

Thomas Geelan

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My great, great year-uncle, Thomas Geelan from County Leitrim joined the R.I.C. in the year 1880. He then got transferred to County Cork where he married a Cork woman. He got placed in Millberrain police station where he became a policeman. There he had one son called Michael Joseph Geelan. Sadly, Thomas Geelan died of T.B. when his son was only two years of age. When Michael Joseph grew up he moved to Cobhishing in East Cork. It was there that he joined the I.R.A., the opposite side to his father who had been an R.I.C. man. Back then the Black and Tans had been sent over from England to fight the I.R.A. or anyone who rebelled against them. One night Michael Joseph was out on his motorcycle in 1921 carrying out maneuvers for the I.R.A. when he was spotted by the black and tans who crashed into him. Neither parties had lights on. Michael Joseph was brought to hospital and died the next day. He is now buried in the Republican plot in Middleton.

My Grandad - James O'Flynn was working as a young boy, helping buildlets in Cork city clearing out the old cinema. One day the seats of the cinema were ripped out and the floorboards lifted. My Grandad pulled up a floorboard and to his amazement saw something shiny and black. He looked about him to see if anyone was looking, and pulled the shiny black thing out from under the floorboard. In his hand was a cold, shiny, black gun. He quickly shoved it down the back of his trousers. He then ran to his boss and told him he needed to go home. He hopped on the bus up to Blackpool. On the bus he met a friend and showed him what he had found under the cinema floor. They were very excited, hopped off the bus and gathered more of their friends. Together, they went to a nearby field. They took turns in shooting the gun. All the boys wanted to buy the gun. From My Grandad, but he sold it to his best friend.

