

1914

5 July 1914; KILTIMGH MEN TO FORE IN VOLUNTEER MEETING; The principal speakers at the National Volunteer Meeting held at Knock were from Kiltimagh, Previous to the meeting a fine display was made by the local corps on being put through a course of drill by their drill master, Mr. Dunleavy, also from Kiltimagh, Mr. J.P. Roughneen, who was loudly cheered, proposed a resolution calling on the Government to withdraw the proclamation in connection with the Arms Act. In a brief, pithy address he strongly recommended the Volunteer movement. Dr. Madden, Kiltimagh, who received quite an ovation, seconded the resolution, and in the course of an eloquent address said Sir Edward Carson had been organizing and drilling his Orange Volunteers for the past two years, and proclaiming from the housetops that civil war in Ulster was inevitable the moment the British Parliament conceded the Irish people the right of making their own laws in an Irish Parliament. The Irish people looked upon this fanfaronade as so much bluff, the object of which was to frighten the Government. But this bluster was so persistently dinned into the ears of the British public that at last it obtained a certain amount of credence. Then the Curragh incident occurred, when officers in sympathy with Carson, regardless of their oaths, contumaciously refused to march to Ulster to protect the lives and property of the unoffending Nationalists of that province. Now the English people began to take a serious view of the situation. Vacillation and indecision made their appearance in the Cabinet, and the Home Rule Bill was in danger of being seriously maimed. It was in this crucial hour that the National Volunteer movement, begotten of the keen political instinct of our people, came into existence, spontaneous and almost as if by magic, and, like another Hercules, whilst yet in its infancy, grappled with the serpent of Carsonism, and if it did not completely strangle it, it at least succeeded in drawing its fangs, and so rendered the foul thing innocuous (loud cheers). It strengthened the hands of the Irish Leader, put a little backbone into the Government, re-assured the English public, and raised the hearts of the Irish people at home and abroad (cheers). In conclusion, he urged the Volunteers to assiduity in drilling, and he assured them that in due time they would be fully armed and equipped, for notwithstanding the Proclamation, the resources and ingenuity of the Irish race was not yet exhausted (loud cheers). Mr. M. Walsh, Kiltimagh, next addressed the meeting in a vigorous speech, which was loudly applauded.

9 August 1914; RESERVIST CALLED UP. Mr. James Dunleavy, a reservist and instructor to the Kiltimagh corps, entrained at Kiltimagh station enroute for the head quarters of his regiment. He was accompanied to the station by the Kiltimagh Corps Irish National Volunteers and amid scenes of enthusiasm he put them through their drill on the station platform. He then congratulated the men for their efficiency in drill and said they were capable of bearing arms for the Defense of their country. At the departure of the train he was cheered and wished a safe return home.

September 1914 ; WOODENBRIDGE SPEECH SPLITS VOLUNTEERS. John Redmond's speech at Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow, encouraging the Volunteers "to Account Yourselves as men not only in Ireland itself, But wherever the firing line extends in defense of right, of freedom and religion in this war" has caused the movement to split. In Kiltimagh, as elsewhere, the split epitomizes recent political trends- The difference in outlook of the older conservatives people prepared to settle for Home Rule obtained by constitutional means as opposed to the younger generations desire for an Irish Republic- ideas created by the New Nationalism of the Gaelic League and the G.A.A.-who are prepared to use physical violence as a means to their end. The majority of people in Kiltimagh are said to support the constitutional path to Home Rule. The leading voices are those of Fr. O'Hara, Dr Madden and most of the town's shopkeepers. Those who remained loyal to the ideals of the movement include Messers Sean Corcoran, Tomas Ruane, James Ruane, B, Mc Tighe, John T. Walsh and Martin Mooney.

6TH JUNE 1914 ; VOLUNTEER NEWS.; Call for withdrawal of Arms Proclamation; . A large demonstration was held in Kiltimagh on Sunday. Dr T J Madden, who presided, read a letter from Colonel Moore expressing the hope that the Volunteer movement would be warmly taken up in East Mayo, and suggesting the formation of a county organization. The Chairman said that every Irishman should be trained and disciplined to defend the rights of his land, and they invited the Ulster Volunteers to joint their ranks in that common cause. On the motion of Mr. J. P Roughneen, accorded by Mr C Burke, a resolution was adopted congratulating the Irish Party, and calling upon every man in the district capable of bearing arms to join the National Volunteers, and exhorting the Ulster Volunteers to join forces with them, and make Ireland a nation one and indivisible. On the motion of Miss L. MacManus a resolution was passed calling for the withdrawal of the proclamation forbidding the importation of arms, declaring the proclamation not only to be an insult but a farce, in view of the fact that it had provo inoperative in the North of Ireland, and that the leaders of the Ulster Volunteers who had seats in Parliament had boasted of their defiance of the proclamation, and had not been punished, that others of said leaders who were members of the Privy Council had not been removed from that position, and that officers of the British Army in command of the Ulster Volunteers, had aided that open act of defiance. Miss McManus said she had it from a high authority that if England were engaged a war with any of the Continental Powers she would withdraw all her troops and leave their places here filled with English territorials, but England had already found that her territorials had been a failure, and would crumble up before an invasion of Germans, and they would therefore be defenseless. Speeches were also delivered by Mr. M Murphy, DO; J. B. Roughneen, DO; Dr G Murtagh, Burke; M Walsh and P Waldron. Subsequently about ISO names were submitted for enrolment in the movement.

3RD OCTOBER 1914; RIFLES FOR VOLUNTEERS. A large consignment of rifles have arrived here and are exhibited in the windows of Mr Murtagh's establishments. The rifles are of the best magazine pattern, and the mechanism is simply superb. These will be requisitioned on Sundry next by the members of the local corps for rifle practice, at which a full attendance is requested.

10TH AUGUST 1914; AN ADMIRABLE DEPARTURE. The joint action of both employers and employees in Kiltimagh has created a new and admirable departure in so far as the Irish National Volunteer movement is concerned. The Press throughout the country is in no wise lacking in observing this, and venture the suggestion, as I am now, that the action of the employers in Kiltimagh in allowing their assistants adequate time on four evenings of each week to participate in the Volunteer activities, in vogue in Kiltimagh, that Kiltimagh should be held up as a headline in the Volunteer centres throughout the country.

IMPORTANT; I cannot pass from the matter of the Kiltimagh corps of the I.N.V without referring to feature associated with drilling in Kiltimagh, which has created feelings of considerable indignation in the ranks of the local corps, and generally amongst those of the public who are in thorough sympathy with the movement, but who are too advanced in years to take any active part in same, I refer to the able young men who make the local corps in action each evening the center of observation, but who are themselves too cowardly, pompous, or apathetic to take part in the demonstration. Since the formation of the corps here this scandalous state of affairs has existed, and has with the passing of time, grown in enormity, and ridiculously, with the long threatening consequence at the members of the corps have determinedly decided to strike out against it thereby making their movement not one of observation for some re-routing disruptionists, but one open and ready to embrace all Irish hearts who are prepared to stand or fall in defense of their National ???. Now I earnestly hope that this note will have the desired effect and that this thing will cease.

COMPLIMENTARY ;. The Kiltimagh corps of the Volunteers can claim exclusively the honour of being the only I.N.V. corps in the West of Ireland devoting four days a week, including Sunday, to drill, which is the one and only thing that can bring the young men of Ireland to a point of physical perfection.

22ND AUGUST 1914; CONGRATULATIONS;. It is only just on my part to congratulate the shopkeeper of Kiltimagh upon their unselfish patriotism exhibited by their closing their premises on four evenings each week at 8.30 for the express purpose of taking part, side by side with their employees, in the drill instruction imparted to the Kiltimagh Corps of the INY. They have given a noble headline, and I hope that the neighboring towns will not fail to immediately imitate it. **STILL COWARDS;** What a shame it is that I have again to refer to a few individuals, whose cowardice. I cannot find a more suitable term - does not allow of their entering the ranks. Exposition is the only course to adopt, as a word to the fools is not, seemingly, sufficient.

27TH JULY 1914; KILTIMAGH VOLUNTEERS CONDEMN BACHELOR'S WALK KILLINGS.

At a specially convened meeting of the Kiltimagh corps of the INV, held in the Volunteer Hall on Monday, 27th inst, the President, Mr. J P Roughneen in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously passed as a protest against the brutal murders committed in Dublin on Sunday last: "Resolved: That we, the Kiltimagh corp of the INV congratulate our brother Volunteers in Dublin on their successful gun-running corp., and that we condemn in the strongest possible manner the action of Dublin Castle in discriminating between the Masonic Volunteers in Ulster and the National Volunteers in Dublin, and we believe that Dublin Castle is primarily responsible for the brutal murders of innocent people in Dublin. That we call upon our Parliamentary representatives to have the murderers of innocent people in the streets of Dublin at once brought to justice. That our brothers in Dublin have only to command their brother Volunteers in Connaught and "the men of The West will be with them. On the motion of Captain Michael Murphy, seconded by Professor O'Boyle, it was unanimously decided to send £40 to headquarters for the defense of Ireland fund. The meeting was then addressed by several speakers, each of them condemning **III** forcible language the proceedings in Dublin on Sunday. The Provisional Officers of the corps appointed by the committee on the previous Friday night, were in attendance. Capt Michael Murphy, Lieutenants J Corcoran, and T Brennan, Section Commanders T Ruane, J McDonagh, B McTigue, and J T Sommers., After the meeting some 200 men formed in the Market Square and marched in silence through the principal streets of the town, proceeded by a detachment of the Boy Scouts bearing torches, and in charge of their commander. Anthony Lavan.

5TH SEPTEMBER 1914; PROMINENT VISITOR. On Monday night at the Volunteers' drill grounds Captain Murphy introduced to the corps Mr Jordan, secretary to the United Irish League in America. Mr Jordan, who is a native of Kiltimagh, and has traveled all over the world, in the course of his address, said - It is twenty years since I left this town and when I stepped from the train this evening, I could not refrain from commenting on the wonderful improvements visible on all sides (hear, hear). I have watched with pride your very fine drill display during the past hour, which, in itself, speaks volumes for the high standard of training you are receiving from that excellent drill master, Mr. Croker (hear, hear). Brother Volunteers, are now on the right path to victory. I remember here in Kiltimagh our forefathers were taken out of their beds and driven to the Swinford Workhouse, and one of the greatest tyrants of landlords was a member of the Ormsby family and a Kiltimagh man, Good news; Dr Madden now came forward and amidst loud applause stated that he had just received a cheque for IR£ 500 from A Ormsby, of Dublin, towards the defence of Ireland's Army. Home Rule is certainly inevitable. Vote of thanks; Mr Bedrick then proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, and loud and prolonged cheers were again given for Mr Jordan. It may be of interest to readers to state here that Mr Jordan is brother to Mr E Jordan, formerly CPS in Kiltimagh. Thanks to our president, Mr J P Roughneen, and Mr D Murtagh, who when on holidays were unselfish enough to secure some rifles for practice.

May 1914; IRISH VOLUNTEER COMPANY FORMED; The Irish Volunteers, founded last year in response to Carson's Ulster Volunteer Force , have now established a company in Kiltimagh. For anybody not conversant with the purpose of this organization the Volunteers manifesto states: "The object proposed for the Irish volunteers is to secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to all the people of Ireland. Their duties will be defensive and protective, and they will not contemplate either aggression or domination. Their ranks are open to all able-bodied Irish-men without distinction of creed, politics or social grade, There will also be work for women". Kiltimagh has lagged behind other towns in forming a company. he reason seems to be because Fr. O'Hara and the principal shopkeepers are supporters of John Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party [Home Rulers]. Their conservative instinct don't rock the boat" has not

been accepted by Kiltimagh's younger generation. These latter took the initiative to call a meeting to form a volunteer Company. A participant at this meeting reported: "We met in the schoolhouse, about ten people- two young men, sons of shop-keepers [Tomas Ruadhain and Sean Corcoran]. Some assistants, a member of the Gaelic League, and the dispensary Doctor [Dr. T. Madden] a Hibernian. No priest was present" Miss Lottie Mas Manus presided. She objected at first, "Being a woman and the matter military" her objection was overruled. Our source continued, "So we settled to our business, read letters, arranged; decided to hold a large meeting on a given date, and enroll men. Speakers were to be invited from Headquarters, Dublin, and posters asking for recruits to be placarded on the walls... That evening we enrolled fourteen recruits". One Kiltimagh man who has been a member of the Volunteers since their inauguration in 1913 is Sean T. Ruadhain, a brother of Tomas. He is teaching in Dublin and is a member of the company whose officers include Thomas Mc Donagh and Michael O'Hanrahan.

25 January 1914; LARGE HOME RULE MEETING IN BALLA;

Kiltimagh Contingent Cheered ; The county of Mayo demonstrated in strength in Balla in support of the Home Rule cause. The meeting was held under the auspices of the local branches of the United Irish League and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The weather was most inclement, marred by the incessant downpour of rain, which continued to fall throughout the entire day. Yet the spirits of the Mayomen were not deterred; they enthusiastically demanded the right for Irishness to manage their own affairs. On the arrival of the special trains a procession was formed and headed by the Straide fife and drum band, followed by vast throngs, from Ballyhaunis, Claremorris, Ballinrobe, Westport, Ballvary, etc. "The Kiltimagh contingent made a magnificent show, and their entry into the town at this point on brakes and cars was the signal for loud cheers".

The chairman of the meeting, Fr. Jennings, c.c., Balla, said "their primary duty was to proclaim not alone to the whole of Mayo, but also the Province of Connaught, the whole of Ireland and the United Kingdom that everybody present at the meeting was in favour of Home Rule. They had read in the public press that some people in Ulster were rebelling against Home Rule. This small section did not desire Home Rule, and by unfair methods wanted to prove that the rest of Ireland did not want it. This meeting was assembled to contradict that. The second object of the meeting was to tender to the Irish Party, under the leadership of Mr. John E. Redmond, their sincere thanks and gratitude for all they had done for Ireland."

1915

JANUARY ; MAYO MEN AT THE FRONT WITH THE CONNAUGHTS

Soldier's letters to his wife; The following extracts from letters received by Mrs Malley, Kiltimagh, from her husband, Private Thomas Malley, D Company, 2nd Batt. Connaught Rangers, a native of Claremorris, who was wounded in an engagement in the 14th September, serves to show the excellent spirit that animates the men of the Expeditionary Force. 7th October {St. Nazaire General Hospital}: "I hope you are well. Cheer up and do not be lonely. We were not together very long after our marriage but I hope to be with you very soon if I am not killed. I have another chance yet. God will have me. I hope and trust in him, and always did. The English troops are going on well, and I hope they will go on better and wipe out the German brutes. I will be for the front again in about a week. I do not mind when it is for my King and country - may God save it! Ask all your friends to pray for me, and write to Mother and tell her I am well. May God bless you all"

19th October. Private Malley wrote that he was discharged from hospital and was going on well. He felt very lonely, he stated when he did not hear often from his wife and mother. In a later letter Private Malley communicated the news of the death of Private Corley, a native of Swinford, whose wife resides in Kiltimagh. Corley, who had been in three of the hottest engagements, and wounded in one of them was one of the three who only remained of his company. They were then attached to an Indian regiment with which Corley was serving when he was killed. Private Malley has forwarded to his wife the Christmas presents of the King and Queen, tobacco, pipe, album, Christmas card from Princess Mary, and other souvenirs received by him at the front. **Source: Western People.**

20 FEBRUARY; EAST MAYO EXECUTIVE U.L.L. The annual meeting of the East Mayo Executive of the United Irish League, was held in the Town Hall, Swinford, on Tuesday. Kiltimagh was represented by Messrs. James Morrin J.P., DJ. Murtagh, T. Carney, and Dr. T. Madden. The purpose of the meeting was to revive the national organization, which had done so much for the country during the past 35 years. "Now that they were passing through the final stages of the struggle," said the Chairman "they should keep the League alive and active to thwart the efforts of those who stood between them and the opening of their native parliament". The following resolution was proposed by Canon Mc Donnell, P.P., Killasser: "That we, the members of the East Mayo Executive, representing the entire electorate of East Mayo, desire to record our implicit confidence in the Irish Parliamentary Party, under the distinguished leadership of Mr. J. E. Redmond, and we pledge to continue to support them by every means in our power. We are fully in accord with the policy laid down by Mr. Redmond and his colleagues in the present momentous crisis, and we are gratified to know it has already received ample vindication throughout the whole of Nationalist Ireland". Confidence in Mr. John Dillon was also expressed. **Source: Western People.**

7TH APRIL; HOME RULERS ENTERTAINED IN KILTIMAGH. On Friday of last week, after the U.I.L. Convention in Claremorris, Mr. John Dillon MP, Mr. Devlin, MP, and Alderman Boyle MP, motored to Kiltimagh, where they dined with the well-known and beloved P.P. of that place, Fr. Denis O'Hara. After dinner Fr. O'Hara and his distinguished guests visited the Convent of St. Louis where they were warmly greeted by Rev. Mother, the Sisters and the girl students, the latter entertaining the visitors in their spacious concert hall with a charming selection of Irish choruses,

dances and orchestral items for the space of two hours, at the conclusion of which the National Anthem, "A Nation Once Again" was sympathetically rendered by the students, all the visitors joining in with much enthusiasm. After the performance Mr. Dillon rose and in kindly words thanked the students for providing such a pleasant evening for himself and his colleagues after such a strenuous days work as they had gone through. Mr. Devlin was delighted with the patriotic spirit, which was displayed by the girls. On leaving the convent the distinguished visitors received an enthusiastic ovation from the people of Kiltimagh, who were waiting outside Fr. O'Hara's residence to hear a few words about their country's welfare from those who have worked so unremittingly in our country's cause. **Source: Western People.**

1915; NAVY AND ARMY SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.

