



Title of project:

"It's a Long Way to Tipperary"
- The mystery of the medal -

Name(s) of class / group of students / individual student submitting the project

Fifth and Sixth Class
Scoil Cholmcille
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School roll number (this should be provided if possible)

141945

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“It’s a Long way to Tipperary”

The mystery of the medal

"It's a Long Way to Tipperary"

The mystery of the Medal

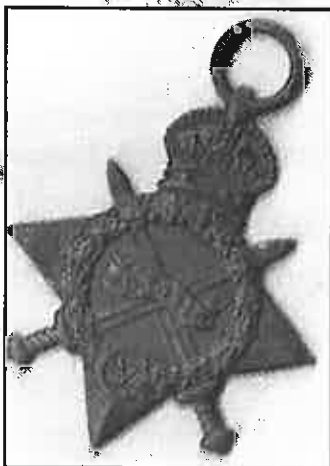
Benny Gallagher's house is on the edge of Glenveagh National Park and just a quarter of a mile from the birthplace of St. Colmcille.



Last year, while Benny was digging in his garden,

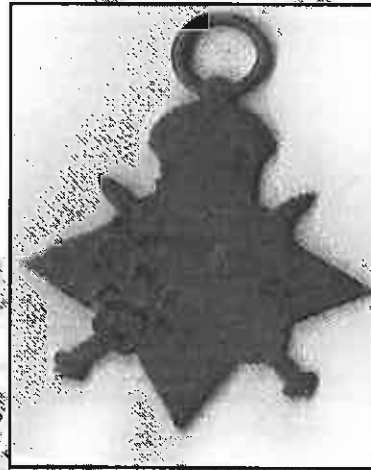


he found a medal which he sent into our school for identification.



We cleaned it using coke and inscribed on the back was,

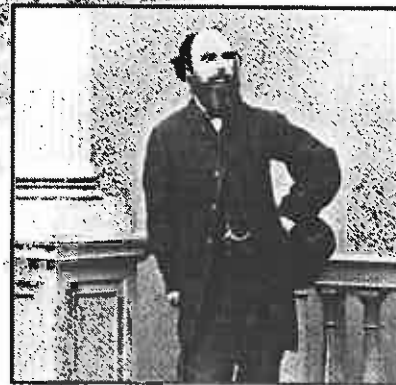
P. Hynes, 408th Leinster Regiment.



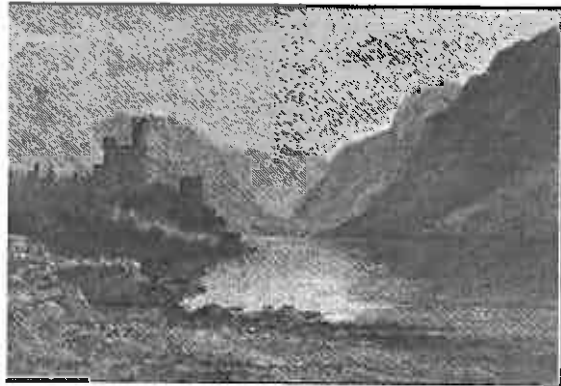
It turned out to be a World War One 1915 Star, given to all soldiers who had fought in that year. The medal belonged to a Philip Hynes from Tipperary.

So how did the medal end up in a garden in Donegal? We started to piece the story together.

Our tale begins just after the Great Famine, when many landlords were desperate to get rid of their estates and there were people like John George Adair only too happy to buy this land cheaply.



Adair wanted a hunting estate and so he bought 20,000 acres under the shadows of Muckish and Errigal Mountains and he built a castle there.



But he soon fell out with his tenants and evicted 244 of them from the Derryveagh part of his estate, close to Benny Gallagher's farm.



Eviction scene

Many of these young adults headed for Australia to begin a new life and never returned.

To ensure that the likes of famines and evictions would never happen again, Irish politicians began fighting for Tenants Rights and for Home Rule.

Adair was to die suddenly in America and Mrs. Adair, who was much kinder than her late husband, took over his estate and introduced red deer.



One guest that she invited for a hunting holiday was Lord Kitchener who was to take charge of the British forces during the Great War.



Kitchener is standing middle background of this hunting group at Glenveagh Castle

Home Rule was about to become law when the First World War erupted. The British Army needed many recruits so Lord Kitchener introduced his famous poster featuring himself announcing...

"Your Country Needs You."



Three who joined were Philip Hynes and his two brothers, Edward and Patrick from outside Nenagh.



Leinster Regiment

Philip and Patrick joined the Leinster Regiment and were training in Cork when the war began. Their regiment was immediately sent to help stop the Germans who were advancing towards the coast so that they could control the ports there. The British managed to win this "Race for the Coast." What resulted was two armies facing each other along a Western Front, stretching from the sea to the Alps. The

Leinster Regiment was ordered to capture the French town of Armentieres from the Germans, where there was a bulge in the British line.



Armentieres, France

They managed to do so in fierce fighting although Philip Hynes lost 685 of his fellow soldiers. The square in Armentieres became known as '11 o'clock Square' because the town clock stuck at this time following German shelling.

Both sides began to dig in and to make trenches with No Man's Land in between.



Digging in

That first winter was cold and miserable for Hynes and his fellow soldiers. Then on Christmas Eve, they saw strange lights and believing that it was a night attack, their snipers shot them down. But it had just been the Germans launching Chinese lanterns. Then they heard *Stille Nacht* being sung and the Germans shouting over asking for a ceasefire. There was to be no more shooting that night. The following morning as the Leinsters were improving their trenches, the Germans cautiously made their way out onto No Man's Land to bury their dead. Hynes and some of his fellow soldiers went to help them and soon they were exchanging small gifts, although there is no mention of any football match!



Truce 'No Man's Land' Christmas 1914

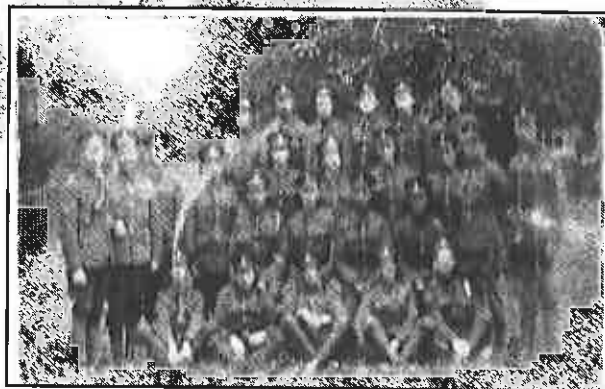
When their generals found out, they were furious and ordered that it never happen again.

