

Military Service Pension Collection – applications  
from members of Moygownagh Company IRA, Co, Mayo

**4th Western Division – 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (North Mayo)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (Ballycastle)**

**‘C’ Company (Moygownagh), IRA**

**1916-23**

**Transcribed extracts from file of correspondence relating to the members of Moygownagh Company, IRA who applied for Military Service Pensions / Service Certificates / Service Medals (last release - the tenth - May 2021).**

Transcribed by Liam Alex Heffron

Date: July 2021

Published by St Cormac’s Society, under the Mayo Decade of Centenaries Grant Scheme 2021, administered by Mayo County Council - Mayo County Library

*Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative.*



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Browne, James, Fairfield Upper, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

DOB: 15 July 1890

34SP60214

His application ('about 1935') for a Service Certificate under the Military Service Pensions Acts [1934] was rejected on 7-3-40 as he was deemed not a person to whom the [pension] Act applied. He appealed on 26-1-1950 to have his claim reopened. This was rejected on 18-5-53.

MSP34REF59301

Application for a Service Certificate under the Military Service Pensions Acts [1934]. Stamped received by the Dept. of Defence Pensions Branch – 28 Dec 1939. Extracts from the application as follows:

3

January to March 1918, [unit] Moygownagh. Continuous [service] at that time organising [in district of] Moygownagh. Commanding officer(s) Thomas Ruane, M Gallagher Capt. [Active service consisted of] drills, parades, anti-recruiting and anti-conscription campaign. References: Thomas Ruane. PE Colleary B.E., Dennis Sheerin, Ballina, Co. Mayo

4

1-4-1918 to 31-03-1919, Moygownagh Company, Ballina Batt. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygownagh. Commanding officer(s) M Gallagher (capt), Thos Ruane. [Active service consisted of] away from home and work, assisting in organisation of Coy. [Also] Carrying out any orders given me References: Martin Gallagher Capt., Peter Quinn, Hugh Finnerty, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

5

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920, Moygownagh Coy., Ballycastle Batt. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygowna, Ballycastle, Lacken and Kilfian. Commanding officer(s). M Gallagher, Dr. Crowley (Batt OC). [Active service consisted of] the carrying out of any given me [also] helping in every way possible by enforcing boycott of Belfast goods,

drillings and attending military classes, general raids for arms. References: Martin Gallagher Church St., Killala, Co. Mayo; P.A. Calleary, BE, Ballina; Peter Quinn, Ballinagur, Moygowna, Xmolina, Co. Mayo

6

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921, Moygownagh Coy., Ballycastle Batt. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygownagh, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken and Killala. Commanding officer(s) Anthony Farrell. [Active service consisted of] continuous absence from home and work [also] General raids for arms, had to be captures in certain cases under fire, P. Duty, enforcing decrees of Dail Courts, raising funds for arms and subscribed to same. The care and transferring of arms. Three days out almost complete in Co area.

Referees: Thos Ruane, Ballina. Co. Mayo; M Gallagher (capt), Killala, Co. Mayo; P. Bourke, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.

7

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921, Moygownagh Coy., Ballycastle Batt. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygownagh, Kilfian, Killala, Ballycastle and Lacken. Commanding officer(s) M Gallagher, A Farrell. [Active service consisted of] absence from work and evading capture by RIC [also] Blocking roads, cutting wires, guarding Dail Courts, raising levels for arms, dog licences, transferring arms from other Batt. areas, helping to clean and oil. Sharp engagement with RIC patrol. Engagement with lorry of tans during a raid on local Post Office. References: P. Bourke, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; P. Quinn, Ballinagur, Moygowna, Xmolina; M Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo;

8

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922, Moygownagh Coy, Ballycastle Battalion. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygownagh, Kilfian, Killala, Ballycastle and Lacken, Commanding officer(s) Martin Gallagher, Shane Langan. [Active service consisted of] continuous absence from home and work [also] training camps, organisation, drilling, Police Duty, helping to raise funds for arms References: References: M Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo; P. Bourke, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; P. Quinn, Ballinagur, Moygowna, Xmolina.

9

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923, Moygownagh Coy, Ballycastle Battalion. Continuous to Ceasefire order [service in district(s) of] Moygowna, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Killala, Commanding officer(s) Dr. Crowley, M Gallagher. [Active service consisted of] continuous absence from home and work [also] trenching and blocking of roads. Raids on Post Office, Boycott of Belfast Goods.

References: M Gallagher, Church St, Killala, Co. Mayo; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygowna, Xmolina, Co. Mayo; E. Cummings [Commons], Treenagh, Moygowna, Xmolina, Co. Mayo.

10

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923, Moygownagh Coy, Ballycastle Battalion. Continuous to Ceasefire order [service in district(s) of] Moygownagh, Killala, Kilfian, Lacken, Ballycastle. Commanding officer(s) M Gallagher and later M. J. Kelly (USA) and Dr. Crowley. [Active service consisted of] absence from home and work and evading arrest by F. State troops [also] road trenching and blocking. Felling trees.

References: M.J. Kelly, USA; James Lynott, Stonehall, Moygowna, Xmolina, Co. Mayo; Ed. Cummings [Commons], Treenagh, Moygowna, Xmolina, Co. Mayo.