Men joining his Majesty's armed services are entitled to claim separation allowances. To date the Register of Claims shows that six Kiltimagh men have submitted claims and four have been approved.

NAME, OFFICIAL NUMBER AND NAVAL OR MILITARY UNIT			NAME AND ADDRESS OF DEPENDANT	
Name 2	NO.3	Unit 4	Name 5	Address 6
James O' Brien	160098	Dublin Fusiliers	Ellen O'Brien	Kiltimagh
John Lydon	1566	2nd Sth Lancashires	Brigid Lydon	Kiltimagh
James Gallagher	2757	Connaught Rangers	James Gallagher	Terenaglr agh
M.M. Regan	14871	3rd Batt West Riding Reg., York	Cath. Regan	Kiltimagh
Charles Brown	3067	3rd Batt., Connaught Rangers	Thomas Brown	Kiltimagh
M. Kelly	5386	Connaught Rangers	Mr. & Ms. J. Kelly	Kiltimagh

Date of Receipt of Papers from Pension officer	Summary of Pension Officer's Recommendation	Date on Which Claim considered by committee	Result of Committee's Consideration of Claim
9		11	12
19/12/14	7/6 per week	22/12/14	12/6
19/12/14	8/-	22/12/14	10/-
3/2			~

1916

April 25th . REBELLION IN DUBLIN . Word has come through today, Easter Tuesday, that a Rising has taken place in Dublin. "There is fighting up in Dublin" an ex-policeman told people in Kiltimagh. "Mac Neill and his volunteers. The wires are cut. The news has come in from people going to Dublin and who could not get in." This man has no sympathy with the volunteers, though his son is one. Some people here find it hard to believe a Rising has taken place, but before the day ended the news was confirmed. Fr. O'Hara said that "John Mac Neill had seized the General Post Office yesterday and ran up the republican flag.

May 13th.; CORCORAN DEPORTED TO WANDSWORTH.

Over three thousand persons suspected of being involve in the Rising have been arrested. country wide. The majority are being transported to prisons across the Channel, like Knutsford, Stafford and Wakefield, where they will be investigated. It is said that many of these win be released after a short period of detention. Many Mayomen are among those deported, including Sean Corcoran from Main Street. He has been deported with 53 others to Wandswort Prison, under the Defence of the Realm Act, Rule 14 [A]. Corcoran's arrest came as a result of a jocose statement made in the Hibernian Bank during the Rising. On being serched a copy of the I.R.B. oath was found in his possession.

April/May; RAID FOR HOME RULERS' RIFLES

The Irish Volunteers desperately needed rifles if they were to be 'taken seriously as an army. There was a serious shortage of guns, especially coming up to the Easter Rising. The following account by Mr. Sean T. Ruane tells how the volunteers tried to procure a mere fourteen rifles in Kiltimagh. "On Easter Sunday night, 1916, it was intended to raid for fourteen rifles which were in the custody of Dr. T. Madden, the Party (Irish) representative on the Volunteer Executive. The plan miscarried because the latch-lock of a window was not left open by a maid, as was arranged. On the following Sunday, Mr. T.S. Moclair and Mr. T. Quinn from Castlebar came to collect these rifles. They were supposed to be handed over to a Volunteer force to be organized in Castlebar, to, I presume, help to arrest the spread of "disorder". The rifles were collected and left in a car unprotected while the occupants were having refreshment. Two youngsters, then in their teens, named Dan Sheehy and J.M. Ruane, my brother, suspected the car contained goods of importance. They found out the contents were rifles. Neither of them could drive a motor car at the time. They met Miss Gavin, and confided to her their intentions, viz. to get away with the car. She could not drive either, so the two cycled to Balla, five miles distant, anticipating that a call would be made there also by the occupants of the car. They notified Dick Walsh, who, with another and themselves, arranged to act if the opportunity presented itself. It did. The occupants of the car drove up to McEllin's Hotel. On their way out they were held up. The only arms used was a brass tap. The rifles were concealed, I believe, in the adjoining cemetery. Some days later, when the Rising finished, D. Walsh and a few other boys, one named Murphy, were arrested and lodged in Castlebar Jail. It was never suspected that the two boys from Kiltimagh were identified with the operation, and they were not even suspected. Walsh and his comrades were subsequently identified. Because one of the relatives of the arrested men was in a position in which he could be victimized, the prisoners decided to give up the rifles, which they did, and they were released from custody. My brother, Jim, was awarded an Easter Week medal because of his identification with the episode. I give these details as to what help would have been available to the men of Easter Week up and down the country if only they were partly armed."

August; CORCORAN'S ACCOUNT OF HIS INTERMENT;

The following account was given by Sean Corcoran of life as a political prisoner. He has just been released from Frongoch. "I was sent from Castlebar jail to Dublin, and with other Sinn Fein prisoners was kept standing for some hours in the courtyard of Trinity college; then we were sent on to Richmond barracks. There we were kicked and flung into our cells, and two days later deported to England. As we traveled, I knew we were going south by the sun. We were taken to Wandsworth Jail, where we were again beaten and kicked." On further questions he told me the food was frightful - the meat was horse or some abomination. He generally gave his share to others who, starving, ate it. Sunday was a day they disliked. The last meal was at three o'clock, and they had nothing to eat till the next morning. The treatment they received, however, improved when the warders found that their prisoners were not "mere Irish savages," but numbered among them professors and doctors. One warder, a North of Ireland man, who had been very harsh at first, gradually changed and became civil. A little boy of twelve who had been swept up because he would not give information about his Sinn Fein friends came under his notice. The little fellow was homesick and lonely and often in tears, and the warder's heart softened. But kindness only made the boy cry more. Another method was tried, cursing and abuse. The effect was splendid. The tears stopped, the little fellow hardened himself, and the cure was done. Once during his daily exercises in the yard Sean found a nail, and later a string. With the nail he bored a hole in the wall of his cell, and with a string sent a letter through and so opened communications with the next prisoner - the old device of imprisoned men. The hole was filled up every day and never discovered. He was sent on to Frongoch in Wales, where the conditions were better. It was a concentration camp, and the men were treated as prisoners of war".

POST OFFICE WORKER FIRED; Miss Gavin, a member of the staff at Kiltimagh Post Office, has been removed from her post for her political beliefs. "Owing to her expressed approval of the insurrection to a commercial traveller named Alexander, a native of Belfast, who reported her to the local R.I.C. she was arrested, but released on the Parish Priest's intervention. But she lost her job".

September; PATRIOT'S DAUGHTERS TO BOARD HERE. Misses Inagh and Maura Connolly, daughters of Mr. James Connolly, Labour Leader, who was shot by order of the government after the Easter Rising, have arrived as boarders at St. Louis Convent.

Easter Monday; LUSITANIA SURVIVOR MARRIES. When the Lusitania was torpedoed on the 7 May 1915 off the Cork coast 1,198 passengers and crew members were swallowed up by the waves. One of those to survive was Miss' Delia Kilkenny from Lisnagan Aughamore. She has now married Kiltimagh man Edward Brennan from Pollagh.

WOUNDED AT THE SOMME; Edward Jordan, from James St., has been wounded for the second time at the horrendous battle now raging at the Somme in France. He was first wounded in the leg, and after treatment was returned to the front. His latest wound is to his ankle (on the same leg) and is a more serious injury. At present he is being treated in an army hospital, and when discharged is expected to return to Kiltimagh where he will reside with his brother Thomas. Private Jordan was born in Kiltimagh in 1879, and worked in the family business owned by his father James Jordan.

He was one of six successful candidates from Ireland in a competitive examination for men to serve in the British Police Force Foreign Service. He sailed from Singapore on 19 April, 1902, and served there until the outbreak of war in 1914, when he was recalled. On his return he joined the British Army



October; DRAMA; DRAMATIC CLUB ACCUSED. Last January at a meeting called to re-organize the local dramatic club, known as the Kiltimagh Young Men's Society, Fr Denis O'Hara P.P., accused Mr Sean T. Ruane, President of the Club, "of being the prime mover of a secret society, for which the dramatic club was a cover". It is now common knowledge that the L.R.B. Have infiltrated organizations like the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League, so why not a dramatic club? Jocosely references to this effect have been made in "Kiltimagh Notes" in the "Western People". We find it difficult to believe that the parish priest has misinterpreted the situation. Are not most members of K.Y.M.S. (jokingly translated by themselves as "Keep Your Mouth Shut") known members of the Volunteers? Did not the crown forces, on more than one occasion since last January, "try to proclaim some of these functions, without success"?

The plays produced by the K.Y.M.S. mostly deal with the 1798 period, viz "Michael Dwyer", "The Rebel Chief", "The West's Awake", etc - in other words, militant nationalism. And what of the monies raised from these productions? It is an "open secret" that monies went to fund both the home company of volunteers and the brigade. This body also raised money for the Volunteers' Dependants' Fund after the rising, and made contributions to organizations looking after the welfare of imprisoned volunteers.

November 11th. SOLDIERS WONDERFUL RECOVERY ; At Neuve Chapelle, where one of the greatest battles of the War has been fought, Thomas Browne of the King's Irish Liverpool Rifles, fell dangerously wounded. On the battlefield he received the last rites of the Holy Church. He got twenty one wounds in the back of the neck, legs and face and for days his life was despaired of. He revived sufficiently at the base hospital and was removed to Liverpool. When his recovery was assured he was allowed to travel to Kiltimagh for a short stay with his mother, Mrs. Browne of Main Street. Private Browne has two other brothers in the army.

25 November; KILTIMAGH REPRESENTATIVES AND CONSCRIPTION .

With reference to the allegation in the "Mayo News" to the effect that Messrs T. Roughneen, J.P.; James Morrin, J.P.; J. Murtagh and J. McDonnell were in favour of conscription, I have been asked to flatly contradict it as being false and malicious. The gentlemen in question who have been thus so wantonly traduced, voted against conscription and in support of the Irish Party, who have consistently declared themselves against compulsion, and through whose efforts alone the country has been saved from it.

September 9th.; Kiltimagh Labourer Cleared .The case of a returned worker at Kiltimagh who was arrested by the local police as an "absentee" on the orders of the military authorities in England was before the Kiltimagh petty sessions last Tuesday. The case was tried on its merits by the local R.M. . From the evidence of the police sergeant it appears he arrested the prisoner on the instructions of the military authorities in England. Instructions without warrant are being acted upon by the police and arrests affected upon the nod as it were. Surely this is grossly illegal? The Kiltimagh court examined into the charge. By a majority they found that the prisoner had been in England to support his mother, and that he was exempt from service.

Nov. 11th . EMIGRATION. It is very sad to see the immense number of young girls who are emigrating to America and Canada this year. Every other day it is heart rendering in the extreme to witness the fond and alas often last farewell. But who is going to solve the problem and stop this bleeding of our country.

Nov 18th. IRELANDS MANPOWER IN THE WAR.

The total number of men who have joined the colours **from Connaught** since the war began are as follows:-
Galway - 1,767, Mayo, -1,175, Roscommon – 800, Sligo - 1,116.

1917.

20-21 Nov. 1917;

THIRTY-SEVEN RANGERS KILLED IN TUNNEL ATTACK ; The fighting in which the 16th (Irish) Division took part near Cambrai achieved its aim; s, but the highest casualty percentage during the attack were those of the 6th Connaught Rangers. Of the 240 officers and men in the assault, thirty-seven were killed and 109 wounded. Pte. Mick Walsh from Kiltimagh was among the dead. Other Mayomen died too, including Robert Connolly from Ballaghaderreen and James Leonard from Charlestown.

In August 1917; RANGERS ROLE IN PLAN; Sir Douglas Haig had planned a major offensive with massed tanks on the Hindenburg (German) Line. The attack was to take place in the Cambrai area. Simultaneous with this main operation subsidiary attacks were to be launched West of Cambrai between Fontaine Les Croiselles and Bullencourt. Two divisions were to be involved here. The 3rd division were to attack and take Bovis Trench; the 16th (Irish) Division, of which the 6th Connaught Rangers were part, were to capture a 2000 yard section of the German front line, called Tunnel Trench and Tunnel Support. Tunnel Trench was about 30 feet undergrounds, seven feet high and six feet wide. This tunnel ran underneath the German trenches for about twelve miles! On its surface five pill boxes posed a major threat to attackers.

SAVAGE FIGHTING ;At 06.20 on the morning of 20th. November the 6th Connaught Rangers and the 1st Munsters crossed 'no-man's land', reached Tunnel Trench and occupied it almost without casualties. Then two of the German Pill boxes (nicknamed Jove and Mars) were captured. Things had gone suspiciously well. The speed of the operation had caught the Germans by surprise, and 152 prisoners were taken. Shortly after 0700 suspicions were justified. The 3rd Division failed to take the area bordering themselves and the Connaught Rangers. The Germans tenaciously held their position, and this meant the Rangers were exposed on their right wing. They counter-attacked the Rangers and savage fighting lasting several hours ensued. Ranger casualties were high, and they were forced to fall back "yielding their ground only inch by inch and leaving a trail of dead behind them." Reinforcements did come and in 23rd. November the operation was successfully completed *Source: Johnstone Tom Orange, Green and Khaki.*

8 November 1917. MRS. CONNOLLY VISITS KILTIMAGH. Mrs. James Connolly, widow of James Connolly, one of the executed leaders in the Sinn Fein Rising, stayed a night in the Convent. Fr. Denis called and was delighted to meet Mrs. Connolly, to whom he gave a high character of her daughter, Inagh.

DECEMBER 1917 ; ARRESTED FOR DRILLING. Two Volunteers from Kiltimagh have been arrested for drilling, charged with illegal assembly and with being members of an illegal organization. They are Sean Corcoran (Brigade O/C) and Tomas Ruane (Vice Brigadier) "They were brought before resident Magistrate Milling of Westport, refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the court as soldiers of the L.R.A., and sentenced to three months imprisonment. They were taken by an armed escort of the R.L.C. to Sligo Jail. The local and adjoining Volunteer companies made the departure an occasion for a Volunteer mobilization, which accompanied the prisoners to the railway station, under the command of Captain J.T. Walsh of Kiltimagh. Ruane and Corcoran went on hunger-strike on entering the jail. They were visited by the Mayor of Sligo, Mr. Dudley Hanley, and released after four or five day's strike. Their homecoming was made the occasion for another Volunteer mobilization. Some three hundred Volunteers participated.