After Christmas, the trench warfare resumed. The Leinster Regiment was sent to the area around Ypres where there was fierce fighting. On the 14th of July the Germans tried chlorine or mustard gas for the first time and they forced a breakthrough in the line close to the Leinster Regiment section. They advanced within two miles of Ypres Town. Many soldiers died a horrible death breathing in this gas.



After the gas attack

Poor Edward Hynes was badly affected and had to be sent home.



Edward Hynes is second from the left

He never got over his injuries and was to die in 1921.

In response, the British dug their first tunnel bomb of the war under the German lines at Hooze nearby, packed it with explosives and blew it up. It created a huge crater.



Hooze Crater

It killed hundreds of Germans which allowed the Allies to recapture the area. The Germans retaliated by using flamethrowers which were also being used for the first time in this war. Philip Hynes and his fellow soldiers witnessed this "liquid fire" attack from their raised position.



German flame thrower attack at Hooze

With all these attacks and counter attacks, Hynes' section of the front line was a total mess.



Hooze where Philip Hynes was stationed

This area around the Hooze Crater was littered with bodies from both sides as it was too dangerous to bury them.

Philip Hynes was a trained 'bomber' or grenade thrower whose job it was to run down whatever trench they were attacking and firing his grenades into dugouts as he passed.



Grenade team

On the 15th of August, his part of the trenches came under heavy shelling for a couple of hours which set off a box of their grenades. When this bombardment had finished, Hynes was amongst those that had been killed.



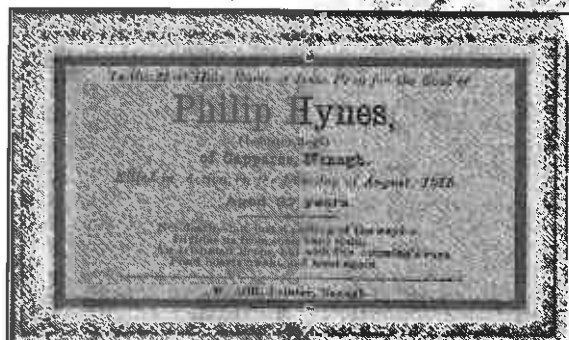
Awaiting burial

He was buried at his regiment's dressing station at Birr Cross which would later become a cemetery.



Philip Hynes' grave at Birr Cross

Within days his mother received a letter beginning, "We regret to inform you....." No wake or funeral was held at his home as there was no corpse. The family however did have a mass card made.



Mass card

To date no family member has had the opportunity of visiting his grave in Belgium.

With the British army busy fighting in Europe, Irish Republicans took the opportunity of staging a rebellion in Dublin in 1916.



GPO Easter 1916

It ended a 'heroic failure' and as they were being led away, many



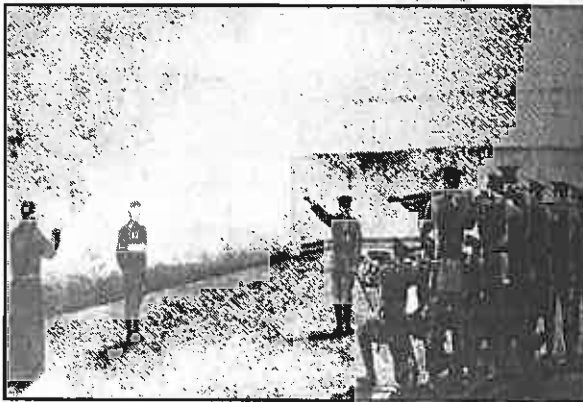
Heading for prison

Dubliners were furious with them because of the destruction caused and also because many husbands were away fighting in the Great War.



Dublin after the Easter Rising

But then fifteen of the leaders were executed and immediately they were to become heroes.



Execution at Kilmainham Jail

To many Irish people, the British were now the enemy and they wanted to break free.

After this Easter Rising, the elderly Mrs. Adair thought it not safe to come back to Glenveagh.



An elderly Mrs. Adair in America

However, she made her castle available to injured Belgian soldiers as a rest home. In gratitude they created a path there which is still known as the 'Belgian Walk'.



The Belgian Walk

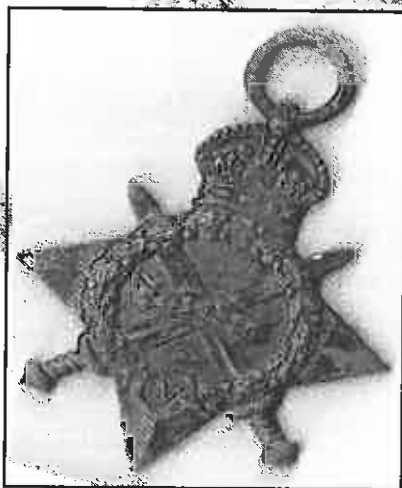
In November 1918, the World War finally ended and the surviving Irish soldiers returned home. But they were coming back to a very different Ireland. Instead of returning as heroes, to many they were now seen as traitors who had been fighting with the 'enemy'. Patrick Hynes had survived the war but he had to come home without his dead brother Phillip. He had

witnessed many terrible things during his five years fighting and his brother Edward was now also desperately ill.



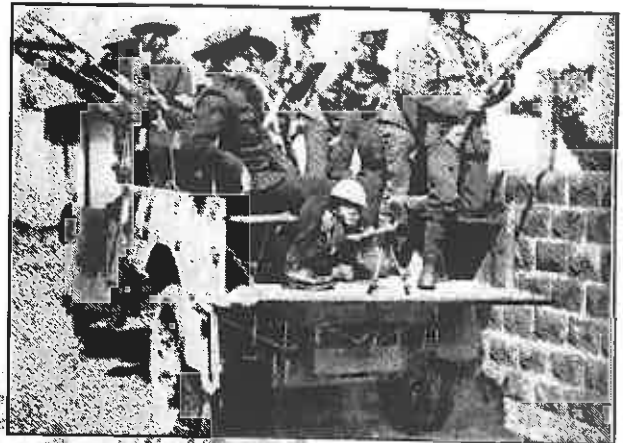
Edward Hynes

But it was better to say nothing and just try getting on with life. The year after the war, his mother was presented with Phillip's 1915 Star medal.