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 1:

Private

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 2:

Private in Engineering

References: Martin Gallagher, Church St, Killala, Co. Mayo; Edward Commons, Treenagh, Moygowna, Xmolina, Co. Mayo; Patrick Bourke, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo, Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygowna, Xmolina, Co. Mayo

This application was rejected on 13 December 1940. He asked for his original application of 'about 1935', to be reopened on 26-01-1950. He then applied for a re-investigation on 5 June 1951 stating the following facts:

I, James Browne joined the S.F. movement in March 1917 – that was as soon as the movement was organised here in North Mayo. The I.R.A. movement started in Mayo in May or June the same year 1917 – I joined in as soon as the organisation came to North Mayo. For the four years up to the Truce of July 1921 the first and second year that was – 1917 and 1918, I was trained by officers of other Compan[ies] that came in to train us when we had a Company of our own in the parish that was C. Company of No. 3 Battalion. In the year of 1919 and 1920 – up to July when the Truce was called – all through that time I done active service work for my own Company and between other Compan[ies] and Battalions. I exchanged firearms and ammunition from one Company to another – and food and clothes. I carried dispatches from one Company to other Compan[ies] and Battalions. I did anything I was asked to do in my service - from 1917 to July 1921. In 1922 – after the Truce I was in training camps for Engineering – but that was never any use for it. My comrades of the old I.R.A. and officers will prove to what I have wrote to you in writing is true.

This was refused on 18 Feb 1953.

[MD15313](#)

He applied for a (1917-1921) service medal on 26-1-1950 and was granted it on 22-7-69. He noted that he originally applied for a service pension in 1935 and also a disability pension and his address on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1921 was Rathglass, Moygownagh, Crossmolina. He also claimed he applied for a service medal previously.

[DP48553](#)

He applied to the Dept. of Defence for 'a special allowance claiming to be incapable of self-support by reason of permanent infirmity of body or mind, under the Army Pension Act' , as a former member of the Irish Republican Army, in 11<sup>th</sup> November 1969, which he was granted

from 31 July 1969 at an annual rate of £99. He provided the following information in the course of the application on 11-7-69:

Address on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1921 – Rathglass or Fairfield, Moygownagh, Ballina, Co. Mayo  
Date of Birth 15 July 1890. Occupation – Farmer. Married Mary Melvin in 1925 (who was ‘dead 20 years’).

He later confirmed on 16-7-69 that his father was Pat Browne and mother was Bridget Lynott.  
He died 26-6-1982.



Cafferty, John, 38 Erris Road, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

DOB: 23-5-1900

MD36616

He applied for a (1917-1921) service medal on 17-8-59 and was granted it on 28-2-64. His Moygownagh C Company membership on the vouching of Martin Gallagher ex. Company captain. His address on 11-7-1921 was listed as Doobeha, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo (He gave M Gallagher, his Coy. Captain's address as Gortnahurra, Crossmolina) and said he served under him and Peter Quinn. His occupation in July 1921 was as labourer, while he was ill and not occupied at the time of application.

It was noted on his file that there was no other associated MSP file or certs.

Cafferty, Michael, Glenmore, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

DOB: 19-09-1900

MD40956 [need to inspect files – relying on abstract from online finding aid]

He applied for a (1917-1921) service medal and was granted it on 29-5-64. Occupation Farmer, married to Bridget (Bridie) Brogan.

DP38181 Associated file – not consulted.

There is a reference to Cafferty making a Service Pension application in the file of James Lynott [Snr], Stonehall, Crossmolina, File no. 34SP38217

On 5-7-1941, James Lynott wrote to Minister for Local Government and Public Health:

Dear Sir,

I wish to remind you of the Moygownagh IRA Company as there has been no body called yet. We understand that Mr. John Deane is pressing forward two men, one from here and another from Crossmolina parish. Their names are William Gallagher and Michael Cafferty, Rathmore, Crossmolina. They joined up about Nov 1921. They don't turn up to any of the Moygownagh Company meetings. I have been informed that I have been turned down for good, Mr. Calleary told the Company Captain. We got a twenty one days notice which we returned and we got a final notice later. I gave mine to Mr. Calleary and he said he would see about it but I heard nothing about it since. Bartley Hegarty sent on a second form for me when he was on the pension board. I worked well under him and the brigade officers.

If Gallagher and Cafferty get the pensions for doing a while of drill after the truce it will leave a lot of dissatisfaction among the men that joined up in 1918. Some of them got land.

I hope they won't forget us altogether.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours Respectly, James Lynott [Stonehall, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo]

Clifford, Patrick Joseph, 34 Priory Rd. Dartford, Kent, England.

DOB: 17-03-1901

MD14820

He initially applied for a (1917-1921) service medal when a member of the Garda Siochana, serving at Ramelton, Co. Donegal, and was granted it on 25-10-1952, it but lost it attending a dance in the Irish club in Dartford, on St Patrick's night in 1963. On payment of a fee of five shillings he was granted a replacement on 29-5-64. Martin Gallagher, Captain of Moygownagh C Company vouched his claim as an active member under his command from 1918-1923.