March 1917. YOUTH CONVICTED FOR SHOUTING "UP SINN FEIN";

Kiltimagh petty Sessions; Messrs. Topping Dolphin, Roughneen and A. Ormsby. Ernst. Schmidt, a youth of 16 years, was prosecuted under Section 27 of the Defence of the Realm Act. Constables Boylan and Dowd gave evidence that they heard what they thought was a drunken man shouting "Up Sinn Fein. To h-l with the English. Who would fight for them anyway?" "If I had a revolver I'd shoot'. The constables stooped under a ditch and when he came alongside arrested him. He had already been charged with drunkenness. James Creaton a 12 - 14 year old youth gave evidence. "He was letting a rhyme of talk out of him which I did not understand". P.J. O' Rourke, Solicitor for Schmidt: "You did not feel disaffected by his conduct, did you?" "No" Ormsby: "I say nothing about 'up 'Sinn Fein' - that's politics, but for anyone to speak up for the King's enemies, that's treason". Topping: "Everyone must understand that cheering for the Germans is very serious. Even cheering for Sinn Fein is serious as they tried by the rising to stab the Empire in the back. They created a rebellion and, by their action, threw back the country for years. All right thinking men were against the Rising". Schmidt was convicted and fined 10/- and bound to the peace on his own surety of £10 for one year. The constables gave the background to the defendant. He was the son of a woman from Derryvohey who married a German in the U.S .. The German father died seven years ago and the boy came home to Ireland to live with his grandfather.

KILTIMAGH RAILWAY COLLISION, March; Lt. Colonel Druitt of the Board of Trade carried out an inquiry into a collision between a ballast train and an empty wagon train at Kiltimagh Station in December 1916. Report: All systems were in working order. The only way the signal could have been 'off' for the ballast train would be that it had struck when lowered for the previous train. Evidence of M. Maloney, porter, R. Roche. Ballast train conductor suggested that the only conclusion could be that the driver of the ballast train missed the signal and assumed a clear run through the station.

VISITING KILLEDAN. Captain D. McManus. R.A.M.C. and his younger brother Captain Mc Manus, Royal Flying Corp. staying with their aunt in Killedan. The older brother has been on the Western Front; the younger brother

was wounded in Suvla Bay in Turkey and discharged from the infantry and so joined fledgling Royal Flying Corporation.

COURTMARTIAL AT GALWAY. 5th. Oct. 1917 ; Tom Sheehy, Kiltimagh and others were charged at Renmore Barracks, under defence of the Realm Act. (Read Sinn Fein manifesto at Public meeting on 15th. August). Sergeant Gallagher, deposed that on 15th. August a crowd gathered in the Market Square. He warned the crowd about the illegality of the gathering repeating a warning of 13th. idem. T. Lavin addressed the meeting where 400 people were present. Tom Sheehy was arrested at 1.30 am. 16th . Captain Scott refused to admit evidence of seditious documents. Found guilty and sentence.

JANUARY 1917- HOME ON HOLIDAYS ; James Rushe and James McDonagh, both members of the Newcastle on Tyne police, are home on holidays.

7th. July- NEW R.I.C. BARRACKS OPENED. A new R.I.C. station was opened to replace the old one, the lease on which had run out. Mr. Thomas Roughneen, J.P. has converted a number of artisan's dwellings at Thomas Street, into a barracks with separate married accommodation. John O'Donnell, at the request of Dominick Murtagh, is now offering the former police barracks for sale. In addition to the building there is a garden which is 251/2 perches in size.

28th. July- FR. O' HARA PURCHASES FARM - Fr. O' Hara has purchased a small farm belonging to the late Mr. Cavanagh. Trustees, James Morrin, J. P. T. Roughneen J. P. Michael Murphy Co. Co. in trust for the benefit of the poor of the town, either in allotments or grazing for milch cows.

JANUARY- CENSUS OF MIGRATORY LABOURERS, 1915 REPORT . Some 13,000 migratory labourers left for England and Scotland according to this report. Of these, three-quarters are from Connaught and the remainder from Ulster, Mainly Donegal. The largest number of these labourers come from the Swinford Poor Law Union - 42 per 1,200 of the population.

1917 - SINN FEIN DEMONSTRATION AT KILTIMAGH. Last Sunday a public meeting under the auspices of Sinn Fein was held in Kiltimagh. 3,000 young men attended. Triumphant arches spanned the streets with legends of welcome. Three or four bands paraded, contingents from Swinford, Knock, Balla, Barney Carroll, Aghamore, Bohola, and Coraun. Volunteers paraded and gave a display of drill. Mr. T. Ruane gave an address of welcome to Sean Milroy from the Kiltimagh (James Connolly) Sinn Fein Club. Written apologies for nonattendance were received from Dr. Mc Bride, House Surgeon, Castlebar and T. Dillon Leetch. Speakers were Sean Milroy, Michael Lennon, Con or A. Maguire and William Sears.

FIRED SHOTS AT POLICE; P.J. Clarke, Bohola, prosecuted for using abusive language to the police. The police case was that a Sinn Fein banner appeared on a tree in Mr. Clarke's garden. The Sergeant and his two constables removed same. Mr. Clarke appeared on the scene with a gun, fired two shots and said if he knew who took down his banner he would blow his guts out. His solicitor said there was no evidence of abusive language; what Mr. Clarke said could not have been addressed to the moon.

POACHERS FINED 3rd. March - Anthony Ormsby summoned Henry King, Cloonmore, Luke Sammon Curneen, and Thomas Connell, Loolaght, for trespass on his demesne with dogs and sticks in pursuit of hares. John Mayne, gamekeeper, gave evidence. Each fined 2/6 with 4/costs each.

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. During one of the horrific battles on the Western front, **Kiltimagh man John Golden was seriously wounded in the leg.** He recounts that he knew he was losing blood in profusion and did not expect to survive. He later discovered that he could thank his dead comrades for his life their weight on top of him prevented his bleeding to death.

1918

COMMUNICATION FAILURE LEADS TO DEATH ; In what is considered to be the last possible offensive by the Germans in this horrific war, **eighty-four men from the Connaught rangers died unnecessarily, among them was William Mc Nicholas from Kiltimagh.**

GERMANY'S RACE AGAINST TIME; General Ludendorff realised that if Germany was to win the war she must do so **before the summer of 1918;** otherwise the arrival of the American armies would tip the balance against her. He decided to launch his attack at the end of February or the beginning of March. The main attack was to take place

around St. Quentin in the British-held sector.

The offensive begins, Just before five o'clock on the morning of Thursday 1st March, 1918, Began the most concentrated artillery barrage the world had known. Nearly 6,000 German guns opened fire along the forty mile stretch between the Senee and Oise rivers. The British replied with 2,500 guns. Tons of steel and high explosives fell with shattering force on the British positions, rocking the ground like an earth-shattering earthquake. During the next four and a half hours British positions were obliterated. Then the German infantry rose to attack. In huge numbers they overran enemy positions, smashing their way to Ronssoy, which they captured.

RANGERS ORDERED TO COUNTER-ATTACK At the start of the offensive the 6th Connaught Rangers were held in reserve at Villers Faucon. They were ordered to advance to St. Emilie, and there they received the order to counter-attack and retake Ronssoy, with the 1st Munsters and the support of two tanks. As the overall situation emerged Divisional Headquarters realised the futility of this counter-order; the Rangers did not, and a classic military tragedy followed.

BATTALION DESTROYED; At 15.45 the Rangers, unaware that they were attacking in complete isolation without artillery support or tanks, began their advance, Almost immediately they met intense German fire and were practically annihilated. Survivors reached Ronssoy Wood, but were immediately attacked by Germans. Second Lt. Hall reported that as he tried to move position a voice ordered him to halt. A German officer "in faultless English told me if we laid down our arms we would be properly treated with our ammo gone it would be pointless to show further resistance "Eightyfour men died, hundreds were wounded and about 30 captured and a battalion destroyed to no purpose. Sources: A.J.P. Taylor *History of World War I* Tom Johnstone, *Orange, Green and Khaki*.

June - MISSING IN ACTION ; A long list of men missing after the battles of March and April in France has been published. Sadly, one of these is J. Mc Nicholas from Kiltimagh (Connaught Ranger, No. 6010).

17 April – 1918. CONSCRIPTION HERE! Due to the enormous losses suffered by the British forces in this horrific war - 760,000 in France alone in 1917 - the army is now in dire need of recruits. The British government has turned to Ireland where it is estimated there are 150,000 men of military age. To tap this source of "cannon-fodder" parliament has passed a Military Service Act extending conscription to Ireland.

June- MISSING IN ACTION ; A long list of men missing after the battles of March and April in France has been published. Sadly, one of these is J. Mc Nicholas from Kiltimagh (Connaught Ranger, No. 6010).

1918 ; The forthcoming General Election will be fought on ideological issues which few could have predicted a few short years ago. Those vying for the Nationalist vote, the Irish Parliamentary Party and Sinn Fein, represent the issues of yester-year and the changing national aspirations. The apex of this contest will be fought here in East Mayo, as the leaders of these parties, **John Dillon and Eamon de Valera**, face one another in a showdown which neither can afford to lose. A great debt of gratitude is owed by the Irish people to the Irish Parliamentary Party. The Party has given leadership and commitment in the cause that mattered most to the people Land! It has been associated with The Land War, The Land Acts and Land Purchase, and the Plan of Campaign. Its members, including John Dillon, have been imprisoned for their support. Older people will remember this, and it will, no doubt influence the way they vote. But a different spirit may influence the younger voter. While they will not forget the Trojan work done by the I.P.P., and indeed give it the credit it is due, one imagines the bitter feelings sown over the past forty years may find the response of Sinn Fein more appropriate. The land War and the subsequent evictions; the Easter Rising, the executions and Internments, the emotional by-elections in Roscommon and Longford, the recent anti-conscription campaign and the death of Thomas Ashe have all moved the struggle on to a different plain. One can only wait to see how people judge events.

SINN FEIN ARGUMENTS ; Meeting in Support of Mr. de Valera's Candidature. A Sinn Fein meeting in support of Mr. de Valera's candidature was held over a hundred yards from where Mr. Dillon addressed his supporters. There were contingents with some bands and numerous Republican flags Mr. Dominick Walsh presided. Professor Padraig O'Donnellan, who spoke first in Irish, went on to say that on this election depended whether Ireland was to be a mere domestic of the British Empire or mistress of her own destinies. The policy of the Irish Party was that Ireland wanted only some small system of Government within the British Empire. The party led by Eamonn de Valera denied that Ireland was a part of the British Empire, or that it would be content with Home Rule within the British Empire, and declared that Ireland would never be at peace until she was restored to her original status as a free and independent nation. That party led by de Valera had the support of the vast majority of the Irish people, and amongst its supporters were many bishops, priests, and thinking people.

December -EIGHT KILTIMAGH MEN DIE IN THE GREAT WAR;

Eight Kiltimagh men are known to have died in the Great War [1914 – 1918] While fighting for British regiments. Six of these were killed in action in France, while two died from wounds.

John Goulding from Aiden St. was seriously wounded and lost a leg.

Brennan, Michael. Reg. No. 7816. Rank, Private, Royal Munster Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion; killed in action, France, July 17, 1916.

Carroll, Michael Reg. No. 26171. Rank, Private, South Lancashire Regiment; killed in action, France, June 15, 1917.

Casey, Thomas Reg. No. 22375. Rank, Private, Royal Dublin Fusiliers; killed in action, France, August 16, 1917.

Fitzpatrick, Martin Reg. No. 1838. Rank, Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles; killed in action, France, May 9, 1916.

McNicholas, Patrick Reg. No. 14125. Rank, Private, Royal Munster Fusiliers; Died of wounds, France, August 9, 1918.

McNicholas, William Reg. No. 1574. Rank, Private, Connaught Rangers; killed in action, March 21, 1918.

Staunton, James Reg. No. 106414. Rank, Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery; died of wounds, France, May 18, 1917.

Walsh, Michael Reg. No. 5813. Rank, Private, Connaught Rangers killed in action, II November 1917.

20 April: KILTIMGH MEN BEFORE SPECIAL CRIMES COURT ;

Before the Special Crimes Court Castlebar, Were **John Walsh**, cycle mechanic, **Pat Jordan**, **Dan Sheehy** (clerk) and **William Mc Hugh**. **Sergeant Gallagher, Kiltimagh**, testified that on 27th March, 1918, he saw 108 young men ordered to fall in by Sheehy, Walsh numbered them and formed four sections. No. 1 Jordan, No.2 Sheehy, No.3 Mc Tigue and No. 4 Walsh. Each section drilled up and down the street and were taken through military evolutions. Most of them carried sticks or hurleys. At 2 p.m. on March 31 st. 95 men paraded. Forty marched out of the town and rode off on bicycles towards Foxford, Sheehy and Mc Hugh with them in uniform with waist belts. Constable Cranna gave evidence that, on Easter Sunday, he witnessed the march. He heard Walsh say 'Let all who have bikes be here at 1 p.m. McHugh and Sheehy had uniforms and Jordan assisted Walsh. In response to a bugle call 95 men fell in, Sheehy assisted Walsh in drilling foundation. They cycled to Foxford accompanied by witness. There they were met by hundreds of young men. They marched through Foxford. Back home by 9-10 p.m. Mr. P. J. Walsh addressed the court on behalf of his son.

COUNTRY UNITES AGAINST CONSCRIPTION ; Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, has unwittingly brought about a form of unity among various political groups due to his persistence in forcing conscription through. Already a meeting has been held in the Mansion House, attended by both Sinn Fein and Home Rulers, to resist this dastardly act. A pledge, to this effect has been endorsed by the Irish Catholic hierarchy and the Trade Union Congress has called a twenty- four hour strike.

14 April - ANTI-CONSCRIPTION MEETING IN KILTIMGH. A public meeting was in the Town Hall on the eve of the Mansion House conference. The purpose of the meeting was to unite all sections in Kiltimagh so that a common stand could be taken against the conscription menace: The meeting almost broke up in disarray when Volunteer members and others of the Sinn Fein branch availed of the occasion to protest against the former pro British statement of certain supporters of the Parliamentary Party who were present. The meeting was saved when **Sean T. Ruane appealed** "To all to face the realities of the situation, that as Messrs de Valera, Dillon, Healy and other leaders would without doubt come to a mutual understanding in Dublin the next day, a similar understanding should be come to here" The meeting agreed.

APRIL 21:- COVENANT SIGNED IN KILTIMGH. Prayers were offered at all masses today asking God to save this country from the implementation of conscription. Afterwards people signed the anti- conscription pledge, which read: "Defying the right of the government to enforce compulsory service in this country, we pledge ourselves solemnly to one another to resist conscription by the most effective means at our disposal".

APRIL 24.- BRITISH TROOPS ARRIVE;

Claremorris seems to be full of newly arrived soldiers who will be used to enforce conscription. They have set up their tents on one side of the station. Some are said to be coming to **Kiltimagh** and some are to camp on **Sliabh Cairn**.

APRIL 10; VOLUNTEERS SEIZED; Forty policemen arrested four Kiltimagh volunteers in an early morning swoop. They came at the deadly hour of 3a.m., and seized Welsh, Jordan, Sheehy and Mc Hugh. Young Sheehy is only seventeen. The police beat him and bruised his face.

9 February. STRAIDE U.I.L. THANK FR. O'HARA;

Straide Branch of U.I.L. passed a motion of thanks to Fr. Denis O'Hara, of Kiltimagh, Sir Henry Doran, C.D.B. and John Dillon, M.P. for the happy termination of a long period of unease, in the purchase of **Crickmore Farm in Straide**.

MAY 16; POLICEMAN RESIGNS. A policeman Donnelly of Polrohawn has resigned from the force as he is not prepared to conscript his countrymen. There are rumours of other policemen who have taken off their uniform and were then imprisoned.

THREW STONES AT POLICE. One Mellett, with a Clare passport, was fined 40/- for firing stones at the police at Murtagh's Corner. His defence said he was trying to attract the attention of his friends. An R.I.C. constable travelled from Clare to give a character reference.

1919

MARCH 1919. Now that the sham of the German plot is so utterly discredited the British Government had no alternative but to grant a General release to all interned prisoners incarcerated because of the fabrication, two of the released prisoners are **Sean Corcoran and Tomas Ruane.** The plot was formulated by Mr. Samuels, The Irish Attorney General, and Major Ivor Price, head of the Special Intelligence Branch at Anny Headquarters. It stated that a German expedition was on its way to Ireland, and that landings of arms were expected in Mayo and Galway. It recommended that Sinn Fein leaders should be at once deported and interned as there was abundant evidence of their guilt. Prior to being interned for their role in the German Plot the two Kiltimagh men completed a three months sentence in Dundalk. They were rearrested outside Dundalk jail gates, deported to England and interned in Lincoln Jail.

