My Unknown Hero

My name is Eimer Martin
I'm in 6th class at the time of writing this
I go to St. Mary's Senior School Dunmanway.

An Unexpected Order

Patrick 'Pa' Gallagher was born in 1888 in Ballyhendo Fermoy, Co. Cork. He had 2 sisters and 5 brothers. When he finished school he moved to Dublin for work. He worked in Sinlaters Groceries. One Sunday morning in 1914 he was walking by Howth Bay, when he was held at gunpoint by a rebel and ordered to unload The Asgard. The Asgard was owned by English born and Irish nationalist Erskine Childers and his wife Molly. It had a cargo of 900 guns and 2,900 rounds of ammunition. There was alot of witnesses there and Pa was afraid he would be recognised so he left Dublin and returned to Fermoy.

Molly and Erskine Childers on the Asgard

Joining Ranks with Liam Lynch

In Fermoy he saw how unfair the British were and joined the IRA. He worked in Lombards Drapery in Fermoy, while continuing to serve in the IRA, where he continued to climb the ranks in the IRA before becoming 1st Lieutenant for Liam Lynch in early 1918.

Liam Lynch was born in Anglesboro, Co. Limerick in 1893, 7 miles from Mitchelstown Co. Cork. In 1910 he joined the Gaelic League while he worked in Mitchelstown. In the aftermath of the 1916 Easter Rising, Liam witnessed the arrest and shooting of his three friends, David, Thomas and Richard Kent. After this he dedicated his life to Irish freedom

Liam Lynch

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A.

No. on Form B. 7

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

Position.	NAME and SURNAME. No Persons ABSENT on the night of Sunday, March 31st, to be entered here; EXCEPT those (not enumerated elsewhere) who may be out of WORK or TRAVELLING, &c., during that Night, and who RETURN HOME ON MONDAY, April 1st. Subject to the above instruction, the Name of the Head of the Family should be written first; then the names of his Wife, Children, and other Relatives; then those of Visitors, Boarders, Servants, &c. Christian Name.	Surname.	RELATION to Head of Family. State whether "Head of Family," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other relative; "Visitor," "Boarder," "Servant," &c.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION. State here the particular Religion, or Religious Denomination, to which each person belongs. [Members of Protestant Denominations are requested not to describe themselves by the vague terms "Protestant," but to enter the name of the Particular Church, Denomination, or Body, to which they belong.]	EDUCATION. State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," can "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	AGE. Years on last Birthday.	AGE. Months for Infants under one Year.	SEX. Write "M" for Male and "F" for Female.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION. State the Particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person. Children or young persons attending a School, or receiving regular instruction at home, should be returned as Scholars. [Before filling this column you are requested to read the Instructions on the other side.]	MARRIAGE. Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "Not Married."	WHERE BORN. If in Ireland, state in what County or City; if elsewhere, state the name of the Country.	IRISH LANGUAGE. Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish only, and the words "Irish & English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic. Write the respective infirmities opposite the name of the afflicted person.
1	John	Gallagher	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read only	55		M	Farmer	Married	Co Limerick		
2	Ellen	Gallagher	Wife	Do.	Read & Write	49		F	-	Married	Co Cork		
3	Bridget	Gallagher	daughter	Do.	Do.	21		F	Farmers daughter	Not married	Co Cork		
4	John	Gallagher	Son	Do	Do.	20		M	Do Son	Do	Co Cork		
5	Margaret	Gallagher	daughter	Do	Do	18		F	Do daughter	Do	Co Cork		
6	Denis	Gallagher	Son	Do	Do.	15		M	Do Son	Do	Co Cork		
7	Patrick	Gallagher	Son	Do	Do	13		M	Do Do	Do	Co Cork		
8	William	Gallagher	Son	Do.	Do	8		M	Scholar	Do	Co Cork		
9	Mary Ellen	Murphy	Visitor	Do.	Do.	18		F	Ladys maid Domestic Servant	Do.	Co Cork		
10													
11													
12													
13													
14													
15													

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Michael Mordin Const (Signature of Enumerator.)