In his application in Sep or Oct 1945, Clifford gave the following details of his service up to and including 11<sup>th</sup> July 1921.

I was appointed a member of the engineering section and received instructions on explosives and how [to] use them. With four other members of the company erected two dugouts within the company area. Attended drill parades, carried dispatches, carried out orders of Dail Courts. Organised resistance against the services of R.I.C. Assisted in collecting the firearms and ammunition within the area, preserved the amount allotted to my care, assisted in raising funds for the purchase of firearms. The boycott of Belfast goods by destruction in the course of transit. Dispatching arms, cutting wires. Trenching and blocking roads. **Proceeded with members of the company to an ambush which had ended quickly with success for our forces before we arrived.** Those are only a few of the many duties we had to perform and most of the time was engaged. With long periods of night duty over difficult country.

Clifford also confirmed in his application that he had previously applied for a Service pension but not a disability pension.

Cronin, Patrick James, St Patrick's, Balkhill Road, the Summit, Howth, Co. Dublin

DOB: 3-12-1903

MD48198

He initially applied for a (1917-1921) service medal in 4/3/1972, which was refused on 12-4-72. C as his referees Company Captain Martin Gallagher had died about 1962, the Company 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant James Mulloy (of Glenmore, Crossmolina) died about 1952. Battalion O/C Anthony Farrell died in 1971 in Ballina Hospital and V O/C could 'not recollect this man's name'. Subsequently, Hugh Finnerty (as C Company Adjutant) did confirm Cronin's enrolment in the IRA in mid-1920 'carrying out any duty assigned to you'. Paddy Bourke ex- Co Councillor, confirmed Cronin's membership of IRA C Company in the '1916-23 period'. James Lynott, Stonehall, also confirmed Cronin's membership 'continuously for the three months ended 11<sup>th</sup> July 1921'. The testimony of the latter two men were deemed not acceptable as 'neither person is recorded as having been during the critical period an officer at Coy. or Bn level in the applicable unit'. Likewise Finnerty was 'not recorded as an officer during the critical period.' The officials thus believed that Cronin had joined post-Truce. Joseph Kelly's status was still deemed an issue to offer any confirmation.

He appealed this decision to the secretary of the Defence Forces in 19-4-72 saying '[...] and need I say I am both disappointed and saddened by the decision reached because I felt certain that the written evidence I had furnished was adequate to secure a decision favourable to me'. He confined again that the authorities had received his letters from Patrick Bourke Commatt. 3 Battalion, Hugh Finnerty, Adjutant, James Lynott Quartermaster and Joseph Kelly, i/c IRA police, C Company.

Even in my advanced years I was overjoyed and proud in anticipation of wearing my medal at the various functions to be held this year (1972) commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the formation of the Garda Síochána of which I was a founder member, but alas I feel that this joyful experience may not now be mine. Having regard to all the circumstances I now appeal to you to be generous enough to review the decision taken in my case and so enable me to take an honoured place with my colleagues when suitable occasions arise.

After a decade, from 27-1-1984 to 11-9-1984 Cronin then made several requests to have his case reviewed. He claimed to have been sworn in by Martin Gallagher into C Company

Moygownagh IRA in 1920, with a Tommie Dooher, Fairfield, Crossmolina. By this time, Cronin's wife had a stroke and was confined to hospital.

His initial refusal had been based on the fact his name could not be identified with the 'P. Cronin – Garda' without address on the nominal pre-truce IRA membership rolls for C Company. Despite this Joseph Kelly (snr) confirmed in 21-4-1984 that Cronin 'had joined the IRA long before the Truce and was a constant member up to being disbanded which was the end of the Volunteers'. P Bourke could not remember him but said a long time had passed since and his recollection may not do him (Cronin) justice. The later appeal was marred by the deaths of many of Cronin's referees. Tommie (Thomas) Dooher mentioned by Cronin was listed as a post Truce member of Moygownagh C company only, the official noting 'There are almost twice as many names on the post Truce roll as on the pre Truce roll which indicates that there was a large influx of applicants to the Company during the Truce, Mr. Cronin being one of these'. It was also noted that Cronin's age of 17 ½ years at the time of his supposed enrolment was deemed too young to be likely and then recommended to again refuse his medal application on 6-3-84. However the officials continued investigations on the representations by Michael Joe Cosgrove TD to Minister of Defence P Cooney.

The Deputy Garda Commissioner confirmed on 27-6-84 that Cronin's personal file revealed he joined the Garda Síochána on 4/1/1923 and on date of Garda attestation said to have been 'a member of the IRA from 1919-1922 (his death cert of 9-5-1992 termed him a retired Sergeant [Garda]). This had been confirmed at the time by Capt Thomas Kneafsey, Crossmolina [MD1458), 24SP11031], and 'captain of the local IRA battalion'. In his attestation Cronin confirmed he was a farmer from Fairfield, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo and a member of the IRA for two years. The Dept. of Defence officials doubted Kneafsey's rank as he could not be verified in the nominal rolls and he had resigned from the Army in 1924. The Dept. subsequently requested contemporary written evidence of Kneafsey's confirmation on 22-8-1984 but the deputy Garda Commissioner replied on 24-08-84 that 'all documents relating to references of character and services in the old IRA were returned to Mr. Cronin on his retirement from the Garda Síochána'.