The following account is given by **Miss L. Mac Manus in "White Light and Flame":**

In March Sean Corcoran and Tomas Ruadhain, who had been **with de Valera in prison**, were released. Bonfires were lighted in the town and in the country, and that night I heard the cheering far and near. They came back not alone as local heroes in the people's mind but as young men who belonged to the whole of Ireland and were part of her soldiers. Among all the emotions in the psychology of the people at the time, in the collective spirit of the country there was no emotion of fear. Sean Corcoran had some prison relics. He showed me his prison mug and spoon, and a menu drawn or by one of his comrades for their Christmas dinner in the jail, de Valera's name heading a long list of signatures. He knew how the escape had taken place, but, with all who knew, he was bound by honour to keep it secret. He had played a little part in the adventure.

A few days before he had been ill. That night, after the escape, he fell ill again, or appeared to be ill, and the roll-call was delayed. When it came and there was no answer to the names of the absent men, the prisoners were hurried to their cells. All night doors clanged; soldiers and policemen came and went; and the listening Irishmen knew that alarm and haste filled the prison, and that there was trouble and dismay in the minds of their jailers.

Next day the Governor questioned Sean Corcoran and some others of the Irish prisoners. He was both put out and surprised. "De Valera," he said, "was the last man I should have expected to escape. A quiet, well mannered man", "Sir", replied Sean Corcoran, "the time had come for him to go."

June; The war should have ended for Pat Shannon in November 1918, but a twist in fate diverted him from the Western front to the bitter civil war being fought in Russia. We do not know Pat's views on the war being fought between the oppressed Russian workers and peasant's [the Reds or Bolsheviks] on one side of the Whites and private Pat Shannon from Greyfield went where he was sent. His story starts in 1909. There was a fight in the town one evening involving some local boys. I was there but I must say I never hit a blow One lad was badly hurt and the R. I. C. came looking for me and the others that were fighting. "Anyway, I ended up going off to England the following morning. I spent three weeks working for a farmer and then I got a letter from my father and £15 and he told me to beat it to America. "Later that morning I went to Liverpool and paid a £6 fare to New York. My uncle went to see me off and when he got back home there was a detective there asking for me. It looks bad but I really didn't hit a blow that day in Kiltimagh. " He recounted playing '25' in card sessions with sailors in the voyage and while he had a second-class ticket he found time passing in the common good-humoured fun of the third- class passengers more to his liking.

AMERICA ; Once in America Pat Shannon took off on a 24hour train journey to Chicago and rang his cousins from the station to pick him up. He recalled staying with a Mrs. Gavin who owned a pub in the city and he shared lodgings with his brother there. His brother's name was Anthony, Pat recalled: "When Anthony came home from work that evening he bought me a shirt, a suit of clothes and a stiff hat and turned me out like a typical Yank. Work wasn't too difficult to come by and his first job was with a local Gas Co. earning two-and-a-half dollars a day. That didn't last too long and ten days later he was on the train and on his way to Missouri where he began working as a hod-carrier for the princely sum of five dollars a day. His traveling days then chartered a course for Michigan and a job with an Irish contracting firm, McNulty's, reputed to be the larest outfit of its kind in America at the time. Within three weeks he was made a foreman and in the years that followed he worked at various locations in the MidWest and over the border in Canada.

JOINING THE AMERICAN ARMY; While in Chicago in 1916 Pat was given a harsh choice when asked to join the American Army. "I was told to either join the Army or be put on the next boat to Ireland. I said I'll join the army. I remember telling them: "I'll fight for any country I'm given a living in". He went to Camp Custer as a "rookie" and after three weeks training was sent overseas to Aldershot in England with Coy. ' A' of the American Expeditionary Forces. "We were sent then to France and docked at Brest and we were only there for three weeks when we got word that we were picked in a special Battalion to be sent to Russia," said Pat. On arriving at Archangel he was trained as a machine gunner. "After three weeks I had to know every part of the gun and be able to put it together in three minutes. Some of the boys sure could play a good jig or a reel on it!". Then it was up to the front line and a taste of war action against the Bolsheviks. Their first encounter with the enemy was a cry that they had been spotted nearby through field glasses. The Lewis gunner sent shock waves through the small party when it jammed but Pat wasn't very long putting it right again. "I took the gun, fixed the magazine and started shooting. There were only a few of us there and we were

about two or three miles from our lines. Before we finished Lieutenant Mick Foyle came with twenty men after he thought we got in trouble.

KILTIMAGHMAN SURVIVES THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR; " He described the drive towards Leningrad with the Whites as being too hasty and when they arrived within 80 miles of the city they had advanced too far with too few reserves and an overstretched supply line. The biggest engagement I remember taking part in was the Battle of Bistoka. The Russians attacked us with huge forces thicker than any flock of crows you have ever seen," he said. Altogether the Kiltimagh man recounted taking part in eleven major engagements. "In one battle I was shooting non-stop for almost five hours and I probably killed 400," he added.

LUCKY ESCAPE; As a fierce engagement raged one day Pat Shannon was standing behind his machine gun, after two hours of intense fighting. A shell exploded nearby and the force of the blast threw him down on top of ammunition boxes stacked behind him. Seconds later his platoon sergeant entered the machine gun nest and resumed fighting, firing from Pat's own gun. He was hit by shrapnel from another explosion, the brave sergeant, and fell mortally wounded at Pat's feet. The fighting did have a shattering affect on some soldiers according to Pat. "There were even good soldiers who shot themselves to get home to hospital. I know one or two of these who did it to get clear of danger, simply get away."

ST. ANTHONY'S CHORD; Asked if he was ever scared, Pat replied: "Never. When I joined the Army in Chicago I went to a priest who gave me a St. Anthony's chord and he said: "If you die a soldier you will go to Heaven. " I wore it all the time inside my clothes. After a fortnight of action troops were allowed two weeks behind their lines which they usually spent in local Russian villages. Pat remembers women using spinning wheels making wool and linen and one particular occasion seeing a wedding. "They played accordians, violins and flutes at the party and doing just the same as we do in our own country," he said. One of the sad moments of war for Pat was seeing three of his own men lying shell- shocked in a trench unable to join the retreat. "We could not bring them with us and we had to give the a hand grenade each. That was the last we saw of them. " We used horses and slielghs to hilp us retreat, through frozen snow. We even had to put blankets around our feet it was that cold. "One refrain Pat remembers singing aloud, along with other troops was: Oh, boy! If I was ever back with Mama I would never leave her. "

BURNED MY PANTS; Returning from a pitched battle one evening on his way into a village Pat missed death again by inches when a sniper fired on him from a wood close by. The bullet singed his pants as it thudded into the ground beside him. And so the months passed until June, 1919-seven months after the Armsistice was signed in Europe-Pat was on his way back to America and was discharged as a First Class Private at Camp Carte, Detroit. by Reggie Walsh.

7 June. -SERGEANT CLAIMS £1,000 COMPENSATION; The first application for compensation under the New Criminal Injuries Act has been brought by Sergeant Gallagher, Kiltimagh. The Sergeant claims that on December 4, 1918 he left the barracks at 6.55 p.m. and walked towards Main Street. As he passed the laneway leading towards the courthouse he heard light steps behind him. Almost instantly he was struck on the head. He received another blow. He turned and faced his attacker and instantly recognised him as Dan Sheehy. He was then struck the most damaging, again to the head, with a hurley. He was so seriously injured he was off work until January 9th. For this he claimed £ 1,000 compensation, he was awarded £50.



Patrick Reilly, Cartron, served with the Ambulance Corps, U.S. Army in France

May. BOHOLA R.I.C.-BARRACKS BURNED; Bohola R.LC. barracks has now joined the list of unoccupied barracks to be destroyed by the I.R.A. It was burned down in what seems to have been a military manoeuvre involving several volunteer companies. The exercise included road blocks built by Volunteer engineer units.

KILTIMAGH VOLUNTEERS INJURED; It is now known that this"operation had the effect of lessening the confidence of the rank and file in some of the officers responsible, and that lack of confidence had effects that were n'ever overcome"

POSTSCRIPT "We can now report that in the planning of the operation Comdt. John T. Walsh of the Kiltimagh Battalion advised that only paraffin oil should be used. He was overruled. "the operation took place on the night of the eve of Ascension Thursday, May, 1920. Corcoran, with Volunteers Mooney and Carney, was engaged in sprinkling petrol over a wooden floor of a room in the barracks in which a fire was burning. There was an explosion. Corcoran was able to get out, badly burned in the face and hands, but Mooney and Carney were left in. One Volunteer could see

no better way of handling the situation than to suggest shooting the two volunteers to put them out of pain. **Vice Brigadier T. Ruane** however, managed to burst in the door the window was barred], when Mooney and Carney were taken out, badly burned. Ruane then went back and, with Comdt. J.T. Walsh, saturated the rooms in paraffin, threw in a few bundles of straw and the building was in ruins in a few hours. Had the English garrison any intimation of the affair, there would be an appalling loss of life, because of the confusion occasioned by the incident." Two of the casualties, Mooney and Corcoran were conveyed to a licensed premises and to the Ruane house in Kiltimagh a few days later. There they were attended by Dr. Ferran who dressed their burns.

That night they were "conveyed to a house in the suburbs of Westport owned by Corcoran's sister, a Mrs. Kelly. There they were treated by Dr. Moran, Westport, and sent to the County Hospital, Castlebar, where Dr. McBride had them registered in their mothers' names, viz. Murphy and Deacy. There they remained, unknown to the enemy, until they were discharged fit and well." The third injured man, Carney, was taken to a house and attended by Dr. M. Staunton, Swinford. Michael Collins was annoyed when he heard of the incident, but he never heard all the details. **Source:**

Statement of Senator Sean T. Ruane for the Bureau of Military History.

September 1920. MILITARY RAID HOUSE; The home of Mr. Pat Brennan, Main st., was surrounded at night by a party of soldiers and police, and then searched. It seems Mr. Brennan's house is used by Volunteers "on the run", but on this occasion nobody was apprehended.

POSTSCRIPT; On the night in question Capt. Jimmy Ruane had arrived at the Brennan house, where a room was always available for his use. He noticed the activity in the street and got out the back door. When in the yard he heard commotion at the rear gate, where a military party had held up Mr. Brennan, who was about to enter his premises at the time. He took a deliberately long time to get his key, thereby giving Ruane the opportunity to climb on to the roof, cross on the ridge tiles of that and three other houses, when he dropped exhausted into Mr. Mulhern's yard and was put up in the house for the night.

November 1920. £1,000 AWARDED FOR POLICE BARRACKS; At the Castlebar Quarter Sessions thirty two criminal Injury applications were heard by his Honour Judge Doyle, K. C. None of the claims were opposed. **The Inspector General claimed £1,000** compensation for the destruction of the Kiltimagh Police Barracks. His Honour gave a decree for the £1,000 with costs and £33-0 expenses.

24 April; TWO RAIDS IN AREA; The residence of Mr. Patrick Carr, Ballinamore, was raided the other night by four men who demanded his gun and money. They obtained some money. When they left Mr. Carr followed them to the outskirts of the wood towards the river, keeping them under observation while they washed the soot off their faces. Then, as they retraced their steps he identified three of them. These were subsequently arrested. On the same night a raid was made on the home of Mr. Pat Kelly, treasurer of the local co-operative store, but the party failed to gain admission.

27 October. GUILTY OF POSSESSION A GUN; At a special court in Castlebar Mr. John Reilly of Kiltimagh was charged under of the Defence of the Realm Act with having a revolver and ammunition for which he did not have a permit. The gun was valued at 10 shillings. Giving evidence against Mr. Reilly, Det. Inspector Mc Garry of Swinford said that on the 30th September there was a patrol on duty in Kiltimagh consisting of the police and military (Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders). Mr. Reilly was to be seen to leave his house and deposit something in a puddle of water. It was taken out by a soldier and found to be a revolver and 44 rounds of ammunition. Mr. Reilly was arrested. When asked how he pleaded he said guilty. D.L Mc Garry continued: "Reilly was a licensed dealer in arms up to 1918 when he voluntarily surrendered his stock. He told me he quite forgot about this lot until a short time before the raid. The police always regarded him as a straightforward, loyal man who helped them whenever he could". Since Reilly had pleaded guilty he was convicted and imprisoned until the court could make a ruling.

1920. SOLDIER RETIRES; Patrick Carroll, Attavally, Corporal in the Royal Engineers, has retired from the army. Corporal Carroll saw action in the Boer War, and during the Great War in France.



12 June 1920; SINN FEIN'S ELECTION VICTORY; The sweeping victory by Sinn Fein candidates at the local elections is seriously exercising the attention of the Junkers in Dublin Castle who had hoped by the introduction of the much lauded PR. system to install elements of dissension amongst our local bodies. They have failed miserably in this design, and today throughout Ireland they find the new Council's welded together in one solid phalanx, drawing inspiration from one common source, and determined on the attainment of a common aim. In the Kiltimagh area there are three seats and three Sinn Fein candidates were nominated and declared elected. These were Miss Charlotte E. Mc Manus, Killedan House, Mr. Thomas Ruane, Main Street, and Mr. Thady Gallagher, Carrowteeaun.

September 1920; MacManus On The Run ,Dermott MacManus, Killedan House, is known to have joined the I.R.A. and, like all known freedom fighters, is on the run. MacManus, was seriously injured at GalJipoli while serving with the Inniskillings. He IS a monarchist at heart, but has been so abhorred by the brutality of the recent British reprisals at Balbriggan, Ennistymon, etc., that he felt this level of protest was required. It is known that he was introduced to the I.R.A. by his friend Cathal Brugha and is serving under Ginger O' Connell.

1 April. COMMANDANT SEAN CORCORAN KILLED AT CROSSARD; Commandant Sean Corcoran, Co. C., has been shot dead by a policeman during a routine search at Crossard, Ballyhaunis. Prior to the fatal shooting the District Inspector went into a house to search it with a party of men. Two policemen were ordered to remain on the road outside. While the search was in progress one of the policemen saw two civilians coming along the road towards him, each pushing a bicycle. There were two members of the Argyles and Sutherland Highlanders with the policemen. When the policemen saw the civilians approaching him he took his bicycle and called on one of the Highlanders to come with him. They then mounted their bicycles and went to meet the civilians. The civilians were walking together and appeared to be conversing. As they approached one of the civilians was about ten yards in front of the other. The policeman passed the first man and told the second man to halt. The man, Sean Corcoran, drew a pistol from his pocket and fired at the policeman. The policeman returned fire with his revolver and Corcoran fell fatally injured. Heavy fire was then opened on the police and military. They took cover. The firing lasted about ten minutes and the attackers ran away. Corcoran's fellow traveller is said to be seriously wounded. He is Michael Mullins son of a local teacher. The "Freeman's Journal" say "little hope is entertained" for his recovery, but local sources say he is not that seriously wounded. Kiltimagh is shocked at the killing. Corcoran was well known as Manager of Mr. Dominic Murtagh's establishment, and was noted for his kind, gentle and unassuming manner.

January 22. NO ARRESTS IN KILTIMAGH RAID; Mass was interrupted today when Fr. O'Hara gravely announced to the congregation that British soldiers were surrounding the church. He asked all to remain calm, assuring them that all would be well. Members of both Sinn Fein and the volunteers were attending mass, and it was hoped to capture these. As the congregation left the church the soldiers trained their machine-gun on it. Constable Dowd stood by the door to point out known activists to the military. As Fr. O'Hara passed Constable O'Dowd he said in a low voice, "if you ever had a blind eye, have it now". Constable Dowd failed to spot any activists!

POSTSCRIPT; Before the young men had left the church the girls had given their hats and coats to them, and the crowd pressing around, the change was not discovered. Among those wanted in the congregation were the McHugh brothers, Michael and Bill.



A British Armoured Car in Main St., Kiltimagh.

March 22. ;Kiltimagh is the latest town in Ireland to be terrorised by the Black and Tans for what really seems a very minor offence. It seems some officers of the Black and Tans came by train to Kiltimagh on a visit to Mr. Ormsby of Ballinamore House a few days ago. While waiting the arrival of Mr. Ormsby's carriage at the station it seems they were heckled by a few local youths who shouted a few slogans. The following description by Miss L. Mac Manus shows the ruthlessness of the reprisal; It was in March the 22nd that British soldiers came again into Cuiltemach. I chanced to be in town that day and saw their lorries drawn up near the turn to the station; some of the men had got out; some were still in the lorries; none of them moved; they seemed waiting. There was hardly anyone in the street except these men. They seemed strangely quiet. I talked to my Gaelic League friend. We looked up the street; we looked at the armed figures. I felt-perhaps he did - that there was something ominous in their stillness. Two of their officers had gone to the railway station; I had seen them there; the pause might be broken by their return; perhaps they would leave the town. I bade my friend goodbye and drove away. When some distance from the town I saw people running up a hill and look in its direction.

