dervices en france depuis 37

ans, et du peu degard quon is a eu par le parte

Une tiens qua vôtre grandeux de me, a ire iendre

un peu plus de justice, vous avez du fredix aupti,

vies est reacement que moismente tout ce que jay loufun

et en même lemps lay faire dentir que jay loufun

et en même lemps lay faire dentir que jay loufun

en un restonel de puis ro ans sans pentin, sans autu

vuompeuse, de divini profiter de celles qui

vacquent pair lamort de ma Giques Mostifuldus leg.

This is the time, my Lord that I mark your feelings, I have had the honor of your great instruction...

I had property that I have abandoned, my prince to follow, and given long service in France for 37 years...

Lt. Colonel for 20 years, without pension, without any reward...

Pension Request 11 March 1726

dela fire, les Lagrace que jattend de votre bonsé et tille deme croire avec un trés profond . Pes peut

The Fres humbles &

Your grace, I close in belief of your kindness.

...with a very profound respect,

I am your very humble and obedient servant,

Pension Request 11 March 1726

D. Flannung

Service Record

- Captain of Grenadiers, 1 April 1698, Germany in 1701 and 1702
- Siege of Keil, at the battle of Munderkingen, 1st battle of Hochflett in 1703
- The second battle of Hochflett under the Marshall of Marchin in 1704
- The army of the Moselle in 1705, the Battle of Ramillies in 1706
- Lieutenant Colonel after 12 September
- Flanders in 1707, the battle of Oudenarde in 1708, Malplaquet in 1709
- Attack on Arleux in 1711, Denain, the sieges of Douay, Quesnoy, and Bouchain in 1712, the sieges of Landau and Freiburg in 1713.
- Brigadier 3 April 1721
- The army of the Rhine, September 15, 1733, and the seige of Keil
- Field Marshal 1 August 1734,
- Flanders 21 August 1742
- He commanded at Cambray during the winter, and remained there during the campaign of 1743.
- Moved on November 1 to the command of Gravelines where he died January 1744.

Additional personal notes

- He married Maire Jacqueline Francoise de Gauville on 15 February 1729 at Aire-sur-la Lys. They had no children.
- His mother, Lady Helen, died at Fiddaun Castle in 1729, after which it was abandoned.



Additional notes from Ministry of Defense

J'ai enfin le regret de vous faire savoir qu'il ne nous a pas été possible de trouver un brevet établissant que O'SHAUGHNESSY a été reçu dans l'ordre de Saint-Louis. Néanmoins il est fait mention de la croix de Saint-Louis dans chaque notice biographique sur cet officier. De même, il ne nous est pas possible de vous indiquer dans quel cimetière il repose. Il vous sera peut-être possible de le découvrir en contactant les archives municipales de la commune de Gravelines à l'adresse suivante : Médiathèque municipale, archives municipales, 15 rue de Calais, BP 39, 59820 Gravelines.

Finally I regret to inform you that it has not been possible to find a certificate stating that O'SHAUGHNESSY was received into the order of St. Louis. Nevertheless, the cross of St. Louis is referred to in each biographical sketch of this officer. Similarly, it is not possible to tell you in what cemetery he is interred. This may be possible to discover by contacting the municipal archives of the town of Gravelines at the following address: Mediatheque municipal, archives municipales, 15 rue de Calais, BP 39, 59820 Gravelines.

His resting place, Gravelines, France