The medals committee awarded a medal to Cronin on 13-9-84. Cronin 'served in Howth / Baldoyle area for a long period of time' according to Michael Joe Cosgrove TD who

subsequently also made representations for a service allowance under the Army Pension Acts for Cronin – ultimately unsuccessful as his Garda pension was deemed to disqualify him.

Cronin was notified on 1-10-84 that as the Service (1917-1921) medal was awarded to him 'in respect of continuous membership of 'C' Moygownagh Company IRA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, N. North Mayo Brigade during the three months ended on 11 July 1921. This medal award also granted him a free electricity allowance, free television licence and free telephone rental allowance in due course. He was also entitled to the issue of the Truce (1921) Commemoration medal.

**In the process of investigation of Cronin's claim – it was noted about 5-9-1972 that there were no successful MSP applications according to the 'Red Book' of 1934 Military Service Pension applications under Moygownagh C Company (a John McDonnell listed under Moygownagh was found to be a duplicate of a Straide C company member). Further enquiries revealed that while Patrick Bourke had a successful MSP application (34C210) Joseph Kelly and Hugh Finnerty did not. Bourke was O/C of Ballycastle Coy. until his arrest on 26-6-21 and O/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on 1-7-22. He also claimed to be Bn officer of Transport. Kelly secured an oral hearing under the '34 act but Finnerty did not. [There is a clear sense of the authorities not considering the authority of Kelly and Finnerty of sufficient value despite the awarding of a special allowance to Kelly as 'he had a hard run to have the medal issued to him in 1953 held awarded ultimately in 1966 (he is not on the Coy. Roll', while Finnerty had 'no certificate or other documentation of significance on his MSP file'. There were also no Volunteer pensions (for C Company) under the 1924 Act as per records on 1/9/72.**

File also contains:

He married Kathleen A McElroy of Howth Post Office on 11-8-1930. He died on 9-5-1992 in St James Hospital, Dublin.

He also confirmed in his original application that he had not previously applied for a Service pension nor a disability pension. He was a farm worker in July 1921 and a retired Garda pensioner at time of application.

Finnerty, Hugh, 59 Broadford Hill, Dublin 14

DOB: 1900

34SP40925

On 1-4-1935 He sought an application form for an IRA pension as he had been Adjutant of Moygownagh C Company IRA from 1919-23. His subsequent application for a Service Certificate was rejected on 23-7-1940 as he was deemed not a person to whom the Act applies.

On 25-1-1950 he sought to have his pension claim reopened. This was rejected on 20-8-1954.

MSP34REF39168

In his Service Pension application of 8-11-1935 he stated the following details of his service:  
Hugh Finnerty of Driminagle, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo:

In Moygownagh Company, served from January to March 1918, in district of Moygownagh under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'by carrying out the orders of superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'drills, parades, anti-recruiting, extensive anti-conscription campaign'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh; Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: Moygownagh Company, Ballina Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'away from work, assisting Captain in organising Company (as adjutant of same)'. His military operations consisted of 'Assisting the Captain to carry out decrees of Dail Courts, organising Police for duty during Election, extensive training, anti-recruiting and anti-conscription campaign. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh; Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken under commanding officer, Dr. Crowley, Batt OC. His active service was 'by carrying out any orders give me'. His military service was 'enforcing boycott of Belfast goods, drilling and attending military classes. The carrying out of general raids for arms as ordered. Raising funds

for purchase of arms etc.’ Referees: Anthony Farrell, Carrowmore PO, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was ‘neglecting and absence from work carrying out orders of superior officers’. His military service was ‘organising general raids for arms and keeping of same. Police duty, **Enforcing arbitration Dail Courts**, Boycott of RIC and Belfast goods. Raising funds for arms and subscribed to same. Training and organising. Care and transferring of arms’. Referees: Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina; Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was ‘absence from home and work, as Adjutant of Company continually organising’. His military service was ‘policing and guarding Dail courts, raising levies for arms, dog licenses, assisting and hiding wounded and getting medical aid for same. Transferring arms from other Batt. areas also cleaning oiling and inspecting [illegible word] and assisting men on the run’. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina; Tom Newcombe, Bunree, Ballina.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken under commanding officer, Shaun Langan. His active service was ‘continuous absence from home and work, always awaiting orders from superiors and carrying out of same’. His military service was ‘training camps, organisation work, drilling IRA, Police duty, raising levies for arms’. Referees; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina; Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken under commanding officer, Dr. Crowley. His active service was ‘absence from home and work, always



willing to carry out orders given to me'. His military service was 'trenching, blocking and blowing up of roads. Raids of Post Offices, Boycott of Belfast goods, **did my best along with others to meet Michael Gilroy's column at Glenamoy but owing to floods was unsuccessful**'. Referees; Thomas Ruane (senator), Ballina, Co. Mayo; P.A. Calleary B.E. formerly of Ballina, Michael J. Kelly, Driminangle, Moygownagh, Crossmolina.

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken under commanding officer, Dr. Crowley. His active service was 'absence from home and work, evading arrest of Free-State troops'. His military service was 'Road trenching, felling trees and road blocking, assisting helping and feeding men on the run night and day. Referees; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina; Michael Joe Kelly, USA; Pat McLoughlin, USA.

