

THE MURDER OF JACK DORAN AND MARY ANN KEARNEY, NEE DORAN.

My mummy's sister's husband is my uncle Brian O'Hagan. They live in Newry, Co. Down. The O'Hagans come from Carrickcruppen in South Armagh.

My Uncle Brian showed me these photos of a brother and sister, Jack and Mary Ann Doran. They were cousins of his grandad O'Hagan.

Jack Doran, along with others in the family, was an IRA volunteer. His sister Mary Ann was married to John Kearney who was in the police force called the RIC (Royal Irish Constabulary).

At that time, rewards of a lot of money were offered to anyone who would give information about who was in the IRA and what they might be doing.

John Kearney knew that his brother-in-law Jack was a volunteer in the IRA and to get money, he passed on this information. He got paid £1000.00 for this information and because of this information, a Black and Tan murder squad went to Jack Doran's home in Keggal, Camlough, Co. Armagh, and shot him dead. He was 27 yrs old.

His sister Mary Ann was visiting him at the time and she was also shot and wounded by the Black and Tans. She was pregnant with her and John Kearney's first child.

Mary Ann's husband, John, was assassinated three days later by the IRA. Her baby was born a few months later but Mary Ann hadn't recovered from the gunshot wounds and she died soon after her baby was born in July 1921. She was 28yrs old.

Jack and his sister Mary Ann are buried in Carrickcruppen grave yard in South Armagh. Mary Ann's baby was called Margaret and she was taken in and reared by her auntie and just died in January 2017.

Two of my Uncle Brian's own sisters were also shot. That happened in the 1970s in Newry when the IRA attacked a patrol of British soldiers. His sisters were shot by accident and one of them was also expecting her first baby. One sister was shot in the leg and still has shrapnel in her leg. The other sister was shot in her foot. The baby wasn't hurt. His sister who was shot in the leg remembers a soldier beside her telling her she was going to be all right. That soldier died beside her on the street.

By Ferdia Dennis-McAlevy taken from a recollection of Brian O'Hagan's family history.

The Blacksmith of Ballinalee

My Great Grand Uncle General Sean Mac Eoin fought in the War of Independence. He started out as an apprentice blacksmith in 1908 and the forge was like a meeting place where everyone talked about politics.

He joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and also a secret organisation called the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He trained a lot with the Volunteers and became an officer.

The Volunteers in Longford were taken by surprise with the Easter Rising. They didn't have enough people or guns to be of any use.

When the British executed the leaders of the 1916 Rising, Sean Mac Eoin and the Volunteers were very angry and decided to fight back. They had to get guns and ammunition so they started by doing small raids.

In 1918 they started attacking RIC (police) barracks to get their weapons and explosives. They attacked local barracks and by 1919, Sean Mac Eoin was leading The North Longford Flying Column. They carried out raids and ambushes on the British Army whenever they could.

The most famous actions were the defence of Ballinalee in 1920 against the Black and Tans unit of the British Army and the Ambush of Clonfin when they succeeded in defeating a British column.

The British shot and then captured him in Mullingar in 1921. He was sent to Mountjoy Prison in Dublin and he was tried and sentenced to death. The IRA tried to break him out of the jail but they didn't succeed.

The Irish side wouldn't sign a treaty with the British to end the war unless they freed Sean Mac Eoin, so he wasn't executed and was the last prisoner released before the treaty was signed to end the War of Independence.

Ferdia Dennis McAleavy



Jack Doran
Shot Dead by the Black and Tans
10th January 1921 - aged 27
Keggal, Camlough, Co Armagh



Mary Ann Kearney - Nee Doran
shot and wounded by the
Black and Tans during the murder
of her brother Jack Doran
Died from her wounds
July 1921 - Aged 28