The pause had ended. With fixed bayonets the soldiers had driven men at the doors, or within the shops, owners of the shops, assistants, a teacher just returned from his school, a man putting shop goods into his cart, and others to thirty or more in number, units gathered up from where they stood or worked, and drove them down to the Hibernian Bank, and lined them up against the railings. They were then ordered to advance on the Main Street, held up there, and driven to the market square. They were called "bloody swine," and ordered to kneel down, kicked and cursed and rolled in the mud. They were ordered to rub their faces in the mud for ten minutes. An officer gave the commands. One of the officers, it was said, was Lord Methuen's nephew. A curate, young father Edward O'Hara, buying in a shop, was ordered insolently to come out. He refused. A soldier entered, placed the point of his bayonet against Father Edward's back, and drove him out and up the street some yards. A horrified messenger fled by the back way to the Presbytery. Father Denis O'Hara was at dinner with the old canon of the next parish. "Stay where you are, they will kill you," the timid old man said. But the braver man answered, "I must go to my flock," and went out. He approached the officers; then specially the one in command. He begged them-he begged him- to stop the outrage. They turned from him without an answer. Another order.

The men were told to rise, and were driven from the town and down to Swinford road to the river Geisthan, where they were compelled to join hands and jump over a sod fence into a marsh, and from that forced to the bank of the river, and there kicked in the back and beaten and driven into the water and compelled to lie down for nearly fifteen minutes. After that they were dragged out and ordered to run, when shots were fired after them. The soldiers were the Scottish Fusiliers, with men from other regiments.

FR. O'HARA COMPLAINS TO MILITARY ; Their headquarters was at Claremorris. Next day Father Denis O'Hara saw the O.e. He was incredulous. His men do such a thing! It was impossible. But the story was too clear, the

priest's words too certain. Slowly and reluctantly the e.O. allowed himself to be partly convinced; he would make enquiries; the men should be punished if the report were true, the officers reprimanded. It was all excellent acting: the mess may have laughed over the whole thing that evening.

REPRISAL FOR COMPLAINT ; Next day, in the afternoon. two soldiers of the Scottish Fusiliers were seen in Cuiltmach. They walked up and down the streets once or twice Then they stopped and asked a man where Father O'Hara lived. The house was pointed out to them. Two nights later, at midnight, a lorry with soldiers came into town. Across the way, in the convent, a nun heard them shouting and then the lorry stop. The bellowing Black-and-Tans passing through the town at night was a frequent occurrence. She heard a rifle fired; but that was not unusual, as they often fired up a street. She did not rise.

The presbytery is opposite the convent. The noise of the lorry and the voices awoke Father O'Hara. He heard it stop; then the tramp of feet in the drive coming to his door, trained feet, military men. He got up and looked out. A body of soldiers was approaching; he saw their uniform. They drew up by the door and under the window. "Come out you bloody old priest, and we will put a bullet through you!" they roared. He remembered the fate of Father Griffin in County Galway and the parish priest in the south, and hurried downstairs, and went out by the back door and hid in the hay in the stable. There he stayed till a bullet was fired through the hall door and the soldiers went back to the lorry. A report was sent to Claremorris. The O.e. sent two officers to enquire. They brought a guard; the guard was to guard the presbytery. There must have been secret laughter among the men.

It was March the 26th. I had walked to Cuiltmach and heard news of the outrage from a horrified woman as I entered the town At the Catholic church I found the two curates and a little group of people gathered in the path. The senior curate gave me the impression of a man who had lost hope. "If there was anyone we could appeal to,"he said. "But there is no one." And he added, "I should have advised the men to kneel down when they were ordered by the soldiers to save their lives. But I, as a priest, would not have done so." The other curate, who had had the bayonet at his back, seemed more resolute. I said I would write an account of what had happened and get it sent through Dublin to a very important person with whom a member of my family had been connected by marriage, and who in the House of Lords had spoken about the outrages committed and being committed in Ireland by the Crown Forces, stories of which had leaked through. The first curate thought it would be of little use; but I thought that in any way it would be adding fact to fact, and therefore a thing to be done. He told me that two officers of the Scottish Fusiliers were then with Father O'Hara, holding an inquiry -a farce, we all knew. Would I go and see him? I went to the door to inquire, for I knew he must have received a shock. The housekeeper asked me to come in, as Father O'Hara, she said, wished to see me. I waited in the dining-room, and he presently came in looking very shaken. After a few moments he asked me to come into the study, where the two officers were. I strongly objected to meet them and refused. But he kept on pressing me to return with him, and was so insistent, taking my arm to lead me to the room, that finally and reluctantly I went. The two men were standing side by side on the hearth- rug, their backs to the fire. One was a tall young man with a not unpleasant face. The other, cJearly not a gentleman. was short and rather burly, with a sinister expressional oblique and crafty glance. I judged him to have come from some low rank in life to whom the chances of war had given a commission. That they knew the enquiry was camouflage and the protection mere staging one could not doubt. Whatever questions they had asked had been answered before I came in. There was no one else in the room. I was introduced as a friend, and, standing, listened to Father O'Hara's kildly comments. I think he may have wanted to show these men that he had friends of another creed than his own. I was cJearly a digression, not a witness. He kept talking, telling stories of the Land League days, once or twice humorous ones, at which the tall officer laughed pleasantly while his comrade kept unmoved, and connected the past with the present, and talked and talked, then, suddenly, all in a moment, he stopped . Standing very erect, he raised his fine head, and in a tone of great dignity said,"They used to be gentlemen, the officers in the British army!" . After a pause of some moments he talked again quietly; then again he stopped, and with the same air of dignity, the same cJear voice, raised, each word emphasised, "It was uniformed men who fired into myhouse!" . Sources: L.MacManus, "WHITE LIGHT AND FLAME.& J.O'REGAN "ARTICLES WORLD WIDE AND LOCAL.

April; BISHOP CONDEMNS ATTACK ON FR. O'HARA'S HOUSE ; The following statement has been issued by the Bishop and priests of Achonry Diocese:- "At a confere~ce of the Dean, Archdeacon and Priests of the Mayo Deanery of Achonry Diocese held in Swinford on March 29th, at which his Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Morrisroe, Bishop of the Diocese, presided, the assembled priests unanimously decided to make a public and emphatic protest against the insults and threats of death to which a brother priest, Very Rev. Denis O'Hara, P.P., Kiltimagh, has been recently subjected. "There is no need to tell the Irish people who Father Denis O'Hara is; and the invaluable service which he has rendered to the Congested Districts Board, of which he has been a member from its conception up to the present time, must have made his character well and favourably known to the Chief Secretary, who is Chairman of the Board. People of all shades of political opinion in East Mayo respect and revere Father O'Hara; and while he is now, as always, a most outspoken Parliamentarian, the leaders of Sinn Fein have always borne willing testimony to his sincerity, and are amongst his greatest admirers and closest personal friends.

A CURATE'S ORDEAL ; "East Mayo during these troubled times has been singularly free from outrages, but on March 22nd a body of military entered Kiltimagh during the daytime, and without a semblance of provocation placed one of Father O'Hara's curates under arrest, and marched him for some distance through streets at the point of bayonet. They afterwards subjected a number of young men to exasperating and barbarous treatment. "Father O'Hara, actuated by a sense of duty as P.P of Kiltimagh, realising the great menace to the peace of the district which such unjustable and humiliating indignities aroused, reported the outrage next day to the Commanding Officer at Claremorris, and two day afterwards - on Good Friday night, at 2 O' clock - his house was attacked, four shots fired in the building and he

himself warned that he had only got ten minutes 'until his old heart would be silenced for ever".

"The masked attackers described themselves as members of the I.R.A. but, though those responsible for the government of Ireland may try to defend that statement the Bishop and priests of the Deanery, who surely know the feelings of the people better than anybody who refrained from any public utterance until they investigate the matter and were satisfied as to the facts from the circumstantial evidence, repudiate that allegation as a calumny, and declare that they are convinced beyond any shadow of reasonable doubt, that the perpetrators of the crime were servants of the Crown.

May 1921; FOXFORD MILITARY BARRACKS ATTACKED; The military garrison at Foxford came under rapid fire {shotgun, rifle and revolver} from the I.R.A. who had taken up positions from outside the town. The garrison, believing an assault was being made by a large force, sent a courier for assistance, and some hours afterwards lorry loads of military rushed to the scene, being held up for some time at Carrowgowan because of the trenches cut there. **POSTSCRIPT;** We now know that the attack on Foxford was carried out as a diversionary tactic to help the west Mayo L.R.A. "In May, 1921, after the Carrow Kennedy ambush, the column responsible were being surrounded by a large military party in the Skirdagh Mountain area {Newport}. An S.O.S. reached Kiltimagh, and The Ruane brothers, Jimmy and Tom, contacted Eamon Corbett in Bohola, and with a few others, not more than half-a-dozen, including a John Byrne dug a trench on Carrowgowan, Bohola, main road from Castlebar to Swinford. From there the little party crossed the hills to Foxford in the dead of the night, took up a position outside the town and commenced a rapid fire on the military barracks there thus the pressure in the West Mayo unit was removed".

18th. June; AUXILIARIES' BARRACKS; Last week a party of Auxiliaries motored into Kiltimagh and commandeered the premises of Mrs. Sabina Wolfe, confectioner and fishmonger, Main Street. The premises was originally owned by the R.L.E., and has only recently been purchased by Mrs. Wolfe. The eviction was completed within ten minutes. Mrs. Wolfe and all her goods and chattels were moved to the Continental Hotel which happens to be vacant at present.

BICYCLE ORDER Great inconvenience has been caused by the local police who issued an order prohibiting the use of bicycles. Teachers especially, and employees of the Congested Districts Board, are the greatest sufferers, Already a meeting has been held, and a resolution was passed urging the Chief Secretary and Lord Fitzalan to withdraw it.

October; AUXILIARIES SUDDEN DEPARTURE; There was great excitement in town today when it was noted that the auxiliaries were preparing for a hurried exit. Mrs. Wolfe immediately resumed occupation of her premises.

5 November; CO-OPERATIVE STORE STOPS PROFITEERING; Many people in this parish are delighted to see the opening of the Co-operative store as it gives them a choice they did not previously have. Some of the town's traders have had the "get rich attitude for some time, irrespective of the hardship their prices were causing. For example, a 4lb. loaf costs 10d in most of Ireland, but here it cost 4d. Traders from neighbouring towns came and set up butcher stalls, and this regularised the price of meat. Not content with their enormous war profits these shops seek to drain the last farthing from the poor peasants who are penniless in these bad times of unemployment and low prices.

April; COURT NOTES;. At the Swinford Quarter Sessions recently A. Cunningham sued M. O'Brien, Kiltimagh, for the sum of £25 for breach of warranty in the sale of a mule. The plaintiff gave evidence as to the purchase of the mule and received with him an engagement that he would plough and harrow and was in every respect a satisfactory worker. But, when he tested him at home he broke the cart and would not work. He tried to coax him with oats but he kicked, lashed and tried to bite him. Mr. Cunningham's solicitor raised a laugh when he said that the mule appeared very quiet at the fair, but must have been drugged. His Honour gave a decree of £25 with 10 shillings expenses.

APRIL;. FUNERAL OF SEAN CORCORAN;

It was on the first of April that Sean Corcoran was shot. His death stirred all Mayo. He was loved, he had gifts, he was brave and wise and generous. For a long time the Crown forces had tried to capture him. His father's house had been raided again and again. He had cycled to another town, some distance away, on a visit of inspection, and, his work done, set out with a friend on his return There was always a chance of meeting some of the Crown Forces on the principal road, so they turned into a byway and had gone but a few yards when they came face to face with a Crown patrol. There was an instant exchange of shots. and he fell, killed at once, his own aim having missed. The body was searched and left. Friends carried it to a cottage, and later it was brought to Cuiltemach, and laid in the mortuary chapel at the foot of a figure of the dead christ in His Mother's arms, the coffin draped in the Republican flag. Many mourners came to pray for his soul. Masses of flowers banked the coffin and covered the floor. The mourners knelt outside the locked iron gates of the mortuary, for lorries with British soldiers passed up and down the streets, and no one knew whether they would force an entrance. Houses were being searched; people feared some insult to the dead. But the coffin was left alone under its wide pall of green and white and gold, amid the crosses and wreaths. Next day High Mass was held. Laid on trestles, banked with flowers, a guard of honour from Sean's own battalion about it, the coffin faced the sanctuary. The requiem chanted, the prayers said, the priests left the chancel, and moving round the coffin with waving censers, blessed the body. As the pale smoke and perfume floated through the church we heard the lorries again. We heard them stop. Would the British soldiers come in and search the crowd? Then we heard them go on. We heard them go down the hill and stop. There they waited within a side-road leading to the mountain of the Cairn. On the second flight of steps from the church door a policeman stood, waiting too. Then down the aisle to the

porch, to the door, the men of the East Mayo Battalion carried their comrade's body. A great crowd of mourners filled the street; from the steps the lorries could be seen. The armed policeman moved as the coffin passed, stretched out an arm, and tore the tricolour from it. The bearers went on. Outside the gate the crowd shifted. Military formation at funerals had been long forbidden by the British Commander-in-Chief in Ireland. There was a brief halt as the bearers reached the street. A voice called quietly yet clearly "Formation!" and again "Formation!" . A nervous old man nearby said anxiously: " That's enough, enough!" But already formation was going on. Behind and before the coffin men were faUing in in fours. A few minutes later the procession began to move down the hill, the crowd keeping side by side with the 1. R. A. and seeming to mingle with them. They were a screen, and the screen baffled the watchers. I saw an officer standing up in the nearest lorry, trying to single out that formation which the crowd was shielding. His beaked nose curved to merciless lips; his eyes fuU of stern purpose; his head was erect; his face dark red. His look, his attitude, his figure seemed a picture to me, set there for a minute above the stone waU, backgrounded by the green field and the resting clouds. Then I had passed and the picture was gone. The British soldiers saluted as the coffin was carried by -a salute to Death. They followed when the procession, leaving the level ground, began to ascend the second hill, and drawing up at the gates of the graveyard, scanned all who went in. They were there to prevent the last salute, the discharge of a rifle or revolver over the grave. And the battalion and the crowd knew their purpose, and Sean's comrades meant to fire that salute. The prayers said, the coffin was left for a time resting on the brink of the grave, the crowd thick about it, hidden thus from those on the road. An interval gained, it was lowered, holy water shaken the chief mourners and many friends looked in, then the grave began to be slowly filled. Young men who faced death for themselves with laughter, mingled with the crowd. Then at last, when the grave was filled and the wreaths and crosses placed upon it and around it, one of Sean's sisters broke off a flower, or a leaf, and gave it to a friend here and there, doing it slowly, pausing to choose among the many blossoms. Father O'Hara went out to the lorries. He spoke to the officer in command. He thanked him for saluting the dead. He said such things pleased his people. These words may have satisfied the officer that no rifle would be fired, for shortly afterwards the lorries divided, those going to Swinford turning, those to Claremorris proceeding, and soon the road was clear. The mourners drew back; a young man stepped forward and twice fired over the grave. The nervous old man feared. "That'll do, that'll do! I heard him exclaim. Many people thought that Father O' Hara should not have thanked the officer. A fortnight later a party of the Crown Forces came one evening and scattered and broke up the wreaths that lay on the grave.

Source "WHITE LIGHT

AND FLAME". by Miss L. Mac Manus,,

18 February;. MR. MURPHY WARNED; The military were active in Kiltimagh during the week and carried out an exhaustive search. They forced Mr. Michael Murphy to obliterate his name on his show-board as it was printed in Irish. If he refused they threatened to fire his house.

19 February; GOODS DESTROYED ; A number of men recently entered Kiltimagh railway station and secured the keys of the goods store. They then took Belfast goods consigned to traders and destroyed them by fire.

9 April;. POLITICAL PRISONERS; In a official list prisoners transferred from Galway to Ballykinlar Internment Camp. The names of three Kiltimagh men appear. They are: Andrew Burke, Michael Connolly and Thomas Tobin.