Rank on 1<sup>st</sup> Critical Date: Adjutant C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade, IRA

Rank on 2<sup>nd</sup> Critical Date: Adjutant C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade, IRA

Referees:

P.A. Calleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo

Dennis Sherin, Ballina, Co. Mayo

Tom Ruane, senator, Ballina, Co. Mayo

Additional information:

Joining the IRA Jan 1918. Subsequently I was appointed Adjutant of Company. Did everything in my power in assisting the officers of Co. in recruiting, organising, drilling etc. Did everything in connection with my position. Always carried out orders of my superior officers. Was partly on the run during F.S. regime. Fed men on the run and assisted them both pre Truce and post Truce times.

Witness: Thomas Jennings, P.C. Driminangle, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

The application was rejected on 4-7-1940 as he was deemed no a person to whom the [Pension] Act applied.

On 7-2-1941 P.A. Calleary wrote to PJ Rutledge:

The aforementioned who were members of Moygownagh Co. IRA received notices some time ago that they were not considered as persons to whom Pension Act applied and asking that they might if they wish appeal. The appeals were sent away in the one envelope to Pension Board still two I think of them got notice again that they were turned down. However none of the rest were called up although most other areas were since called up not that in my opinion it makes an awful difference. However would you ring up Pensions Board and ask that they be called as soon as possible.

1 – Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo

2 – Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

3 – James Synott [Lynott], Stonhall, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

4 – Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

5 – Patrick Hegarty, Treenagh, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

6 – James Synott [Lynott] (Jnr), Glenmore, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

7 – Thomas Jennings, Driminangle, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

8 – Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

Get them called and they cannot blame anybody. I told them I was writing you in the matter.

I also ask that John Murphy, Dooleghney, Castleconnor, Ballina, be called. This is a very good man with good record.

Hugh Finnerty applied for his claim to be re-opened on 3-6-51, providing the following additional facts to his original claim:

I was adjutant Moygownagh C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Batt. North Mayo Brigade. I was engaged in all activities of Company which included raid for arms, raid for mails, guarding wounded

man also column within my Company area. I took part in engagements at Belville and Palmerstown and was present when Company was surprised by enemy patrol during training operations. I guarded Column after Clydagh ambush.

This appeal was rejected 12-11-1953.

[MD15333](#)

Formerly of Driminangle, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo. Date of Death 28-10-1979. Awarded a Service Certificate on 15-7-1980. Issued medal in 1953. Married on 15-4-1930.

He applied on 25-1-1950 for a Service (1917-1921) medal to be awarded to him as Adjutant, 'in respect of continuous membership of 'C' Moygownagh Company IRA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, N. North Mayo Brigade during the three months ended on 11 July 1921. In his application he confirmed that he had applied for a Service pension and his address on 11-7-1921 was Driminangle, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo and had served from 1918-21.

Thomas Ruane, Brigade OC and Patrick Bourke, Batt Commander both vouched for his service. He was awarded the Service Medal on 2-10-52.

He also confirmed in his original application that he had previously applied for a Service pension but not a disability pension.

Finnerty, Thomas, Carn, (Moygowna), Garranard, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

DOB -

34SP40926

Thomas Finnerty, of Carn, Garranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo wrote about 23 April, 1935 to the Minister for Defence seeking to make an application for 'the IRA pension'.

His subsequent application for a Service Certificate was refused on the basis on 1-4-1940 as he was not deemed a person to whom the [Pension] Act applied.

His subsequent letter received by the Office of the Referee, Griffiths Barracks, Dublin on 22-5-1940, contained the following 'further evidence of military service':

Name – Thomas Finnerty, 22 Corcoran Terrace, Ballina, Co. Mayo

Joined Volunteers in or about 1917 or early 1918.

1-4-18 to 31-3-19; drill, parades, organising, anti-recruiting, anti-conscription, collection of arms, collecting funds.

1-4-19 to 31-3-20; Raids for arms, preventing people attending British courts, anti-conscription, anti-recruiting collecting funds.

1-4-20 to 31-3-21; Raids for arms some of which were resisted but captured under fire. Enforcing Belfast Boycott, fight with RIC patrol near Belville, **attended first aid lecture**, collected funds for arms, preventing young men from joining the RIC, preventing people paying dog licence.

1-4-21 to 11-7-21; attending Dail courts and enforcing its decrees, enforcing Belfast boycott, protecting Kellys land at Muingereern, whose cattle were driven and tails cut. Arrest of people at Stonehall in land dispute and guard on my turn for three days before hearing of case before Dail court. Where prisoners were defended by a solicitor. **Enforcing Civil law by preventing poteen making. Had several cases brought up before Dail court and collected fines in each case. Had to seize bicycles in a few cases before fines were paid.** Cut and trenched road after Clydagh ambush. Fight with RIC during raid on Post Office. Guard and protection for A.S. Unit on my turn. Guard for two wounded men in my area.

12-7-21 to 30-6-22; Campy duty at Moygowna. Active Police Duty.

