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By Pádraig Tobin 6th Class Ardagh BNS

Dan O'Callaghan (my great grandfather)

Dan O'Callaghan was born in the Summer of 1900. Dan grew up on the farm in the "Mall". Dan was the eldest and had 3 siblings. He finished school at the age of 13. He had ~~attended~~ attended the Mall school which was next door as his family had earlier donated the land where it was built. After school he went home farming and he developed a strong sense of Republicanism. They British ruled Ireland at this time and treated the Irish very poorly. It was at this time that Dan became captain of the Local Rannscreena Volunteers. He received some military training from John Eady who was a former British soldier. Dan in turn taught some of ^{his} ^{to} the local volunteers. Life was tough and they were always on the watch for the British army. General Percival was a noted British General, he was very brutal and was feared by all. Percival set up camp at one stage very near the O'Callaghan farm and Dan feared for his safety so he had to go on "run" for 4 months going from house to house seeking shelter and safety from the British, it must have been very tough not to see your family for so long. He returned home later when Percival had moved on,

Dan had a major role in the

attach on Ross barracks by Tom Barry and Flying Colone, He found safe houses for them before the attack and showed them how to get to Ross quietly and stage the attack. The attack on Ross barracks was successful. Dan was positioned on "Céim Hill" that night to provide cover for the Colone as they left Ross. He later told his family that a bullet just missed his helmet and shattered a wire in the ditch just over his head where he lay.

After the British left Ireland the Civil war broke out in Ireland due to disagreement over the signing ~~one~~ of the treaty. Dan O'Callaghan didn't fight in the civil war as he was arrested and imprisoned in Cork Jail for 1 year and for 2 more years in the Curragh county Kildare. While he was in jail his brother Ned came home and ran the farm. When he was released he came home farming. His family say that he didn't speak much to them about the "troubles" but it was a terrible time but in his opinion it had to be done. We owe these people so much for fighting for our independence.

I interviewed Con O'Callaghan his son for my project. Thankyou Con.

Padraig Tobin.