A terrible War for Independence erupted against the British forces which now included the dreaded

'Black and Tans', many of whom had fought in the Great War and who had been drafted in to help.



Lorry full of British forces 1921

The Republicans began using 'hit and run' tactics as they had learned that they could never beat the British in open warfare. One person who joined these Flying Columns was Phillip Hynes Jr. nephew of the dead soldier.



Tipperary flying column

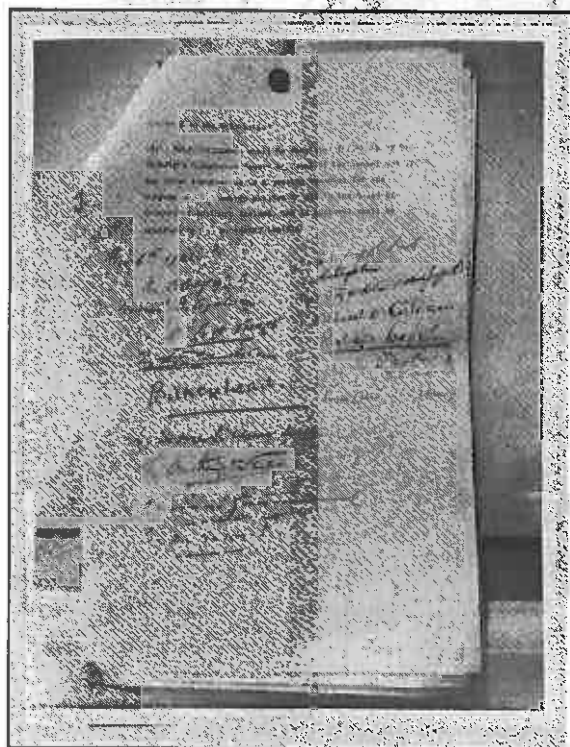
He was part of the 4th Battalion Tipperary who fought this guerrilla warfare, constantly moving from safe house to safe house.

By the end of 1921, both sides were exhausted fighting and they agreed on a treaty which gave Ireland a Free State of 26 counties.



Irish team at the Treaty talks

But it would not contain the North and an oath of allegiance would have to be sworn to the king.



The Treaty signed by both sides

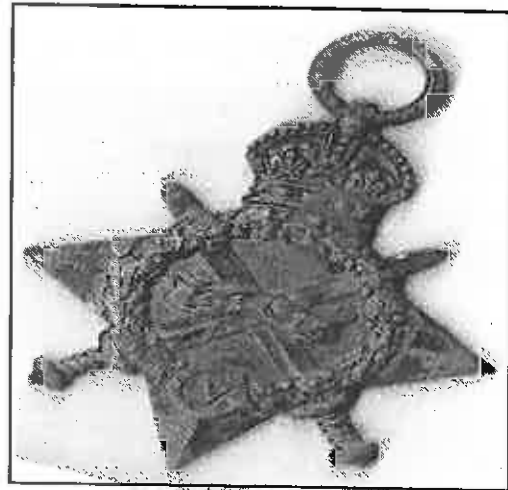
The Dáil splintered into two groups, those that were pro treaty – ‘The Free Staters’ and those that would not accept it – ‘The Irregulars’. Soon another war had broken out between former friends and colleagues.

The Free Staters were very strong in Donegal and so a group of Irregulars were sent from the stronger counties in Munster to help.



Tipperary Irregulars

One of these men that was sent northwards was Phillip Hynes Jr. Before he left he either took or was given his uncle's war medal as a good luck charm. He headed for Glenveagh Castle which the Irregulars had made their base because it was so easily defended.



Both sides agreed to hold peace talks in Churchill Village close to Glenveagh Castle. But they could not find an agreement.

They also took control of the surrounding gate lodges and 'Lady Mary's House' situated below Benny Gallagher's.



Lady Mary's House

Benny's granny remembered the Irregulars from this big house coming up and asking for milk and food each morning. Phillip Hynes was stationed in this house and at some stage he dropped the medal which was not to be found for almost another century.



Churchill where the meeting took place

As the Free State officers including Joe Sweeney were leaving, a couple of the Irregular hot heads wanted to murder them. But their captain Charlie Daly from Cork got to hear



Charlie Daly

of their intentions and so he put four of his men on the runners of the car until it was safely out of the area.

A short time later, some of the soldiers from the castle ambushed a Free State lorry, killing two and injuring many others. Feelings were now running high and the Free Staters decided to bring up a large cannon to blast the Irregulars out of the castle



But before it arrived, the Irregulars had scarpered.

In the House of Commons the Minister for the Colonies was soon answering questions about what was happening in Glenveagh. His name was Winston Churchill who had been part of the British team during the Treaty Talks and who twenty years later would lead Britain during WW2.



His answers to the questions prove very clearly that Ireland had separated from Britain and was now in charge of its own affairs.

Colonel Gretton Asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention had been called to a report from West Donegal stating that parties of Irregulars from Glenveagh Castle in motorcars had visited a number of farmhouses in the Churchill and Termon districts and conscripted about 11 young women, whom they brought with them to the castle to act as domestic servants for those are in occupation there; that the

mother of one of the girls, who vigorously protested against the taking away of her daughter, was placed in a motorcar and driven away a few miles, after which she was put out on the roadside, and the car resumed its journey to the castle; and whether in view of recent outrages on women in Ireland, any steps have been taken, or will be taken, to secure the release of these young women?

Mr. Churchill: My attention has been drawn to a newspaper report of this outrage, but I am unable to vouch for its accuracy. In any case, the matter would appear to be one for the Provisional Government to deal with, and I am glad to observe that, according to the latest reports, their troops have now compelled the evacuation of Glenveagh Castle, and are steadily extending their control over County Donegal.



Churchill at the time of the debate

Lieut. Colonel Dalrymple White: Will not the right hon. Gentleman take further steps in this case, in view of the fact that the outrages occurred in the Churchill district?

Churchill: That is a joke, I suppose?