26 April 1922;. DISTINGUISHED PRIEST DEAD VERY REV. D. O'HARA ;

Very Rev. Denis O'Hara, P.P. Kiltimagh, died yesterday. Ordained in 1872 his missionary life was marked by increasing activity for the good of the people, particularly of Achonry diocese. This characteristic led to his appointment as a Commissioner of the Congested Districts Board in 1896. He took an active part in the land agitation, and in the work of availing of the amelioration measures which resulted there from, more especially for the relief of the small landholders in the congested districts of Connaught. These general services in no way restricted his efforts on behalf of the people more directly under his charge. About 20 years ago he began the task, which he successfully completed, of reconstructing the town of Kiltimagh, then largely a ruined hamlet of thatched hovels. He founded the spacious convent with boarding and day schools, which he placed in charge of the Sisters of St. Louis, from Monaghan, and which are now amongst the leading girls' schools in Ireland. Since then the town has been rebuilt, with perfect sanitation and watersupply, and an electric lighting system, and every part of the parish the same progress resulted from his efforts. He was a brother of Rt. Rev. Mons. Roger O'Hara, Archdeacon of Achonry, and P.P. of Kilmovee, and of the late Rt. Rev. Monsignor John O'Hara..

AUGUST;. IRREGULARS OVERWHELMED AT BALLINAMORE. An attack by irregulars on Free State Troops at Ballinamore led to their complete defeat, the capture of twenty-six men, including some important leaders, and the seizure of 26 rifles, 14 revolvers, 32 hand grenades, charts and maps. The Free State Troops left Ballina around 2.00 a.m. accompanied by an armoured car called the "Big Fellow". The commanding officer was General Lawlor. They proceeded to Kiltimagh where several houses were searched. Returning by a circuitous route General Lawlor with Commandant Coyle proceeded ahead of the main body of troops in their motor car. As they approached Ballinamore, they saw an obstruction on the road. The car was immediately stopped, but not before the sentry observed it. Within a few seconds the roadside was ablaze with the flashes of rifles. The car was riddled with bullets. as Comdt. Coyle jumped from the car he was hit in the arm, neck and cheek. Shortly afterwards the "Big Fellow" arrived on the scene, followed by the Crossley tender (lorry) and a number of motor cars with troops. The armoured car went into immediate action and created consternation with the deadly stream of lead it poured into the positions of the irregulars. The terrible rain of lead soon had its effect. The irregular fire perceptibly weakened and after a time died down to random and desultory shooting. The regular troops advanced across the fields and the irregulars surrendered in small parties of threes and fours. Those captured include: Comdt D Sheehy, Comdt P. Deignan, Section Comdt. Dunleavy, Brigadier Quartermaster Henry McNicholas, Comdt. James Henry, Volunteers T Jordan, T

Browne, M Hunt, M Duddy, P Convey, M Groarke, E Walsh, T McNeela, Denis Killackey, Beehan, P Moran, P Duddy, M Brennan, J Duddy and J McNicholas.

June 1922; VICE BRIGADE COMDT. T. RUANE KILLED BY REPUBLICANS ; The tragic death of Comdt. Tomas Ruane must occasion in the heart of every genuine Gael feelings akin to despair as to the future of our distracted country. The death of one whose patriotism was of the purest and most unselfish type must prove a humiliation of the national pride. The exact details of Comdt. Ruane's Death are not clear at present. It is said he was working in the family shop, clearing up after the Fair Day. A group of republicans entered - many of whom he recognised. A scuffle broke out and he was shot in the back. Twenty-eight year old Ruane was unarmed and outnumbered twenty to one. Tomas Ruane was a nationalist since boyhood. He did not court the security of the internment camp by waiting for his arrest. He faced danger and death on numerous occasions, some of these being reported on this paper. His giant intellect was equal to the tackling of any problem, and once undertaken he was never known to turn back. His indomitable spirit was consistent to the last. In his work he did no court the limelight of publicity. He was a silent, activated only by the unselfish patriotic desire to give his best to Ireland.

He knew his strength and the strength of the nation. He saw that strength measured with England's might and realized when the Treaty came that the only sure way of reaching the ultimate aim was to accept it. Once the vote in Dail Eireann (7 January 1922) accepted the Treaty (64 in favour, 57 against), and the General Election -which was really a referendum on the Treaty this June - showed the will of the people, Ruane accepted the Democratic Decision. He took his stand with the people when a brutal effort was initiated to stifle their voice. How so good, noble and generous a character could meet such a death is difficult to understand. Perhaps an all-seeing God wills such sacrifices that this island of sorrows might triumph over internal trouble. May God grant eternal rest to this gallant man, and may the Queen of Martyrs console and comfort his sorrowing parents.

Miss Mac Manus Account of the Killing. The following was written by Miss Lottie Mac Manus on the death of Tomas Ruane, and a young Bohola-man, Moran: **June the 28th,1922.-** Terrible news in the papers. Collins, at the command of Winston Churchill, has ordered the Beggar's Bush Barrack's men to attack the LR.A. in the Four Courts. It is a very dark moment in Irish history when the subtlety of the English Cabinet and Griffith's and Collin's betrayal divide our men who had fought together for independence. But still God will deliver Ireland.

The Civil War had broken out. It had come suddenly, when men had laid their fear aside, a horror of darkness while they were peddling over small gains. Its first results in our neighbourhood was the violent deaths of two young men. In obedience to an order a commandant of the LR.A. went with a party of men to Cuiltemach to arrest four or five persons who had joined the new army the Provisional Government had created. One of these was Tomas Ruadhain. The commandant had ordered his men not to fire unless fired on. In a struggle between Ruadhain and a young man of the I.R.A. named Moran, another man of the I.R.A., acting without orders, fired and hit Ruadhain, giving him a wound of which he died some days later. Moran was mortally wounded and, reeling across the street, fell, and died in a few minutes.

February 1922; COMPENSATION SOUGHT FOR BRUTALITIES; At Swinford Quarter Session earlier this month claims were made by fourteen Kiltimagh men for the brutal treatment inflicted on them by crown forces on March 23, 1921. On that date British forces struck terror in the people of Kiltimagh. They rounded up townsmen, marched them to the square and made them lie on the ground and kiss it. They then drove these men to the river and made them jump in. As men gasped for air they were whipped or butted with rifles. This brutality has seriously injured the health of many of these men. Claims were made by the following men: Edward Jordan, an ex-serviceman, claimed compensation for ill use by the military. As he tried to get up when ordered to do so in the square he had difficulty so doing. The military whipped him. Thomas Murphy was thrown into the river and beaten with the butt of a gun. Patrick Maloney, an ex-navy man, was thrown into the river. When arrested he protested that he had served right through the war. The military replied that if he marched with Sin Feiners he deserved what he got. Joseph Hegarty was too ill to attend court. Francis P. Quinn, N.T., contracted double pneumonia and has since suffered bronchitis. He told how the military ordered them to run up a hill when they got out of the water. As they ran bullets were fired over their heads. James Carroll N.T., John and William McDonagh, J. Begley (mechanic) and Patrick Walsh, made similar claims. Thomas Costello (19) said he was lashed with a whip when he raised his head for breath. Giving evidence on his behalf Dr. Madden said that Costello's health would be permanently damaged. John Ford, a railway porter, said that he was beaten by the military. They approached him and asked him the names of some men who were waiting for the 11.40am train to Claremorris. He could not tell them .. Thomas Horan, also a porter, received the same treatment. Michael Mullaney, a boots in the Railway Hotel, was at the station to collect goods belonging to the hotel. He, too, was questioned about the passengers, and when he was unable to answer he was whipped and thrown into the river. Dr. Madden said Mr. Mullaney would be invalided for life.

30TH APRIL; FRACAS OVER POSTER; Lively scenes were witnessed at Kiltimagh arising out of the exhibition of a Free State poster. The poster was put up on a pillar outside the church, and while two men were reading it a member of the forces attached to the Four Courts came up and others gathered round. An argument soon arose. It is alleged that revolvers were drawn and also that one of the men was struck by a member of the Beggar Bush force. A free engagement followed. Mr T Ruane jumped between the opposing parties to restore order and prevent, if possible, the spilling of blood. He sustained a bullet wound in the index finger. There were no other casualties. There was an

unpleasant sequel to this incident. On Monday, 1st May, Mr Ruane's house was raided. The visitors asked for Captain T Ruane, and he spoke to the leader of the visitors by name. He produced the rifle he had captured in the Ballyvary Barrack, and invited the attackers to carry out their **plan to arrest him. The men retired but intimated they would call again.**

SEPTEMBER 1992; LOOTING BY IRREGULARS; A band of Irregulars swooped down on Kiltimagh recently and took away goods and provisions from two houses valued at several hundred pounds. There is no garrison as yet in the town and the residents are subject to the greatest terror from time to time.



FREE STATE OFFICERS ; Lt. Jack Benson, Capt. Jim Ruane and Sergo John Byrne.

16 July 1922;NO 'BULL' STORY; The following story is recounted by Calton Younger in his book. "Ireland's Civil War" on an episode in Co. Clare concerning Major General MacManus. That same day MacManus, who had about twenty men and an officer, took steps to disperse a small band of Republicans who had fortified a house on the other side of the bridge at Killaloe and commanded the crossing. His strategy was carefully worked out - but the story is one that MacManus enjoys telling against himself: "I sent a letter to them demanding that they should surrender. I gave it to my officer and told him to send one of the men over with it. I said, 'Don't attack until you give me time to get across the river'. I got into a boat with my batman, who was a fellow sportsman, and we rowed across the river and got into a field, moving behind the bridge so that when these people retreated, about 20 of them, we could catch them and shoot them up. Unfortunately it didn't go as we hoped. It was a large field and I suddenly saw my batman turn round and take to his heels and run like hell. I knew he was a man of considerable courage and I couldn't understand what was happening, until suddenly I heard loud snorts and there was a fierce bull, leaving him and coming for me. I hadn't moved so fast for a long time as I got out of that field. We were thoroughly defeated by the bull. That delayed us a bit but we went on. Unfortunately, my officer hadn't waited for me to cross before he attacked. He went for them straight away and by the time that I got around they were 400 or 500 yards away running for the hills".

30th September 1922; ARRESTED; A young bank clerk named Smith has been arrested by Government troops. He is suspected of having connections with the Irregulars.

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING ; May Commandant-General Dermott MacManus has been promoted to Director of Training. He replaces Major-General Emmet Dalton. Source ; Younger, Calton. Ireland's Civil War.

August; MACMANUS IN COMMAND;

Major-General D MacManus is the overall commander of the attack on Kenmare by the ProTreaty forces.

22ND AUGUST; KILTIMAGH MOURNS COLLINS; All business houses closed spontaneously on receipt of the news of General Michael Collins' death. The townspeople assembled immediately and passed a resolution of sympathy with relatives and friends of the dead General. The people pledged themselves to redouble their effort to further the cause for which General Collins died.

18TH JANUARY; AMBUSH AT KINAFFE KILLS COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER ; A shocking tragedy occurred on the highway between Swinford and Kiltimagh on Wednesday afternoon, when two well known commercial travellers, on their return journey from the former town to Claremorris, ran into an ambushing party of between twenty and thirty men and were fired on from the hills on one side of the road, one of the men being killed outright and the other seriously wounded in the shoulder. The victims were Mr Christopher Farrell, Mountjoy Square, Dublin, representative of Sir John Power and Sons, whiskey distillers (killed), and Mr Edward Harris, an aged man, representative of Jonathan Hogg (seriously wounded). The driver of the car, Michael Byrne, had a miraculous escape. The scene of the attack was at Kanaffe. The stones were taken off the parapet of the bridge and built across the road, but there was a passage for the car to get through. The car safely negotiated the obstruction, and had not gone far

when fire was opened. At the first explosion Mr Farrell, who occupied the back seat alone, moaned and lay back quite dead, having been shot in the upper portion of the chest, under the point of his collar. The second shot hit Mr Harris in the shoulder, the bullet remaining lodged. A hail of fire followed, and the driver, who sat beside Mr Harris, on the exposed side, pulled up his car and took cover under the stone wall. With one hand Mr Harris tried to raise Mr Farrell's body in the car, and addressed him, but he never stirred nor spoke. When the fire ceased the driver, who estimated the number of shots at 60, left his cover and advanced towards the attacking party. They had come down from the hills, and all wore trench coats, plain caps, and carried rifles. He told them what had happened, and they asked "Why didn't you halt?" but he replied that there was no cry of "halt" - that he did not hear it. They asked who was in the car, and he replied "two commercial travellers" and when he told them one was killed they would not believe him. They made him back the car to where they were and they looked into it and saw the dead body of Mr Farrell. They expressed no sorrow nor regret. He asked to be allowed to drive on to Kiltimagh for the doctor and priest, but they said they would not allow him to Kiltimagh or Swinford, and directed him to leave the high road and proceed over a bye way on which a car never travelled before, towards Kilkelly and hence to Claremorris. He took the bye road and came out at Knock, where Father Tuffy PP attended the deceased. About 6.45 p.m. the car reached Claremorris, and the news of the tragedy created a painful sensation in the town, where the deceased was so well known.

15 January; DEATH OF CAPTAIN JAMES HIGGINS; The death has taken place of Captain James Higgins, National Army, Kiltimagh, after a period of illness in the Military Hospital, Claremorris. The 25 year old captain was in charge of transport in Swinford. Although a gentle person by nature his determination and grit were of the sternest kind. His worth was tested on many occasions and it was never found wanting. He joined the Volunteers as a teenager. May he rest in peace.



27 January; BENSON INJURED; National troops returning from Kiltimagh to Swinford were ambushed by Republicans,

suffering five casualties. Among the injured was Captain Jack Benson, Kiltimagh.

15TH MARCH; KILLED IN ACTION; We once more regret to report that a Kiltimagh soldier has been killed. Volunteer Harry Spellman, a soldier of the Free State, was killed by Irregulars at Sonnagh (between Swinford and Charlestown) last week. Son of Mr and Mrs Spellman the young soldier was 26 years old. Prior to joining the army he worked in the local Great Southern and Western Depot. He was a popular figure in Kiltimagh and his death has caused universal mourning. At the requiem Mass, where Canon Gallagher was the main celebrant, the military paid tribute to a splendid soldier.

FEBRUARY; KILTIMAGH STATION BURNED DOWN; On Sundry night Kiltimagh railway station was burned down by armed men. The attack on the premises was very sudden and unexpected, and in the course of a brief period the whole place was in flames and perished, including the station master's residence, booking office, and waiting-room, which were under the one roof. Early in the morning the military were on the scene, but there was no trace of the miscreants.

23RD JANUARY; GOVERNMENT TROOPS AMBUSHED AT GLOIR; The ambushing party who had killed Mr Christopher Farrell, the well-known traveller from Dublin, last Wednesday evening on his return journey by motor from Swinford to Kiltimagh, in company with Mr A Horris, another popular commercial traveller who was wounded on the same occasion, shifted their ground after the firing and took up a strong position in the neighbourhood of the Gloir mill, about a mile and a half from Kiltimagh. There they awaited under cover the return to Swinford of the troops who had been attending the burial of a Free State soldier named Captain J Higgins, who died in the Claremorris hospital. The approach of the military cars was, it is stated, signalled to them by a lady waving a handkerchief from a hill top, and they at once got ready for a murderous attack. As the cars were passing at a good speed a fusillade of fire was directed on them, and all got out and from over behind the road fence vigorously replied to the attack. The exchange lasted a considerable time, and eventually the assault was beaten off. The troops sustained four casualties, and claim to have inflicted severe punishment on the enemy, five or six of whom were wounded, one very seriously, a man named Carney from Treenagleern. The worst feature of the ambush was the bombing of a motor car in which four or five young ladies from Swinford were passing by. One explosive was fired into the car and a young lady named Mary Frances Smyth, daughter of Mr Smyth, hardware merchant, Swinford, was shockingly mutilated. Her head was so badly injured that she has lost an eye; her arm and shoulder is shattered, and one of her lungs

YOUNG GIRL SHOCKINGLY MUTILATED ; She was removed to the Claremorris military hospital in a dying condition, and though horribly maimed and ruined for life is making satisfactory progress towards recovery. She was a pretty girl, and an only daughter, and with her parents the greatest sympathy is felt. The injured troops, who were also removed to the Claremorris hospital, are Captain McCann, OC Swinford Garrison, gunshot wound in right ankle.;

Captain Benson, crushed ribs, Volunteer Browne, injury to thigh (severe), leg and ankle - six wounds in all and Volunteer Clarke (dangerously wounded), arm, leg, thigh, foot split open. - five wounds.

