SCHOMBERG
SOCIETY

Mourne Remembers
1914 - 1918

NURSE MARGARET ANDERSON
ROYAL RED CROSS

Margaret Anderson was born in 1881, the eldest child of Joseph and Elizabeth Anderson in Ballinran, Kilkeel. During World War One, she was awarded the highest award possible for a woman at that time, the Royal Red Cross and would go on to be known as 'Mourne's Florence Nightingale'.

Margaret's war service commenced in 1916 when she joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Reserve. During her time nursing injured soldiers sent back from the front, she was renowned for her bravery, compassion and kindness and for this, her dedication to duty and contribution to the war effort, she was awarded the Royal Red Cross.

At the outbreak of World War Two, Margaret re-joined the Nursing Reserve and at the age of 58, took part in many sorties across the English Channel during the evacuation of Dunkirk.

Margaret Anderson passed away in 1956 and is buried in the grounds of Mourne Presbyterian Church and is commemorated on Mourne Presbyterian Church Cenotaph and also on a blue plaque on the church hall for her service in both World Wars.

SCHOMBERG
SOCIETY

Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council

SCHOMBERG SOCIETY

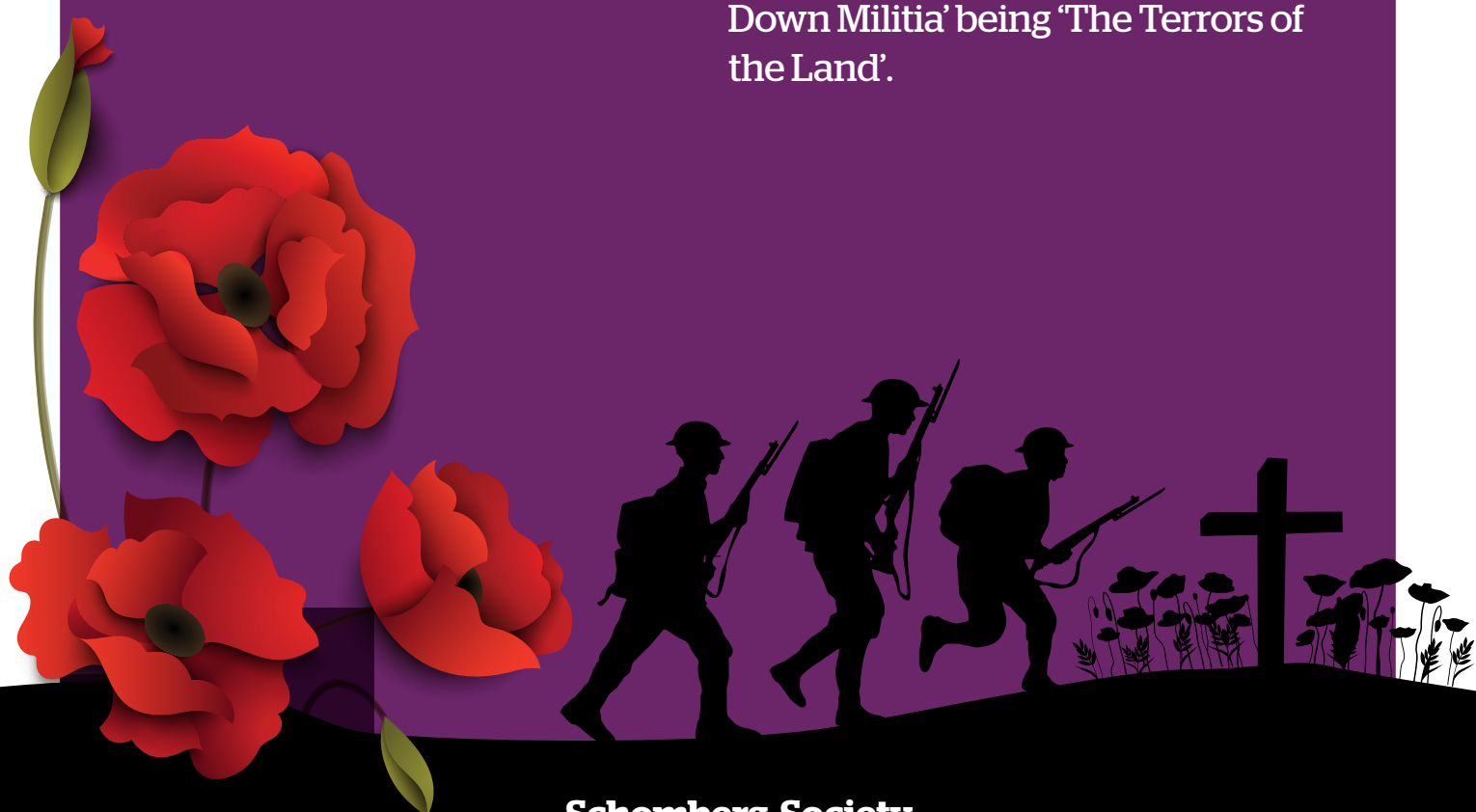# Mourne Remembers
1914 - 1918

CAPT. WILLIAM ROBERT WHITE
MILITARY CROSS

Captain William Robert White was born in Kilkeel in 1891 and was the son of Reverend Robert White of Kilkeel Presbyterian Church. Robert White was a local commander in the Mourne Companies Ulster Volunteer Force. During World War One, he volunteered and saw action within the 16th Pioneers Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles.