Gretton: Has the right hon. Gentleman made no inquiry and taken no steps to secure the arrest of these people and the release of those who have been kidnapped?

Churchill: This happened in one of the 26 counties, and if Irish girls are kidnapped and carried off under such atrocious conditions by violent persons, in my opinion it is for the Irish men to see that they are released; and that is what is being done.

Colonel Ashley: Is the right hon. Gentleman now quite satisfied with that policy?

Churchill: I am increasingly satisfied.

Meanwhile, The Irregulars from the castle were now on the run. But Daly's column was captured and four of them including Daly himself were executed.



Before the execution at Drumboe Woods



The four that were executed

Commander Sweeney probably had no idea that Daly had saved his life in Churchill just a few months before.

Shortly after these executions, a cease fire was called and Philip Hynes Jnr. Returned home to Tipperary, but without his medal.



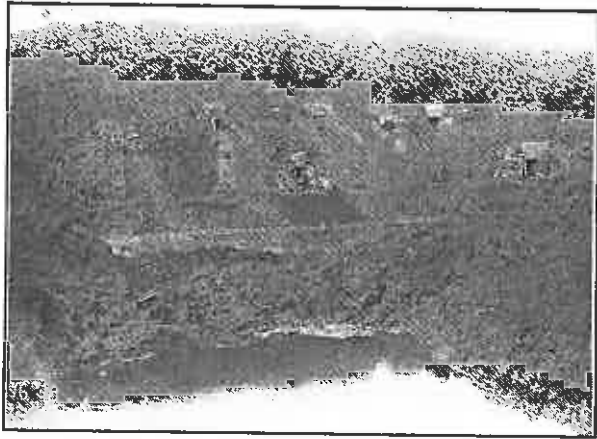
Members of the Old IRA marching after the special commemorative Mass in Ballinacough in April 1966. Carrying the flag was Dick Br. and behind him (from right to left) were: Michael Hynes, Danny Lynch, Bill Kelly, Mick Hynes, Jerome Dunne, Phil Hynes, Michael Ryan, Joe O'Brien, Jimmy Lynch, Dave Gleeson, Dermot Boland, Bill Neagher

Philip Hynes Jnr. Is six from the front of this 1966 commemoration parade in Tipperary.

Mr. McElhinney, the last private owner of Glenveagh Castle would eventually leave his estate including the evicted Derryveagh section to the people of Ireland.



Mr. McElhinney with his staff at Glenveagh castle



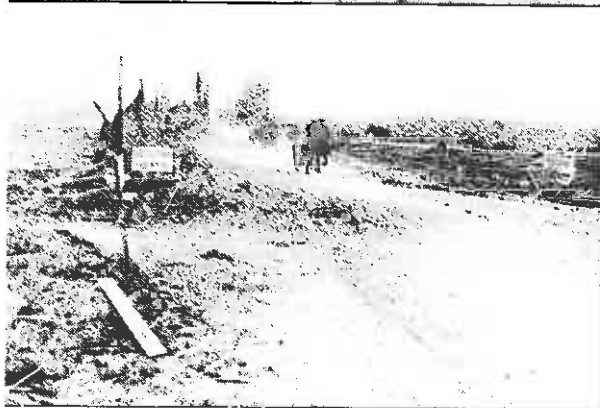
Hooge Crater with dugouts

Birr Cross Cemetery where Philip Hynes is buried is half way between Hooge Crater, now a lake,



Hooge lake

and Hellfire Corner,



Hellfire Corner



once known as *"the most dangerous place on Earth"*

but nowadays just a roundabout.



The cemetery is less than two miles from the Menin Gate at Ypres where there is a large memorial to all the soldiers who have no known resting place.



The Menin Gate, Ypres

Every night at eight, the road is closed and the Last Post is played.



The Last Post being played by The Buglers

On a still night you can hear these bugles at Birr Cross. But *"It's a Long Way to Tipperary."*



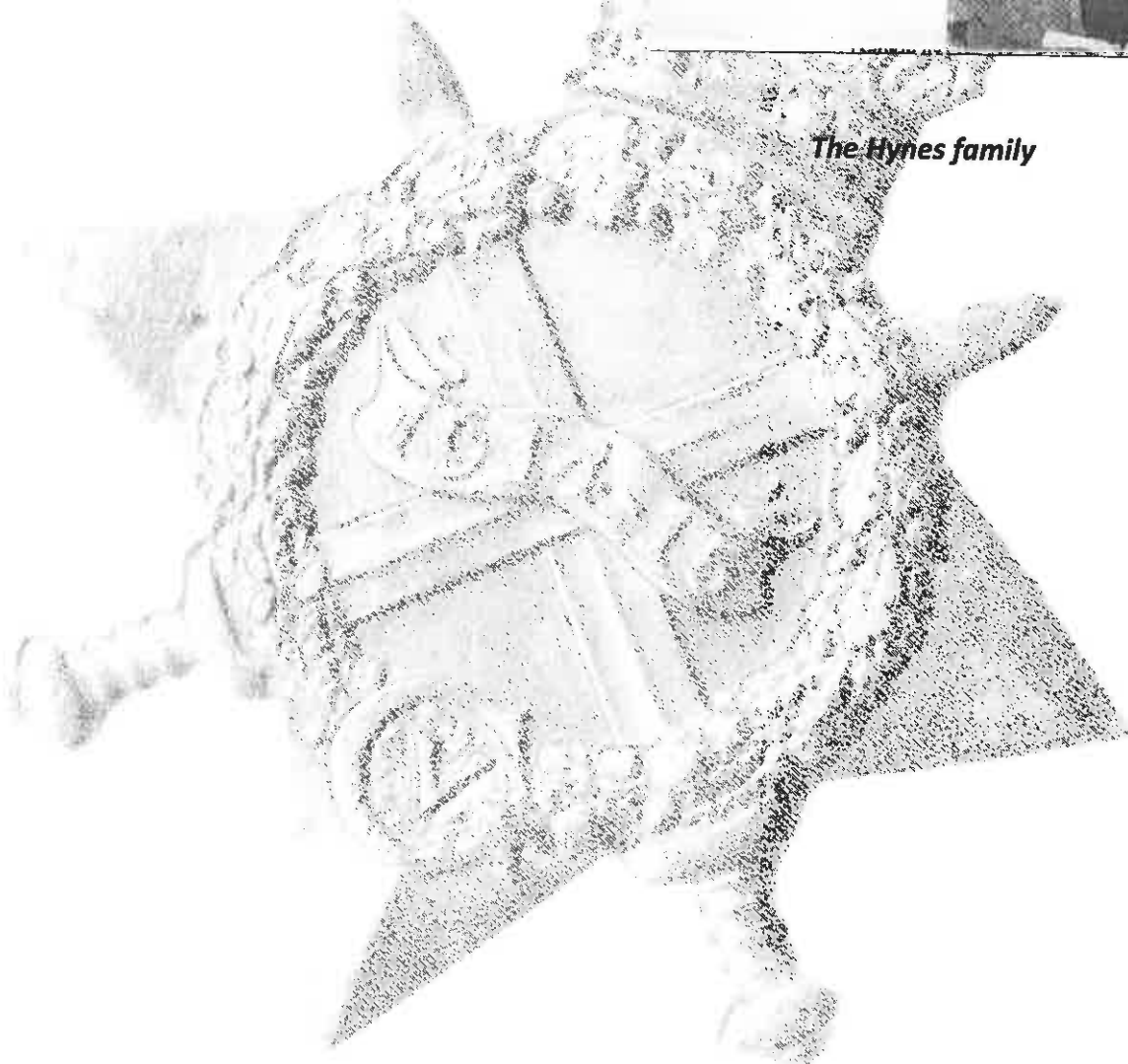
The medal will shortly be presented back to the Hynes family in time for the 100th anniversary of Phillip's