1-7-22 to 31-3-23; Cut and trenched road after Ballina capture. Cut Belville Bridge, sniped at F.S. soldiers at Belville. Met A.S. Unit after Glenamoy. Night guard for and provided food and safety for Column. A number of dug outs almost complete.

1-4-23 to 30-9-23; Helped to dump arms. Provide food and safety for men on the run. Kept road constantly blocked leading into mountain area where A.S. Unit were camping.

Martin Gallagher, Co. Captain.

This appeal was also refused on 3-8-1940 for the same reason as the original.

[MSP34REF39169](#)

Original application for a Service Certificate by Thomas Finnerty of Carn, Moygowna, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo on 27-12-1935 contains the following claims:

In Moygownagh Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion North Mayo Brigade, served from January to March 1918, in district of Moygowna under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher, Killala. His active service was 'carrying out orders of superior officer'. His military operations consisted of 'drills, parades, anti-recruiting and extensive anti-conscription campaign'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygownagh; Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Moygownagh.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: Moygownagh Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'assisting Captain in organising Company'. His military operations consisted of 'assisting in carrying out of general orders of Co. Captain namely the carrying out of decrees of Dail courts and police duty, drill twice weekly, raids for arms. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygownagh; Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Moygownagh.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: Moygownagh Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, served in district of Moygowna. Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher, Killala. His active service was 'by carrying out any orders given me'. His military service was 'enforcing boycott of Belfast goods, drilling and attending military

classes, raids for arms'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygownagh; Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Moygownagh.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: Moygownagh Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh. Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher, Killala. His active service was 'neglecting and absence from work carrying out orders of superior officers'. His military service was 'organising general raids for arms and helping of same, police duty, enforcing arbitration, Dail Courts, boycott RIC, and Belfast goods Raising fund for arms and subscribed to same. Training, organising, care and transferring of arms. Referees: Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygownagh.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: Moygowna Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, served in district of Moygowna. Killala, Kilfian, Ballycastle, Lacken under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher, Killala. His active service was 'absence from home and work, drilling and training'. His military service was 'policing and guarding of Dail courts, transferring of arms from other Batt. areas, assisting men on the run. Sniped RIC tenders'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Tom Newcombe, Bunree, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: Moygowna Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, served in district of Moygowna. Ballycastle, Killala, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher, Killala. His active service was 'continuous absence from home and work, always awaiting orders from superior officers and carrying out of same'. His military service was 'training camps, organisation, drilling, police duty, raising levies for arms. Camp duty at Stonehall. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: Moygowna Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, served in district of Moygowna. Ballycastle, Killala, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher, Killala. His active service was 'absence from home and work, always willing to carry out any orders given me' ... His military service was 'trenching and blocking of roads, raids on Post Office, boycott of Belfast goods. Fight at Belvin Bridge. Referees:

Thomas Ruane (senator) Ballina, Co. Mayo; PA Calleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo; Patrick Bourke Col [Councillor], Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923: Moygowna Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, served in district of Moygowna. Ballycastle, Killala, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, 'Martin Gallagher, up to May. Michael Joe Kelly remainder of period (in USA)'. His active service was 'absence from home and work'. His military service was 'road trenching, felling trees and road blocking, assisting helping feeding men on the run night and day'. Referees: Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, Church Rd. Killala; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygownagh.

Rank on first critical date: Volunteer - 'C' Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade IRA

Rank on second critical date: Volunteer - 'C' Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade IRA.

Statement of additional information:

'Joined the IRA in 1918 carried out all orders given to me by my superior officers. Was partly on the run during the Free State regime. Fed and helped men on the run both pre Truce and post truce time. Lost my time and money on account of my activity. I lost work etc.

Witnessed by Anthony Quinn, PC of Ballycastle.

Gallagher, Martin, Church Rd, Killala, Co. Mayo

DOB -

34SP11761

Martin Gallagher, Church Rd, Killala, Co. Mayo wrote on 30-8-1934, to IRA Pension committee, seeking to make an application for 'Pension as I was Captain in the IRA from 1917 to 1923'.

His subsequent application for a Service Certificate was refused on the basis on 17-2-1942 as he was not deemed a person to whom the [Pension] Act applied.

His subsequent letter on 29-4-1942, received by the Dept. of Defence, contained the following:

Dear Sir,

I wish to protest against the decision of the Referee regarding my Military Service Pension. I firmly believe I qualified or at least should have as I had a few engagements during the Tan war period and also during the Civil war period.

I was also picked as a key man by the Brigade and Battalion committee and I can't see why I was thrown out. Therefore I would ask you see into the matter without delay. I may also add that there is terrible unrest among the ranks of the old IRA. In my Co. in which I was Captain not one qualified, according to the referee.

Martin Gallagher P.C. (ex Captain).

This was again rejected by the Minister of Defence's office on 15-5-1942. Martin Gallagher further wrote on the 23-10-1942 to the Minister of Defence:

Sir,

Re: Military Service Pension Act 1934

I have been requested by my Brigade and Battalion Pension Committee, to make application to have my case again reopened for verification.

The reason I make this appeal is 1<sup>st</sup> I was the Co. Captain from 1918 to 1922 and carried out all orders issued to me by my superior officers. 2<sup>nd</sup> as regards my activities. I know



my case to be far superior to individuals in my Battalion area who are in receipt of a Military Service pension for the past few years. If there are any further information such as activities or references which I can forward, please let me know.