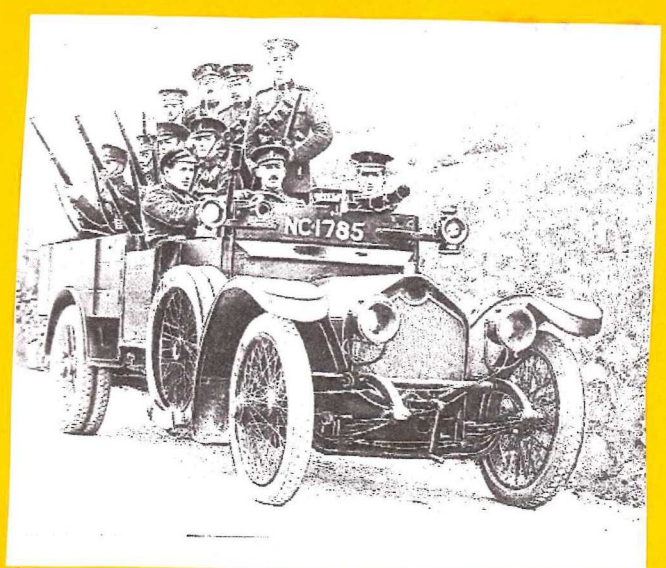
I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

John + Gallagher (Signature of Head of Family).

Witness Michael Mordin Const

A Close Call

Once Pa and his cousin had taken shelter in Pa's family homestead and his cousin was warned not to go outside during daylight as the only access to the house was through the front doors or windows. However, the cousin went out and a neighbour passing spotted him and recognised him as a member of the IRA. The neighbour reported this information to the British Army and a crossley tender full of soldiers were sent to arrest the IRA man in the first house passed the orchard. The soldiers missed the orchard and surrounded a neighbour's house allowing Pa and his cousin to escape the house. They hid in a nearby field of turnips under the stalks and waited for the English to leave the area.

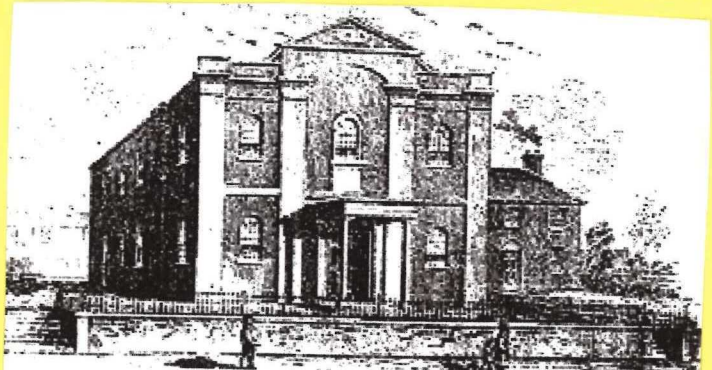


A crossly tender that the British used.

A Prayerful Opportunity

As the rebels needed guns and ammunition they used to raid gentry houses while the owners of the houses were at mass or service. One day Pa was taking guns with a fellow commander of his and then, unfortunately, before Pa and his comrade had completed the search for guns and ammunition, the family of the house came home. The owner of the house ran after them shouting threats at them as they ran away

Pa assisted in the Wesleyan Church ambush on September 8th 1919 to steal guns from the British army who attended service every Sunday morning in full uniform. On route to the church a party of IRA volunteers had instructions to rush the enemy party where the orders "hands up" were given by the OC main attacking party. A car was used to block the road behind the enemy party to prevent them retreating back to the barracks. Their enemy party was overpowered. When the rifles had been loaded into the cars, the volunteers dispersed through the fields and returned to their homes.



Wesleyan Church

After the War of Independence

On November 26th 1920 there was a widespread raid by the enemy forces, one of which Pa was recognised and arrested. He was detained for a few days in Fermoy and Kilworth camp. He was trialled and sentenced to prison for 3 years in Ballykinlar internment camp where he remained until the general release of internees following the signing of the Treaty on December 8th 1921. He retired from Lombards Drapery in 1951. At the opening of the monument for Liam Lynch in Anglesboro he spoke a speech and opened it. He died aged 93 on the 23rd of January 1981 of a heart attack.

Monument Pa spoke a speech at in 1978

That is my Unknown Hero

by Eimer Martin