death along with a copy of his medal's story.

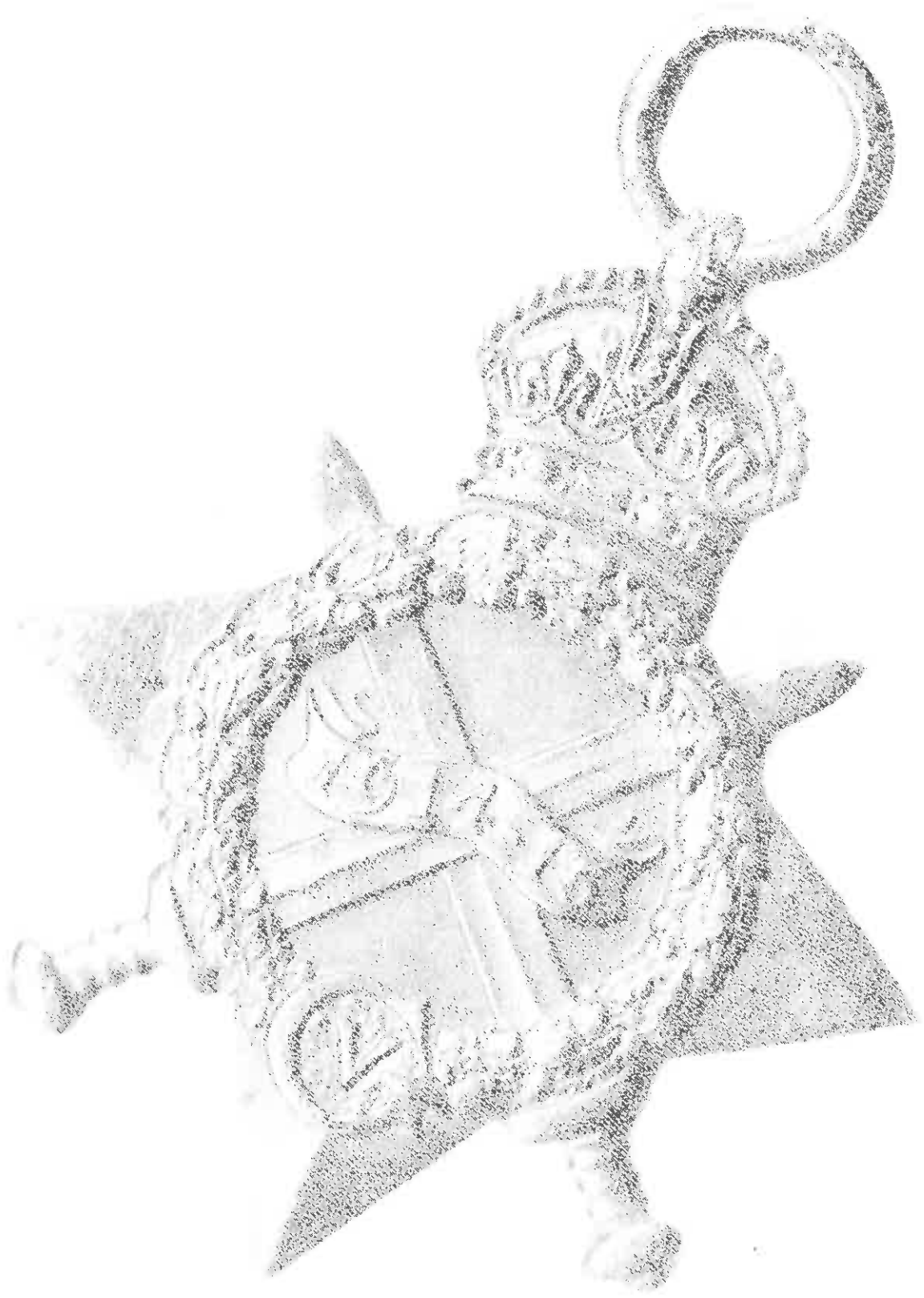


His 90th birthday of late
with his wife Lily
age 92 today

The Hynes family







Bibliography

Answers to fifty questions sent to the Hynes family in Tipperary

Answers to questions sent to the *Great War Forum* website.

A Silent Land: May Mc Clintock

A Terrible Silence: The story of the Derryveagh Evictions: Termon School history project.

Battalion Diary 2nd Leinsters Aug 1914-Oct 1915: The National Archives online

Diary of Capt. Louis Daly (unpublished) Daly was captain of B Company. Parts of this diary was sent to us by his grandson through the website *Great War Forum*

Footprints 4 C.J. Fallon

Michelin Guide to Ypres and the Battle of Ypres

St. Colmcille, Gartan to Iona, A life's Journey. 1998 Termon School history project

Stand To A Diary of the trenches 1914-1918 by Captain F.C. Hitchcock M.C. Published by The Naval and Military Press. Captain Hitchcock was the captain of A Company 2nd Leinster Regiment who fought beside Phillip Hynes' B Company.

