Beginning with the uniquely vivid record of Henry Wilson’s detailed personal diary, this talk will explore the experiences of Irish soldiers serving on the Western Front. It will focus not just on the Anglo-Irish senior officers (like Lord Roberts who died at St Omer on 14 November 1914) but, also, the Irish rank and file, who served in the war from the very beginning. It will investigate the extent to which Irish people, Catholic and Protestant, nationalist and unionist (and of no political persuasion), were drawn into that titanic conflict of 1914–18 and how it affected them and Ireland generally.

**Keith Jeffery** is Professor of British History at Queen’s University Belfast.

He was born and bred in Belfast, was educated there and in the USA, and at St John’s College, Cambridge.

In 1998, he was Lees Knowles Lecturer in Military Science at Trinity College Cambridge, and in 2003–04 Parnell Fellow in Irish Studies at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

He does a considerable amount of media work and, in 2005, was a presenter on *Revealing Gallipoli* an Australian-Turkish-Irish co-production.

He is the author or editor of fourteen books, including *A Military History of Ireland*, *The GPO and the Easter Rising*, *Ireland and the Great War* (which the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, said ‘offers a special insight into the Great War and its legacy in 20th-century Ireland, and is a must read for lovers of Irish history’) and a prize-winning biography of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, the Irish-born Chief of the (British) Imperial General Staff who was assassinated in 1922.

In 2005, he was appointed to write the first official history of the Secret Intelligence Service and is the only historian ever to have had full access to the Service archives. *MI6: The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909–1949* was published in 2010 to wide critical acclaim.

Entry €10 per person payable at the door.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1914.

46th Week.  315

(315-30)  Half Quarter Day.

50gm.

The night was fine. This morning, going
through his accounts, I found I was
in arrears with various firms. I then
went to bed for refreshment. I was
awakened by the noise of a horse in
the stable. I got up to investigate. In
the car, going up to Larnach, I

Our agreement tonight is ten feet. He has
6. 80cm. Chassier + 6. 80cm. New star coming
tonight. At 6am tomorrow he will
Chassier + 6. 80cm. New star coming
tonight. In Paris, the 6. 80cm. New star,
in our hands. Tomorrow night the 5. 80cm.

We were fairly quiet in France, Sunday,
then I talked about having a bad time.