Martin Gallagher, PC.

This appeal against the finding of the Referee was rejected on 7-11-1942, as it had been already 'carefully and sympathetically considered by the Referee before forwarded to the Minister' and thus a further appeal could not be accepted.

Martin Gallagher submitted new evidence which the Minister of Defence directed on 5-8-1943, that the Referee would review his report in the light of the additional information. However, on 31-5-1944 the Minister's office informed Martin Gallagher, that the Referee had confirmed his original decision after reviewing the additional evidence.

The Dept. received a letter on 31-12-1945 from Martin Gallagher, further appealing the Referee's decision and adding that:

In addition to the evidence I gave, I took arms from Moygownagh to Clydagh and I escorted the Colum(n) there.

In reply to the Dept.'s request for further information, before any appeal can be made, Martin Gallagher supplied the following information on 1-4-1946:

Sir,

I am in receipt of your communication referencing to my appeal against your decision in granting me a service certificate under the Military Service Pensions Act 1934.

As regards additional evidence and documents I have not the slightest intention of furnishing any more, as you have my evidence there already.

I claim I am entitled to some consideration through me being Captain of a Company from 1918 to 1923 and carried out some local engagements on my own. If I don't get it on my previous evidence you can keep it.

I now wish to state I and all belonging to me, are withdrawing all my support towards  
E.F.

M. Gallagher

Subsequently he wrote to the Dept. of Defence on 27-2-1950 seeking:

[...] a petition form for IRA pension from 1918-1923. I am a an ex-Captain who has been turned down by the Pension Board a few years ago [...] I also made an application for a medal some months ago – filled the necessary forms and got no reply since.

The Minister's officer replied on 6-6-1955, that while the Referee has reconsidered his application under the terms of the Military Service Pensions (amendment) Act, 1949 but that it is reaffirmed he was not a person to whom the Military Service Pension Act 1934 applies, and thus not entitled to a Service Certificate.

[MD12948](#)

Martin Gallagher wrote to the Dept. of Defence on 2-5-1949:

Dear Sir

I wish to make an application for an Old IRA Service Medal. It is the only time I applied for one. Owing to the fact that I was turned down for a service pension, which I believed I was entitled to. **I was always a keen follower of F.F. until about 5 years ago. It was only then I realised some of their false promises, especially towards the old IRA, the way they were treated as regards the[ir] pensions.** I am an ex Captain from 1918-1923 C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade. In our Batt area less than 10 are getting pensions. Therefore they would not apply for medals. I am now organising the Battalion and we can assure the Interparty Government of our wholehearted support.

Yours truly, Martin Gallagher P.C.

His subsequent application for a Service Medal was approved on 2-4-1951.

He also confirmed in his original application that he had previously applied for a Service pension but not a disability pension.

The Dept. of Defence received on 7-5-1935 Martin Gallagher's application for a Service Certificate with the following claim:

Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo

In Moygownagh Company, served from January to March 1918, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, 'Self and Tom Ruane, Senator, Ballina'. His active service was 'carrying out all orders of superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'drills, parades, extensive anti-recruiting and anti-conscription campaign'. Referees: Thomas Ruane (Senator), Ballina, Co. Mayo; P.A. Calleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo; Denis Sheran, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: Moygownagh Company, Ballina Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Crossmolina and Ballina, under commanding officer, 'Self and Tom Ruane, Senator, Ballina'. His active service was 'away from work, organising and recruiting of Company, as Captain of same'. His military operations consisted of 'Carrying out decrees of Dail Courts, organising Police for duty during election, extensive training and recruiting – anti conscription campaign'. Referees: Referees: Thomas Ruane (Senator), Ballina, Co. Mayo; P.A. Calleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo; Denis Sheran [Sheeran], Ballina, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken and Ballina and Crossmolina, under commanding officer, Dr. Crowley Batt O.C. His active service was 'as Captain of Compy. Always ready for any orders given me by my superiors'. His military operations consisted of 'Emporting [sic] Boycott of Belfast goods, drilling and attending military classes, organising and carrying out general raids for arms and raising funds for purchase of arms (etc.)'. Referees: Referees: Thomas Ruane (Senator), Ballina, Co. Mayo; P.A. Calleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo; Denis Sheran [Sheeran], Ballina, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Ballycastle, Lacken, Ballina, Kilfian, and Crossmolina, under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was 'always away from home

and work, always awaiting orders from my Superiors'. His military operations consisted of 'Organising raids for arms, concealing, oiling, cleaning of same, transferring from one area to another, organising making of dugouts, raising funds for arms and subscribing to same. Boycott of RIC and Belfast goods, enforcing arbitration Dail Courts. Police Duty and Extensive training of men. Cartridge filling (etc.)'. Referees: Referees: Thomas Ruane (Senator), Ballina, Co. Mayo; P.A. Calleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo; Paddy Bourke CC, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Lacken, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Killala, Ballina, and Crossmolina, under commanding officer, 'Self and Anthony Farrell'. His active service was 'devoting my whole time and absence from work. On the run from Crown forces'. His military operations consisted of 'Blocking roads, cutting wires, extensive dispatch carrying and sending reports to my superiors, of enemy movements. Collecting dump arms after Clydagh ambush. Assisting and hiding of wounded and getting medical aid, transferring and carrying them to different places. Raising levies for arms, on dances, sports or collections. But never could secure same [underlined by later reviewer]. Referees: Referees: Paddy Bourke CC, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Tom Newcome, Bunree, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Edward O'Boyle, Tooreen, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.