The Living Past 4 Tim Mc Gillicuddy. The Educational Company

The History of Glenveagh booklet: National Parks and Monument Service

The Usborne Introduction to the First World War: Ruth Brocklehurst and Henry Brook: in association with the Imperial War Museum

Unlocking History 6 Folens



EXTRA IMAGES

13
WILL.

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131883
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In the event of
my death I give those
of Property and
effects to my
Mother Mrs Margret
Hynes Capparo
Dunough County
Ireland
P.T.O.

No 6521
Philip Hynes
2nd
Regiment.
Army Book 654
opened 12.2.15.
Extracted from C.B. 654
of late No. 1084 Pte.
Hynes, Theinster Regt.
6/11/15
2/15/15
LIEUT. FOR
O.i/o Infy. Records, 3rd Echelon

The will of Philip Hynes written in the trenches on the 12th of February 1915, five months before he was killed. We found this will online in the National Archives of Ireland.



We found this painting which was done during the fighting at Hoge on the very day that Phillip Hynes was killed the 15th of August 1915.



The grave of Phillip Hynes at Birr Cross Cemetery

Army Form 2 (04-42)

RECORD OFFICE

1917

191

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of--

(No) 1234 (Rank) Sergeant

(Name) William J. Jones

(Regiment) 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st Division

which occurred at the Battle of the Somme

on the 27th May 1917

The report is to the effect that he died

KILLED IN ACTION

By His Majesty's command I am to forward the enclosed measure of sympathy from Their Gracious Majesties the King and Queen. I am at the same time to express the regret of the Army Council at the soldier's death in his Country's service.

I am to add that any information that may be received as to the soldier's burial will be communicated to you in due course. A separate letter dealing more fully with this subject is enclosed.