The attack on the car in which the young ladies were driving to Swinford is everywhere condemned. At an entertainment in the military quarters, Claremorris, on Thursday night General McKeon TD referred to the attack, and said before he came to the hall he visited the hospital, and was horrified to find there a young girl - an only daughter - ruined and maimed for life - her eye broken, her lung split open, shoulder shattered, and an arm disabled - as a result of a bomb thrown by the would-be defendant of the people into a motor car, from which they knew there was no danger of reply. This outrage was in keeping with the history and record of the enemy, and had scarcely a parallel in the campaign of slaughter which they were waging on the country, except, perhaps in the case of the little boy, Emmet MacGarry, who was almost roasted alive in his father's house. Dean Macken had referred to his chivalry but the days of chivalry, he feared, were over. There was no chivalry in the murder of the little innocents, and there would be no chivalry shown as far as he was concerned. We had saved men from execution, but in future he would lead them to their fate. Michael Byrne, the driver of the car in which Mr Farrell was killed, has only now recovered from the effects of the shock. After he had been travelling over the rugged byway, about half an hour after the attack, he heard a fierce fusillade of fire. That was the ambushing of the troops, and at least 600 shots were fired. The shooting continued till he went out of hearing distance. The condition of the injured men on the Irregulars' side is said to be very serious and in the case of two there is little or no hope. One of them is Carney, from Treenagleera. He was a well known footballer in the county and some years ago jointed the RIC and was stationed at the Rag. Captain Benson is from Kiltimagh. So also is Volunteer Browne

10TH FEBRUARY. THE RECENT AMBUSH - VOLUNTEER BROWNE SUCCUMBS TO HIS WOUNDS;

Volunteer Thomas Browne a trooper in the National army, who was wounded in the recent ambush between Kiltimagh and Swinford, succumbed to his wounds in the military hospital, Claremorris, on Thursday evening. His body was practically riddled with bullets, and at no time was there any great hope of his recovery. The remains were removed for burial to Kiltimagh, of which town he was a native, and on Saturday the interment took place with full military honours. The deceased leaves a widow and orphans to mourn his loss.



Mickeen Howley, Johnny Walsh and Jim McHale.

4TH APRIL. IRA MAN TO BE DEPORTED? . It has just been reported in the American newspaper, "The Cleveland Plain Dealer", that Kiltimagh man Martin Lavan has been placed under police guard at City Hospital and may be deported to Ireland to face charges of treason. Because this is a political charge Lavan (28) may be set free, according to a federal official. The circumstances of Lavan's entrance into America four months ago, after he had received a bayonet jab in the thigh while acting as district commander of republican forces at a battle in Co Mayo, are being investigated, J A Fluckey, the immigration inspector in charge said. Friends of Lavan's admit there may be infringements of American immigration laws, but will vigorously contest the deportation on the grounds that he might be executed. They cited, as evidence, other executions. After staying a month in New York, Lavan was taken to Cleveland where he stayed in the home of the attorney. His wound became so serious he had to be taken to St John's Hospital for an operation. Since his operation he has been visited by Mrs Terrence MacSwiney, the widow of the late Lord Mayor of Cork who died while on hunger strike in Brixton Prison in August 1920.



Nora McTigue, Capt. Brian McTigue, John Mc Donagh, Bridgie Mc Tigue, Andy McTigue and Nellie McTigue.

3RD FEBRUARY. THE HORROR OF THE AMBUSH; Ambushing, particularly after the Swinford Kiltimagh attacks, has instilled such terror into the public that travelling by motor has been altogether abandoned in parts of the County. There has, therefore, been a revival of the hackney industry, and along most of the highways post cars are not met. The toot of the motor has for the nonce given way to the "hey up" and though the journeys are more tedious the sense of security compensates for the additional hardships.

JANUARY 1926. CIVIL WAR DEATH; Death has taken place of Mrs Mary Brennan, Kinaffe. She was the second noncombatant to die as a result of the Glore Ambush in 1922, the other being Christy O'Farrell, Haddington Road, Dublin, a well known commercial traveller who was shot dead in the immediate vicinity prior to the engagement with National Army troops. Mrs Brennan was caught in the crossfire and received wounds from which she never recovered. For some time the grim struggle between the two forces continued between a large party of Irregulars on both sides of the road and a group of fourteen soldiers under Capt. Jimmy Ruane, Commdt. McCann and Lt Benson. Volunteer Browne was shot dead and the Captain and Commandant slightly injured. The three officers attended the funeral.

Kiltimagh Life & Times,

BOOK REVIEW 1927 – 1929, 'WHITE LIGHT AND FLAME'. BY L. MAC MANUS {TALBOT PRESS}1929.

If one were to choose an author to chronicle the events, which have so recently influenced our country, L. Manus would not have seemed a likely candidate. Coming from a land owning Anglo- Irish background with its anglicized view of Irish History would hardly suggest a sympathetic understanding of Gaelic republican Ireland. The early pages of 'White Light and Flame'. describe the dramatic upheaval in Miss MacManus' life when in 1894 in Worthing in Sussex she became a 'Convert' to Irish Nationalism. There follows an interesting though at times highly emotive account of recent Irish History, told through the pen of this daughter of Kiltimagh. Across the pages pass the names of many individuals who have forged our most recent literary and Political past; Douglas Hyde, Lady Gregory, George Russell, John O'Leary, P. Pearse and W.B. Yeats to name but a few. In 1903 she describes her meeting with P. Pearse, then editor of "An Claidheamh Solus," her observations all interesting: "I looked at him with slight interest- then more closely. The face was marked by two qualities, gentleness and firmness. the eyes were kindly and rather grave; the chin resolute; so were the lips." In 1896 she helped to found the Kiltimagh branch of the Gaelic League, while in 1913 along with Sean Corcoran and Thomas Ruadhain she was involved in establishing the local branch of the Irish Volunteers. Local people will find her description of the period 1914-1921 of particular interest, containing as it does many fascinating reference to the Kiltimagh I.R.A. and their part in the Irish struggle. The book ends on a tragic note, both on a personal and national level; in 1920 her close friend Maire de Butleir died while on a visit to Rome while in 1922 the newly established Free state convulses in the tragedy of the Civil war.

"Darkness and fear over the land. All is weird, unnatural. Men's eyes filled with scales; mens hearts hardening. Hatred and malice and lies abroad. Children learning to be spies. Suspicion everywhere. This is the awful Civil War".

JUNE 1940. LOCAL DEFENCE; The second reading of the "Defence Forces Temporary Provisions Bill", introduced by Mr Oscar Traynor, Minister for Defence, has been passed by the Dail. It lays down the necessary regulations "for enlistment for the duration of the emergency, for billeting and the placing of troops on active service". Already a Legal Defence Force and a Local Security Force are in the process of being set up. Kiltimagh, which includes Bohola, will be part of the Swinford District command. This command will also include Ballyhaunis, Charlestown, Kilmovee, Kilkelly and Foxford. To date quite a few Kiltimagh men have volunteered for the regular army and have been sent to Athlone. The LSF (or Local Security Force) is recruiting older men who will perform auxiliary police duties. Among those who applied for enrolment in the LSF is 79 year old Mr Thomas McDonagh, Treenkeel, an old Land Leaguer. He told Sergeant Russell it would not interfere with his normal work.

JUNE. KILTIMAGH AIRMAN'S DEATH; Sergt. P O'Flaherty, RAF. The news of the death of Sergt. P o'Flaherty, RAF, reached his parents in Kiltimagh on Thursday of last week. The deceased airman joined the RAF two years and a half ago, when he was twenty years of age. Since the outbreak of the war he was engaged on many hazardous expeditions, among them being the raid made on the Kiel Canal. After the invasion of Norway his plane was with the first RAF squadrons engaged in that country, where he was wounded in the forehead, but refused to go on sick leave. After the invasion of Holland, his squadron was also in action, when the gunner and navigator of his plane were killed, after it had crashed. Here he had a miraculous escape. He managed to elude capture, and after walking from Monday to the following Thursday he reached the French lines, returning from France with a section of those evacuated from Dunkirk. His promotion to rank of sergeant came from his splendid work in Holland. Considering his many hair-breadth escapes, his end was singularly unfortunate, coming as a result of a crash into a balloon barrage over the each coast, just as he was returning from what his CO described as the carrying out "of an excellent operation" in France. The deceased was possessed of the characteristics that contributed to his rapid advancement in the hazardous occupation he followed, and had the fates been kinder there is no doubt but that he would reach a very high-commissioned rank with very little delay. The RAF authorities had made all arrangements to send the remains home and so carry out the wishes of his parents, but conditions unforeseen arose, and he was interred at Ashlington, Northumberlandshire, on Monday, 10th June, with full military honours. The cortege was led by the commanding officer and adjutant, followed by two squadrons of the RAF. Next came a firing party of 30 men with trumpeter. The coffin on a gun carriage covered by floral tributes followed, among which was a huge wreath from No. 22 squadron, to which he belonged. A guard of honour of 12 sergeants walked on either side of the casket, and these were followed by the deceased airman's father, Mr Torn Flaherty and his sisters, Chris

and Moya. Three aeroplanes hovered over the funeral till it reached the cemetery. There military honours were rendered by firing party, last prayers were recited by chaplain, the last salute was given by OIC and Adj. and the remains were laid to rest beside the Catholic Church, and in the shade of the RAF camp, where the planes he loved so well and in which he served so gallantly will be always near. He was the youngest non-commissioned officer in the coastal command and the King was the first to congratulate him personally on his well-deserved promotion. His death is regretted not alone by his parents and relatives, but by the very many who knew him during his all too short life. Many messages of sympathy have been received. On Wednesday, June 12th in the Parish Church, Kiltimagh, Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for the happy and eternal repose of his soul. The celebrant was the Very Rev. J Canon Gallagher PP with the Rev. P O'Grady, CC and the Rev. D O'Hara CC a deacon and sub-deacon respectively. There was a very large and representative congregation present. The chief mourners are Mr Tom O'Flaherty (father), Mrs Nellie O'Flaherty (mother), the Misses Chris, Maureen and Lena (sisters), and Christy Joseph, TD and Louis Flaherty (brothers).

7 OCTOBER 1944 DISTINGUISHED MAYO WOMAN; Passing of Miss C E MacManus, Killedan, Kiltimagh

Miss Charlotte Elizabeth MacManus, whose death at the age of 91 years took place at Killedan House, Kiltimagh, was one of the most influential writers of historical stories 50 years ago, and a frequent contributor to all national periodicals. During the Parnell time her family was amongst those to leave Ireland, and when for the first time she revisited it in 1897 she threw her lot in with the Irish people, then very much oppressed. For more than two generations her writings have helped the country's cause. In the course of her work for the Language Revival she became acquainted with Dr Douglas Hyde, Tomas Concannon, the Gaelic League organiser, and other workers for the language revival. Before the end of May of that year she was amongst those responsible for the formation of League branches at Castlebar and Foxford, and those meetings were addressed by her. Her first novel, "Silk of the Kine," published after 1894, expressed her sympathetic feelings towards Ireland as it was under the rule of Strafford, and later Cromwell. She was a member of the Irish Literary Club, London, and of the Women's Writers Club, Dublin. She was a personal friend and co-worker of the late Miss Normal Borthwick, Secretary of the Central Council of the Gaelic League, whose uncle, Sir John McDonald, was then Lord Advocate of Scotland; of Dr Douglas Hyde, of Mrs Erskine Childers, of Mrs de Valera, and of the late Lady Gregory and other prominent personages. Her most notable publication included "Nessa." "In the Days of Patrick Sarsfield," and "Lally of The Brigade." Her last published novel, "White Light and Flame," memories of the Irish Literary Revival and the Anglo-Irish war, she dedicated to her friend, Mrs O'Nolan (nee Mary Lambert Butler), who died in Rome some years ago. The deceased lady is survived by her sister, Miss Emma MacManus, Dr MacManus, Captain MacManus (nephew), and Miss Emma MacManus, matron Guy's Hospital, London (niece). Another brother, Dr Leonard Stronge MacManus, died in London in 1911. When the remains were taken to Ballinamore cemetery on Saturday the town of Kiltimagh was in mourning. People of the parish carried the coffin, and the little church was not able to accommodate the vast gathering - the services had to be conducted at the graveside. Rev Dean McQuaide, Foxford, with the Rev Mr Jackson, Castlebar, officiated at the ceremonies. A message from Dr Hyde read: "Heartfelt grief at our loss, which is a loss to Ireland. Deep sympathy to you".

KILTIMAGHMAN SURVIVES "DEATH MARCH"; We have learned that Tony Conneely who has been a Japanese prisoner-of-war since 1942, has survived that terrible ordeal. His survival can only be described as miraculous as he was one of the prisoners who was forced to make the infamous Bataan Death March when between 7,000 and 10,000 men died. When the Japanese captured Malaya and Singapore in 1942 the Dutch East Indies soon collapsed. Then Burma was overrun. For the United States the Military outlook was bleak, and on 6th May, after a desperate defence of the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island, American and Filipino Resistance ended. The men were undernourished and diseased, and morale fell to an all-time low when General MacArthur left for Australia. Just over a month after he left, the 64,000 Filipinos and 12,000 Americans who had surrendered on Bataan, began a fifty-five mile march from Mariveles to San Fernando. Because the Japanese had only expected to take some 25,000 prisoners, their arrangements for transporting and feeding the captives broke down. Between 7,000 and 10,000 men, including 2,330 Americans died of disease, starvation, exhaustion or brutality on what became known as the Bataan Death March. It revealed the contempt the Japanese reserved for the enemy soldiers who had not fallen in battle and foreshadowed the barbarous treatment Allied prisoners would receive at Japanese hands throughout the Pacific War.

4 MARCH. THREE HEROIC NURSE; A large number of wounded British soldiers owe their lives to three Army nurses two of them Catholics-who stayed behind in a sinking hospital ship to help in getting the wounded up from below. The nurses gave up their places in the boats to do this and have since received the O.B.E. for their bravery and

devotion to duty. When the hospital ship Amsterdam was torpedoed by an enemy submarine off the coast of Normandy, Sister Ellen Teresa Hourigan, from Ballingarry, Co. Limerick, instead of taking her place in a water ambulance, continued to help patients, of which she had joint charge, to escape to the promenade deck. She did not leave the ship until it had capsized, when she escaped by scrambling down the almost horizontal starboard side just before the ship sank. Sister Lily McNicholas, from Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo, similarly gave up her place in a water ambulance to help in bringing patients from her wards to the promenade deck. Most of them were stretcher cases but in this "very grave emergency", says the official citation, all except the most helpless had to walk. She left in the same way as Sister Hourigan after the ship had capsized. Sister McNicholas, unable to swim, had much difficulty in the water and fell ill. She was picked up by an American cutter and "with complete disregard of her own comfort at once rendered aid to the patients as they were rescued from the sea. Source: The Calcutta Herald.

September 1945. 71 YEAR OLD MAN IN WAR; When Michael Jordan left Kiltimagh at the age of 18 in 1892 little did he know what lay in store for him. He has now returned 53 years later having travelled the world. He was through the 1914-1918 war and the recent war where he was a member of the Merchant Navy.

July 1945. LAST PARADE OF LSF; Kiltimagh LSF, in common with similar units, was, on the eve of its disbandment, complimented for its excellent service by the Minister for Justice, Mr G Boland, in a letter read by Mr P Reilly, Group Leader. The ceremony took place in the local courthouse. Other officers present were Messrs Michael Murphy, Assistant Group Leader, Dudley Solan, ADJT, and John Martin, QM.

December 1945. QUALIFIED AT GUYS; Miss Evelyn Brennan, Cloondolough, has qualified as a nurse at Guys Hospital, London, after three years training. Nurse Brennan is a past pupil of St Louis Convent.

