

**The Story**

**Of**

**Private**

**John O'Donoghue**

**By**

**Chloe Coughlan**



My name is Chloe Coughlan from Kilbrittain. This is the true story of my great gran uncle John O' Donoghue. He was the youngest man in Bandon to die in the army at the age 17 year's. John was the eldest of 7 children his sister was my great grandmother Julia Coughlan.

He joined the army at 16 years old, but when his mother found out she went down to the local recruiting office told them he was only 16 and to young. He joined again when he was 17 on August 29<sup>th</sup> 1916 in Cork city.

On sept 5<sup>th</sup> 1916 he joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Connaught rangers at Kinsale. He began his training at Charles fort. After 4 months John received orders to join the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion at the front line. He filled out his will leaving everything to his mother Kate On Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.



11 days later on the 29th of Dec 1916 he was posted overseas, he arrived in France on the 30th of Dec, he was posted to c.company 6th Connaught rangers at Locre, Belgium on the 1st of Jan 1917

Following the terrible losses, the 6th battalion suffered in sept 1916 fighting.

Lots of young solders still in their teens John included, found themselves near the front line at Kemmel. There was a direct hit on the hut, that John was in. 3 men were killed and 11 injured John was one of the men killed on Feb the 8th 1917. He was buried in Kemmel chateau cemetery in France.

John's total army service was 164 days, 123 days at home in cork and 41 days overseas .

The story of john o Donoghue came to an end at such a young age.

I am so very proud to be related to John O' Donoghue.



My Great Great  
gran mother  
KATE O'Donoghue



My Great - gran mother  
JULIA COUGHLAN



My Great GRAN uncle  
John O'Donoghue



My GRANDDAD  
Jerry COUGHLAN SR.



My DAD  
Jerry COUGHLAN JR.



MYSELF  
Chloe COUGHLAN