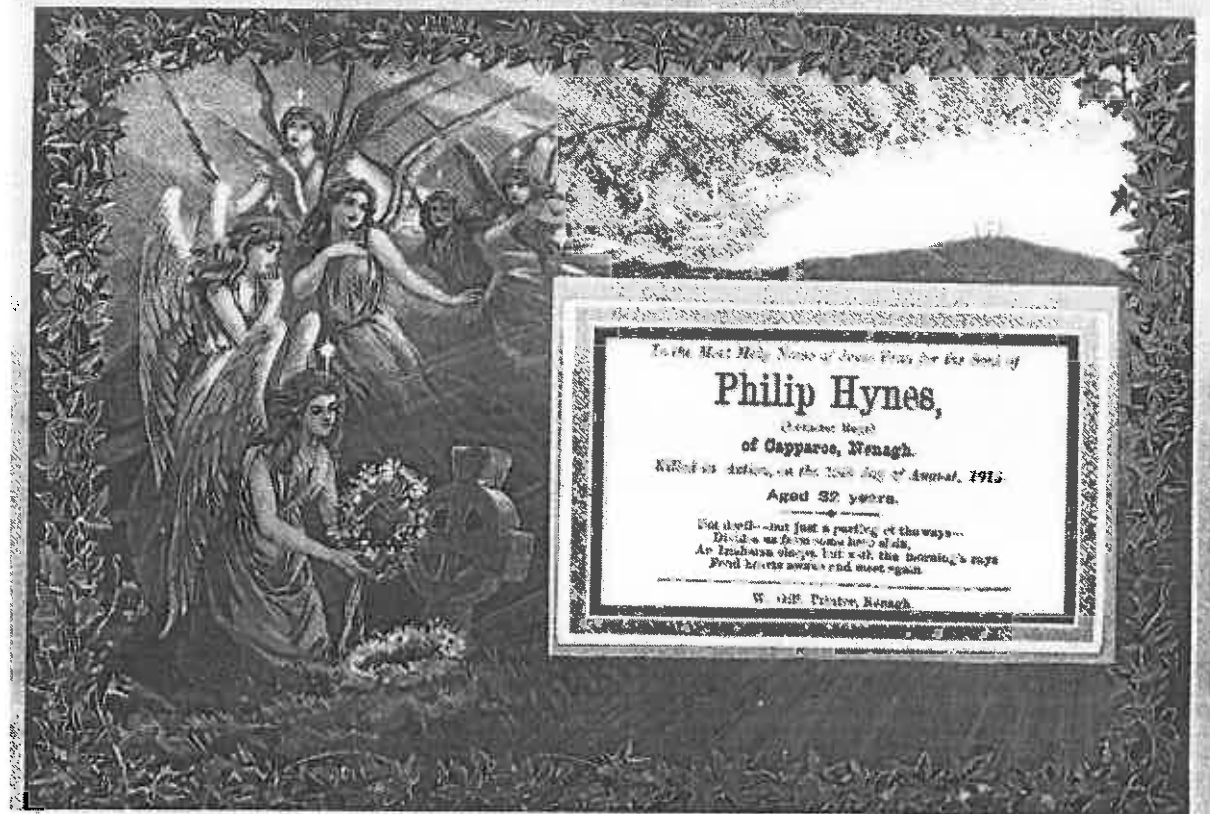
I am,

W. J. Jones
Your obedient Servant,
W. J. Jones
Officer in Charge of Records

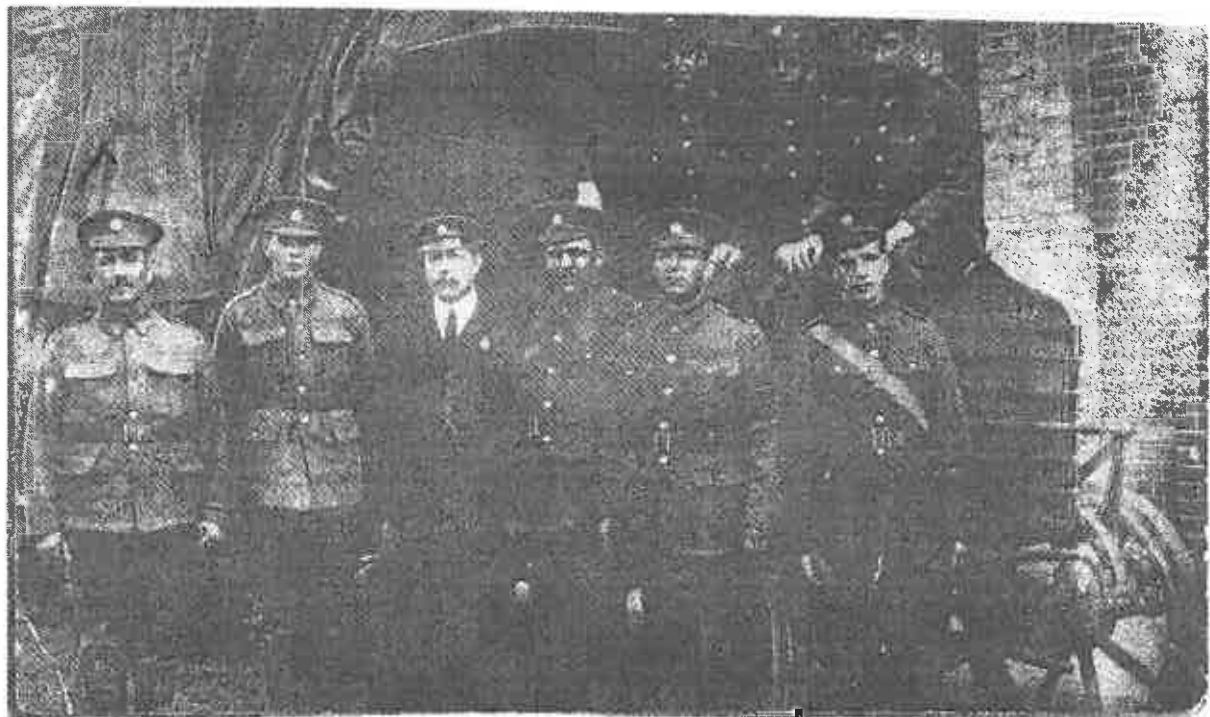
W. J. Jones
1234

2000

A letter similar to the one sent to Mrs. Hynes informing her that her son had been killed.



The mass card for Philip Hynes which his family had made after his death.



Photograph including Edward Hynes who is standing on the left. He worked as a lorry driver. No photograph exists of his brother Philip.

CARTE POSTALE

POST CARD * POSTKAART

CORRESPONDANCE

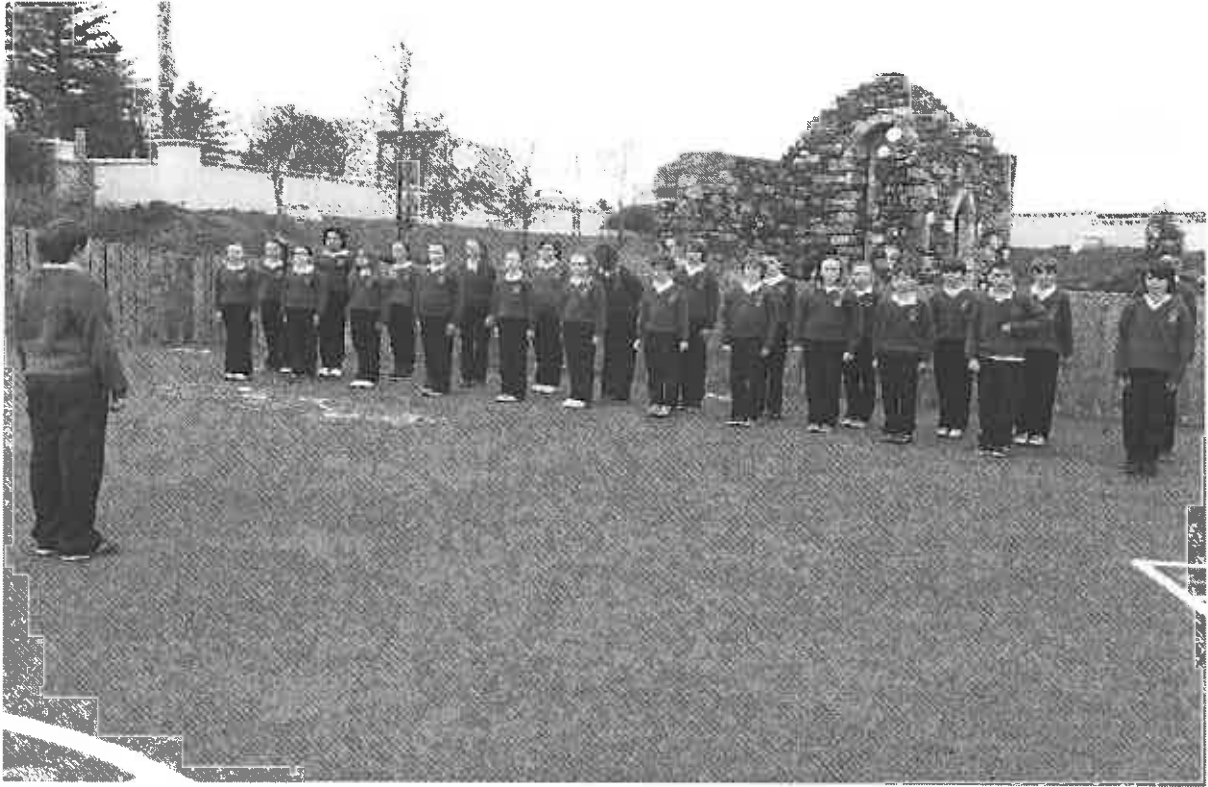
ADRESSE

Dear Michael of your letter
hoping to find you all in good
health as this leaves me in very
good health. Concerning the times
we have not here. I hope to
have good times yet. Goodbye
to all from your father 1693/5
E Hynes 4.9 A S P
4.5.6.117 from father Michael
Duck Hill

Mr Michael Hynes
Lahassough Tenagh
Co Tipperary
Ireland

A card sent home from the front by Edward Hynes to his young son Michael

Drilling



Drill practice under the command of 'Sergeant Major' Kai Mc Cafferty!