KILTIMAGHMAN ON FIRST AND LAST BOMBING MISSION OVER JAPAN



The incredible story of Michael Hogarty, who emigrated from Pulroghnane in 1930, is told by his brother ED. It is a story "as strange in itself as the legends of Finn Mac Cool." Hogarty's contribution to the defeat of Japan was his discovery of how to combine the computer from a Norden bombsight to a radar bombsight which, when tested, was installed in the lethal bomber aircraft, the B-29 Bomber. Hogarty has now been awarded the distinguished Flying Cross, The Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Presidential Citation. Michael's education started at Lisduff N.S. when he was ten he and his parents and the remaining members of his family emigrated to New York to find a better way to make a living. Michael was promptly enrolled in one of Brooklyn's Catholic parochial schools. This bright pink faced lad with the brogue became the darling of the Sisters who held him up as an example for all the other boys who hated him for it. It took a lot of baseball and many a fight to get himself accepted by them. Then, later heckled by the Sisters, he really dug into his homework. He was going to show them how. On graduation day he won the top honour, the Medal for General Excellence. For his effort on graduation night he received his medal and then got his face roundly slapped by his teacher, angered because he had his favourite pupil out of it. Despite his slapped face and bruised ego it turned out to be a great boon for him as his record enabled him to get into one of the finest technical schools in N.Y. City, maybe the finest in the country. There he got the basic grounding in technology that was to be the foundation of his life's work. On graduating from that school he was college material but it was

depression time and none of us could afford that money so he had to go to work like the rest of us. He already had the edge on us so he went to work in an aircraft factory. Later he was to find that some of those planes exported then were used against him in the war. His next job was in a machine shop making armaments for the war now going on in Europe. He was so proficient here that his work was used as a yardstick to determine if rejects were due to human error or technological causes. Then came the call from the U.S. Army. We were at war because of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. Despite the U.S. Army's rush to recruit, train, organise and equip millions of men. It is to their eternal credit that in that multitude of problems they were able to spot a special talent and take time to develop it. That talent was Michael Hogarty, the little boy from Kiltimagh. Selected for a very special top secret mission, he was sent to the centre of the United States. His instructors fed him with information from six in the morning until ten at night, often with homework after ten. This almost seven days a week for fifteen months. Each had to pass tests periodically during that time. Anyone failing got washed out of the programme. Now after fifteen months, all tests passed, Michael Hogarty was one of ninety men out of two thousand who survived and graduated from that brand new super secret Radar Bombing Navigational School and assigned to that very elite group which was to make the B 29 Bombers, the best kept secret of the war so secret that the planes and their crews were flown separately on different routes to rendezvous in Calcutta, India. Their mission, "Destroy Japan. Help force them to surrender." By this time their two new bases were completed, a supply base in India and a forward base in northwest China at Chengto. It was the first land based attack and came after General Doolittle did it from aircraft carriers months earlier. The Japanese now knew that their cities were not safe from attack and they were prepared. For that first mission several squadrons were loaded and ready to go in waves over the Yawata steel mills. There was but a single runway for take off then, and the first four planes took off safely, but the fifth blew a tyre and crashed in the middle of the runway. Now no more planes could take off and the four aloft could not get down, loaded as they were with bombs and fuel. So they were ordered to proceed on the mission alone. The third and fourth planes in communication with each other decided to race in there, drop their bombs on target and get out as fast as possible, regardless of formation. The third bomber did just that and got away but the fourth one, with Michael aboard, found the Japanese fighter craft, airborne by now, coming at them like a swarm of bees. They knew they were in for a battle. It raged for what seemed like an eternity but was actually like ten minutes. During that time they had counted thirty eight separate fighter attacks on their ship. Seven of the enemy planes had been shot down and many more had been damaged and plane number four got back without a bullet mark on it. They did, however, place their bombs squarely in the centre of the Yawata steel mills. Ten hours later the rest of the fleet arrived to finish that job and those factories were no more. They knew they had been in fight and so did the Japanese. What the Japanese suicide pilots did not know was that they were flying into guns electronically controlled for the first time that automatically sighted and fired on them before they got into range. They were picked off like flies and learned how helpless they were against those huge craft. As mission after mission proceeded, Japanese industry and war making capacity were steadily being destroyed and many a prayer was sent heavenward for the safety of the crews on those planes. On one occasion his work completed for that trip, Michael got up from his position to go chat with other members of the crew. When he came back, minutes later, he found an anti-aircraft shell had come up right through the seat where he had been sitting only moments before. Now who can say that God was not listening to those prayers? When that ship was hit again and destroyed with all the men aboard, Michael was on another assignment. He had dreamed up a way to combine the computer from a Norden bomb sight to a radar bomb sight and although rejected at first, he did get his commanding officer to allow him to do it. Michael worked on that equipment for months, testing and perfecting it, finally completing the machine work it required in the bowels of one of America's huge aircraft carriers. This was the only place that was equipped with the machine shop capable of doing that work. The final unit, now tested and installed in a B 29 bomber was used with amazing results in the practice runs. His commanding officer was jubilant and wanted to send him home to do further research work, but that was not to be. His expertise was still needed to help finish the defeat of Japan. Their heavy industry and armament factories now destroyed, America was faced with the estimated loss of one million men in an invasion of Japanese islands. So it was decided to burn their cities to force their surrender and save those lives. That burning and the dropping of those two A-bombs did it and finally it was over. Michael's plane landed in Guam amid a hail of anti-aircraft fire sent up in a crazy celebration of that victory. He had made the first mission over Japan and also the last one and could not be sure which he feared most.

NOVEMBER;. KILTIMAGH DOCTOR WINS MILITARY CROSS; Lieutenant Michael Anthony Egan M.B., from Corohore who served as a doctor in the Royal Army Medical Corps, Has been awarded the Military Cross Award for his valour and dedication to duty while serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France. The following extract is taken from the "War Diary" giving the account of the German capture of St. Valery on 10th June 1940 where Dr. Egan saw action:-

Unit 101st L.A.A. & AT Regt. R.A. Commanding Officer Lt.Col.B.D.Cameron Gun positions of 237 Bty. at St. Mards-Beaumay. 239 G.P.s at St. Genevieve and southwards. Guns were facing southwards and westwards. Orders received at 1430 hours to move to Fauville at 1930. Major H.A. Hardy and 2/Lt. M .. R.M. Steele-Mortimer proceeded to Fauville for reconnaissance. both were captured en route]. At 1830 hours information of tank attack developing from West. Enemy reported at Totes and Yerville. At 1845 hours enemy tanks could be seen coming into action. 2/Lt.H.W.E.Cleaver kept his troops in action west of H.Q. at St. Genevieve thereby allowing R.H.Q., 1st Sp.Gp.H.Q. and R.E.s to move out northwards on journey to Fauville. I Sp. Gp. with 239 Bty. leading the column left at 0830 hours en route for Fauville via Bacqueville and Doudeville. Met enemy on this route and after short engagement remainder of Regiment moved in separate parties, some to St. Valery and some in the direction of Fauville. All met German opposition and most got to St. Valery, where only a few got away. The rest were captured with the 51st Division. Casualties at this time were small, about 12-20 killed and 4050 wounded. Casualties inflicted on the enemy were 47 planes shot down for certain and about 60 probables. 7 tanks destroyed for certain, others damaged and the figure 7 represents information at the time but more recent information shows that this is an under-estimate and the

final figure will be much greater. 7 Officers and 303 men reported to Regiment on arrival in England. 22 Officers and 400 men unaccounted for when the regiment re-formed.

The following is a copy of a letter received by Major J.R.c. Charlton from 2/Lt. N.D. Wardrop [P of War] during March 1941:- "Dear Roger, I was so glad to get your letter. It is the first one we have received from anyone in the Regiment and we all feel someone might have written before. Here is what happened to us. I was left with 10 men where you left me and we had orders to hang on until further orders. We dug in and made a strong point. We were heavily attacked at 6 p.m. they got within 20 yds but the Bren and the Lewis kept going. I got some more men and we cleared the little wood in front. We were then heavily shelled and got a direct hit 4 killed and all the rest wounded. Machine gun fire was very bad from the tanks on the opposite side you will remember them. So we decided to shift them. The enemy were then entering the south side of the town. Peter Walker led an attack along the front, but all the men were killed and he was taken prisoner. I got about 50 men into the woods on the slope but could get no further. We had come back and we met Hinch {2/Lt. R. W. Hinchliff. We made a road block on trucks across the front and got a A. T. Gun into action. Poor old Hinch got a direct from a mortar, we got him into a house but it was all up. The house caught alight, and you can guess the rest. I then went back to the strong point with 4 men. We stayed until 9 a.m. and Wed. when the Div. surrendered. We crawled down to the beach and made off to the north. We found a French gun boat aground and decided to make a stand. We got the Lewis going and kept it up till 2 p.m. Wed. We then got a direct hit and the magazine blew up. Only two of us swam ashore. The Doc [Lt. M.A. Egan, RAMCI] was wonderful with the wounded. I don't suppose he will get anything though. All send greetings. Thanks again so much for litter. See you soon. [Signed] C. "

DISTINGUISHED KILTIMAGH MATRON RETIRES; "Matron of all England" is the title her friends give Miss Emily McManus, O.B.E., native of Killeedan, Kiltimagh, who retired at the age of 60, after 19 years as matron of Guy's Hospital, London. Right at the top of her profession for many years, Miss McManus is chairperson of the matron's committee of the 14 medical sectors into which Britain is divided. Guy's, with all its thousands of nurses who have trained there and passed through her hands, has been the great passion of her life. It was a passion which began in childhood for as a small girl she learned to love the great hospital when she played at "Nurses" in its grounds. Her uncle was superintendent. Few of the 700 ex-Guy's nurses who gathered from all parts of Britain recently to bid her farewell knew the secret of her life. She suffered from arthritis of the spine caused by a swimming accident as a child. In later years the pain almost crippled her, but it never marred the sweetness of the smile she gave to nurse or patient. It never impeded her terrific energy through the bombs and fire of the blitz, when she was always the first to be on the spot. "I have seen her almost dropping with pain" a close friend said, "But she would never mention it except when she could not get out of her coat unaided. She had the courage, the administrative and the hatred of red tape of Florence Nightingale. Nor have I known a woman so beloved by nurses.

CAIRO; Miss McManus recalls with amusement a period which she spent as a hospital sister in Cairo before the 1914-18 war. She had to learn Arabic, and this she turned to good account one day when on a long train journey she whiled away the time discussing Irish problems with a Turk. **WORLD WAR ONE** During the 1914-18 war that same devotion to duty nearly cost Miss McManus her life. The Germans had broken through to Noyon, Miss McManus was assisting at an amputation in a tent hospital. She refused to leave until it was finished. Then she ran out under machine-gun fire to escape in a waiting lorry.

CHAMBERLAIN; The patient who lingers in the matron's memory was Neville Chamberlain who was in Guy's in July and August, 1940, and who died the following November at his country home at Odiham (Hants). "He was a man with a broken heart" Miss McManus said "He felt that he had failed in his mission, and he saw a world going to destruction after his efforts to maintain peace had been smashed. His last days were a tragedy for he was a sole in torment." The other patient impressed her with his courage", Outstanding courage; one of the most gallant men I have ever seen. He was Field-Marshal Lord Gort V.C. The bravery he had shown on the battlefield was surpassed in the grim days of illness.

LIKE A CITY "This hospital is like a little independent city," said Miss McManus, "and my job has been a combination of teacher, magistrate and mother to more than 1,000 people. Our normal strength is 600 nurses, 150 maids and 240 cleaners, and they bring all their troubles to me, even their love-affairs. And when people say we won't attract girls into nursing because the life is too hard, tell them that we could double the number of our pupils at Guy's if we had accommodation for them." Retirement does not mean retirement for Miss McManus. After a holiday at her home in Co. Mayo she is off to the West Indies to advise on the teaching of nurses. "There is plenty of work to do. I shall never sit down and put my feet up," she said.

30 June 1951. Death of Cpt. Brian McTigue;

Widespread sympathy was felt for all members of the McTigue family, Kiltimagh, when it became known that Brian McTigue had breathed his last at Our Lady's Hospice, Dublin, on the last day of June, at the comparatively early age of 52 Years. Brian was reared in an age when thrilling events were taking place in the history of our country and the desire to be associated with those brilliant young Irishmen who, with desperate courage dared to stand up to the mightiest Empire in the world, caught his imagination and fired his enthusiasm. At an early age he joined the Irish Volunteers, which later became merged into the Irish Republican Army. He was associated with most of the activities of that body down to the signing of the Treaty. After that fateful period he joined the National Army in which he became captain. His comrades remember him as a courageous spirit, a fearless soldier, heedless of self, ready for any adventure that required pluck, daring and resource. With his brother, Andre, who died some time after his release from Bellykinlar (the concentration camp of those days), he helped to make history, and when the story of those times comes to be written the McTigue brothers will occupy a niche all their own among those who left everything and forgot worldly adventure that their country might be free. His comrades of those days did not forget him for as the

funeral neared the town on its long journey home; it was met by a band of young men wearing white armlets under the leadership of Mr. John Walshe and Mr. Patrick Hyland. The coffin was taken on the hearse and borne on their shoulders to the parish church. Next day Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in presence of a large congregation. The celebrant of the Mass was Rev. E. Gallagher, C. C. assisted by Rev Canon Leonard, PP and by Fr O'Hara, C. C.

The funeral, which was of immense proportions, took place immediately afterwards to the family burial ground at Kilkinure, the coffin, draped with the tricolour; being borne again on the shoulders of his former comrades. He received all the honours of a military funeral, three volleys being fired over the grave after he had been laid to rest, (Vel) Rev Canon Leonard, PP officiated at the graveside. The chief mourners were: Mrs Julia McTigue (widow); Hugh and Margaret (children).

1956. AIRBORNE; Fr Louis Madden is probably the first Kiltimagh man to parachute into Egypt. He is a Chaplain to the Airborne Division of the British Army, so when that division was sent to Suez during the recent trouble he parachuted in like the other men. Fr Madden is a fit man, and played on the Kiltimagh team that won the Mayo title in 1936. On leaving school he went to Maynooth to study for the priesthood. He finished his studies at the Irish College, Rome, and in 1944 he was ordained for the PRIEST Diocese of Achonry. 1944 was the year that Rome was liberated from the Germans. At the time of his ordination there were no vacancies for priests in Achonry, so Fr Madden was given permission by the Bishop to become a Chaplain with the advancing British Army. He joined the Airborne Division and was with the British 2nd Army which crossed the Rhine in March 1945. After the war Fr Madden remained on in the Army, and ministered to his men in Korea during the awful conflict there.



27 March 1966. Death of War of Independence Veteran; Dan Sheehy was born in New York and was only 5 years old when his father died. His mother brought her five children to Kiltimagh, Co Mayo, to bring them up and give them an Irish education. Dan was educated at St. Aidan's Convent School and Newtownbrown National School. He became active with the Irish Volunteers when he was 17 and on one occasion he was sent with a secret message to a man in the town of Balla, Co Mayo. He was questioned by this man and then was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The local police were alerted to his activities and one early morning his house was surrounded and he was taken prisoner and sent to Sligo Jail for a few months. Shortly after his release he threw himself into the fight for Irish freedom and from that time on was a marked man. He was made Commandant of the East Mayo Brigade and directed operations from the mountains adjacent to Kiltimagh. His military planning and leadership were excellent as he led and participated in the ambushes against the Black and Tans and the English soldiers in the East Mayo area. On one occasion he was captured and detained in the Curragh Jail in Co Kildare. He escaped from there and successfully made his way on foot to Williamstown in Co Galway where he stayed with some friends for a while.

Dan was detailed to many dangerous assignments - Crosna, Boyle, Kilbee, Kittyhaugh. But his closest call was a day in 1919 in Gurteen, Co Sligo. The Black and Tans surrounded a farm house, where he was hiding out, while on the run. As is the case, in most Irish farm houses, there was a barn attached. Luckily, there was a secret trap-door from the farmhouse to the barn. Dan escaped through this trapdoor at 5 a.m. barefooted. He was at least 500 yards away before he was seen. He was armed with a German Luger. He returned their fire and kept running. Dan had a Mills Bomb and he pulled the pin to throw it but did not, sticking it back in his left breast pocket. At 10 p.m. that same evening a friend of his caught up with him and pointed out the bomb with no pin in it. Only the pressure of the pocket kept the clip intact, or else that would have been the end of Dan. Shortly after it was known that a young fighter for Irish freedom had gotten a job as a deck hand on a ship going from Ireland to Canada and New York. British forces were alerted to detain a man by the name of Daniel Regan, who had jumped a ship at a Canadian port, at the New York-Canadian border; a man of Regan's description was detained but this man proved that he was an American citizen by the name of Daniel Sheehy. Dan Sheehy made his way to New York City and went into business for himself and was very successful. In 1929 he married Kathleen Coyne, a native of Ballinrobe.