The Pioneers were responsible for trench construction, laying barbed wire, railway and road construction. This was an exceptionally hazardous and dangerous job, often in horrendous conditions and under fire.

He rose to the rank of Lieutenant and won his Military Cross for his bravery, an award which is second only to the Victoria Cross. His son, James, followed in his father's footsteps, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and helped write a book about his father's war time experiences, titled 'The Terrors', as in the song, 'The South Down Militia' being 'The Terrors of the Land'.

Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council

SCHOMBERG
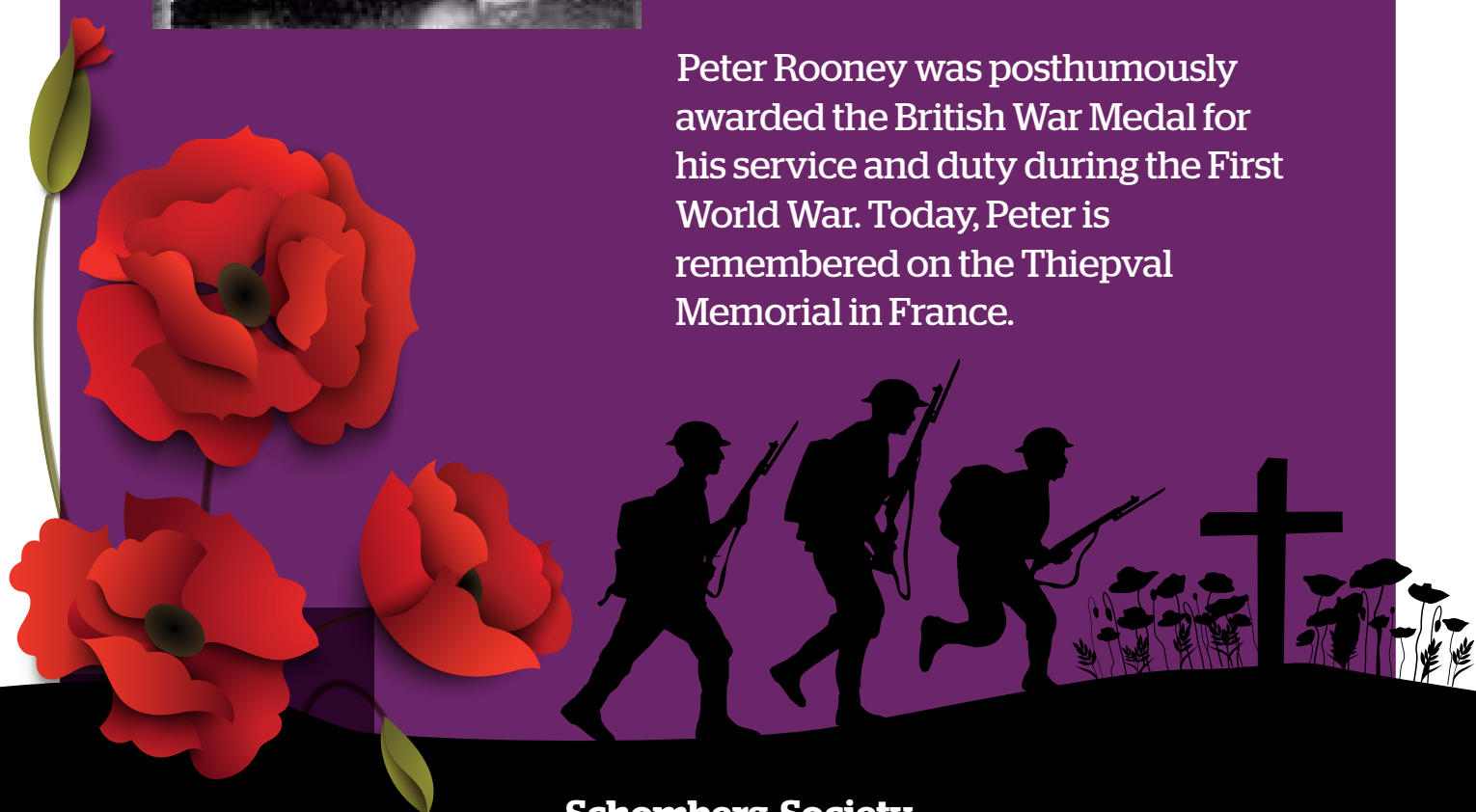## SOCIETY

Mourne Remembers
1914 - 1918

PETER ROONEY
BRITISH WAR MEDAL

Peter Rooney was born 1896 in Kilkeel, the son of Lawrence and S. Rooney and later moved with his family to the Short Strand in Belfast. In 1915, he and his brother Tommy, joined the 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, better known as the Young Citizen Volunteers and became part of the 36th Ulster Division. This was quite unusual, but not necessarily uncommon as both brothers were from a Roman Catholic background and the 36th Division is normally associated with the Unionist community.

Tommy and Peter Rooney entered the war in October of 1915, enduring the harsh winter conditions while plans were being put in place for the Battle of the Somme. On the 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, Tommy Rooney was seriously wounded with a bullet shot to the leg but was carried to safety and eventually made it home and survived the war. However, Peter was hit by a shell and was killed immediately, aged only 20. His remains, like tens of thousands of others, were never recovered from the Battlefield.

Peter Rooney was posthumously awarded the British War Medal for his service and duty during the First World War. Today, Peter is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial in France.

SCHOMBERG
SOCIETY

Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council