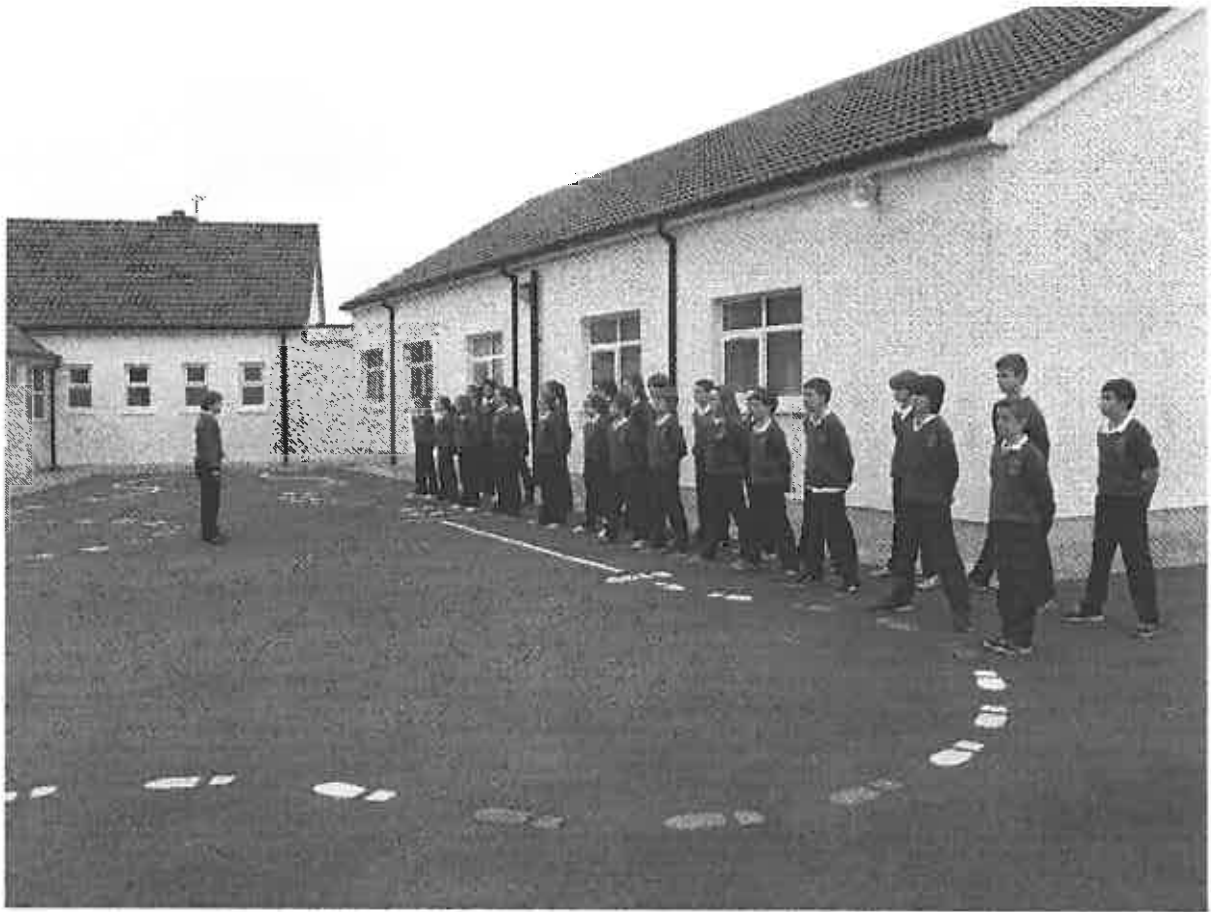
"Stand at ease"



"Left Right Left Right Left Left....."



"It's a Long Way to Tipperary"



"I will make soldiers out of you if it is the last thing I do"!

At Benny Gallagher's house in Gartan



Benny explaining how he found the medal



Where the medal was found



Photographing Benny's House



Looking down to Lady Mary's House from Benny Gallaghers

At Lady Mary's House



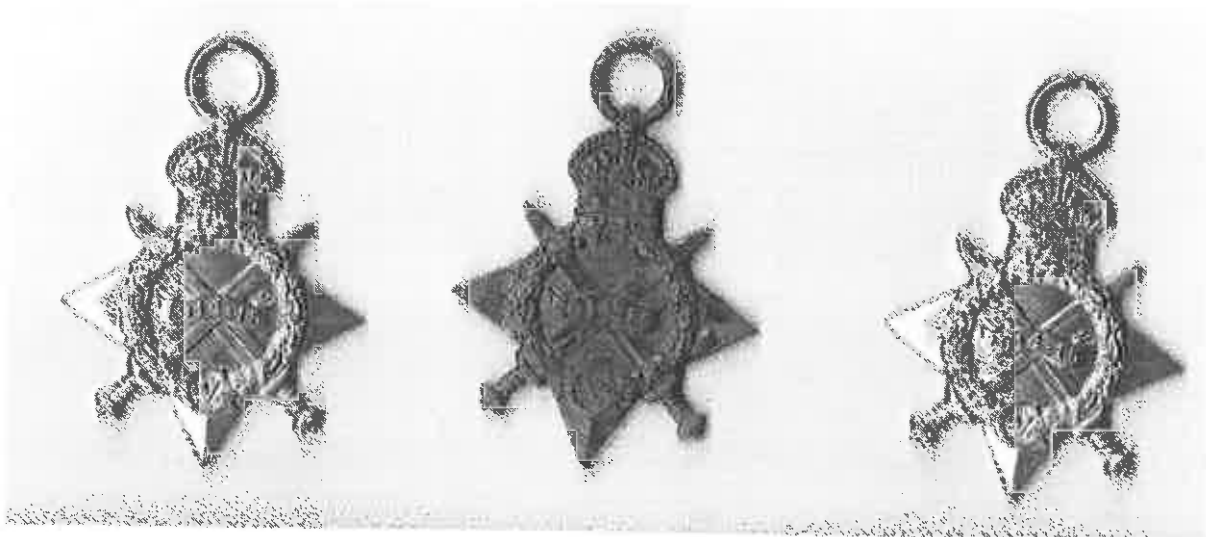
Down at Lady Mary's with Benny telling us about the history of the house.

At the front of Glenveagh Castle



Our class at Glenveagh Castle

The 1915 Star Medal



The original 1915 Star Medal in between the two copies that we got made. The original will be going back to the Hynes family in Tipperary, one of the copies will be given to Benny Gallagher and the other copy will be kept by the school.

