

THE LATE PETER GAVIN

At a meeting of Castlebar Urban Council on Monday, Mr. John Fogarty Vice Chairman presiding Mr. Collins said a former member of the Council and a respected resident of the town, Mr James Gavin, had met with a very sad bereavement, his son, Peter, having gone down with the Laentic and he proposed: "That we, the Castlebar Urban Council, have learned with regret of the bereavement of a former respected member of this Council, Mr. James Gavin, by the death of his son who went down with the illfated 'Laentic', and we beg to tender him our very sincere sympathy in the great loss he has sustained. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Gavin".

Mr Lannin - We all sympathise with Mr. Gavin and regret the circumstances under which his son lost his life Mr. Lavelle -I beg to second the resolution and deeply regret there is occasion for it. Chairman - I also deeply regret that Mr. Gavin has met with this very sad bereavement. He was a member of this council for a long time, and is one of the most highly respected citizens of Castlebar. Mr. Collins - The deceased leaves a widow and five orphans. Mr. Horan also associated himself with the resolution, and said he was very sorry that Mr. Gavin had met with this trouble. Mr. Lannin - It is a great loss to his widow and family and we all regret he has lost his life fighting for King and country. Mr McConnack and the Clerk associated themselves with the resolution which was passed in silence.

Connaught Telegraph, 5th February, 1917

JOHN O'MALLEY

JOHN O'MALLEY from Westport Co. Mayo, was one of the last serving members of the famous Connaught Rangers Regiment. As a soldier he was known as Private John O'Malley and his regimental number was 7144072. John was born in the year 1900 and he joined the Connaught Rangers in 1919 aged 19. He served two years and two hundred and seventy eight days. John served most of his time in India and he was discharged when the Connaught Rangers were disbanded in 1922.

John then returned to Ireland and like so many other trained soldiers he joined the new Irish Free State Army on 24th July, 1922. He served two years and fifty-one days. At the end of his service he was discharged and was described as an excellent soldier, cooperative and trustworthy, John O'Malley's daughter, Mrs. Doreen Keenan, has kept his British and Irish Army certificates and a photograph of the Connaught Rangers taken in India around 1921 and we are pleased to include them in this book.