

The Story of My Great Gran-Uncle

Mr Michael O'Donovan

I spoke to my Granda Denis on the 5th of November 2019. Granda was Michael O Donovan's nephew. Granda's address is Grancore, Castlefreke, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. My great gran uncle Michael grew up and lived at this address too until he died in 1988. He was 88 when he died. So he was born in 1900. That was 119 years ago now!!

Granda told me that his uncle Michael was in the Irish Republican Army. He worked as a chef in the army. Granda has two medals that belonged to my gran uncle Michael. (See Photo) COIAD NA SAOIRSE is written at the bottom of these medals. Granda says they were given to him as he served in the War Of Independence and he was very brave.

At my gran uncle Michael's funeral some soldiers from the Irish army attended. After his coffin was lowered down into the grave three soldiers shot their guns over his grave as a mark of respect to the warrior he was. This is called a three volley salute and is a military mark of respect. Granda saved one of these bullets from the graveside and showed it to me. (See Photo)

He also has two pocket watches that belonged to Michael. I am very proud of my gran uncle.

By Rory O'Donovan (Age 9) of Grancore, Castlefreke, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. **Rathbarry National School**



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