12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of 'Batt area, along with Ballina, Crossmolina, Belmullet, Sheskin, Keenagh and

Altbrucky'. Under commanding officer, 'Self and Shaun Langan'. His active service was 'always away from home and work, ready for any order from my superior'. His military operations consisted of 'Training camps, organisation, drilling, IRA police duty, preventing cattle driving (etc.) raising levies for arms'. Referees: Referees: Paddy Bourke CC, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Shemas Kilcullen, 113 Walsh Road, Drumcondra, Dublin; Dennis Sheeran, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of Moygownagh, Ballycastle, Lacken, Kilfian and Belmullet under commanding officer, 'Self and Dr. Crowley'. His active service was 'absence from home work'. His military operations consisted of 'attack and capture of Free State troops at Glenassera and Glenamoy (Belderrig) trenching and blocking of roads, raids on Post Offices, Boycotting Belfast goods, surrounded by Free State troops while on the run and escaped miraculously through rifle fire, as I was much wanted (etc.). Referees: Thomas Ruane (Senator), Ballina, Co. Mayo; P.A. Calleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo; Denis Sheran, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1923 to 'middle of following May when I resigned through ill-health on Dr. Crowley's advice': Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, served in district of all Battalion area, Moygownagh, Ballycastle (etc.) under commanding officer, 'Self and Dr. Crowley'. His active service was 'absence from home and work, always on the run and waiting orders, during period at (b)'. His military operations consisted of 'Cutting of bridges and felling trees, sending dispatches (Etc. Etc. Etc.). Referees: Thomas Ruane (Senator), Ballina, Co. Mayo; P.A. Calleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo; Denis Sheran, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

Rank on first critical date: Rank D. Captain - 'C' Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade IRA

Rank on second critical date: Captain - 'C' Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade IRA.

In January 1938, in reply to an enquiry 22-10-1937 by the Land Commission seeking information connected to a land claim by Martin Gallagher, the Dept. of Defence confirmed that while no decision had been taken regarding Gallagher's pension claim as yet, they agreed that he 'gave first class meritorious IRA Service during the Pre-Truce period'.

His subsequent letter received by the Office of the Referee, Griffiths Barracks, Dublin and dated 20-5-1940 on contained the following 'further evidence of military service':

Name Martin Gallagher

Joined Volunteers about 1918. Was then appointed Captain from 1918 until 1923.

1-4-18 to 31-3-19: Drills. Parades. Organising Anti-recruiting. Anti-Conscription campaign. Collecting funds for arms.

1-4-19 to 31-3-20: Raids for arms. Preventing people attending British courts. Anti-Conscription. Anti-recruiting. Collecting funds.

1-4-20 to 31-3-21: Raids for arms. Some resisted by shooting at us through the windows. Finally we succeeded in gaining an entrance and secured the arms. During that period I was always on the run and neglected my duty a farmer at home. There was an engagement with a cycling patrol of RIC men near Belvine [Belville]. [A later reviewer's note of this event says the following 'Not on Bde [Brigade] Ops List [illegible word] 17-6-41]. Shots were exchanged and then they got away. Attending first aid lectures. Collecting funds for arms. Preventing young men joining RIC. Organising.

1-4-21 to 11-7-21: Attending Dail Courts every month. **As I was one of the Arbitrators.** Executing its decrees. Protecting Kelly's Lands at Muneneering [sic] whose cattle were driven and tails cut. Was there on guard in turn for 2 weeks. Carried out arrest of ten people at Stonehall land dispute and had narrow escape from death by being kicked by one of the prisoners in the stomach. Prisoners were defended at Farmhill by a solicitor (Mr. Bourke Ballina). Was all the time during time in Barracks namely Farmhill, Glenvilla, Keenagh Lodge, Altnabrucky, Heathfield. Always wearing uniform. Refused rank of Captain in Free State army. Refused to join Civic Guards. As my aim was always a republic. Guarding two wounded men and having them medically treated.

1-7-22 to 31-3-23: Cut and trenched roads after capture of Ballina. Cut Belville [Belville] bridge. Sniped Free State soldiers joined Column at Glenlossera ambush. A number of dug outs in our Co. area. Always away from home. Got into ill health in the latter end of 1923 and had to surrender on Dr advice.

Signed Martin Gallagher captain

On 7-2-1941 P.A. Calleary wrote to PJ Rutledge:

The aforementioned who were members of Moygownagh Co. IRA received notices some time ago that they were not considered as persons to whom Pension Act applied and asking that they might if they wish appeal. The appeals were sent away in the one envelope to Pension Board still two I think of them got notice again that they were turned down. However none of the rest were called up although most other areas were since called up not that in my opinion it makes an awful difference. However would you ring up Pensions Board and ask that they be called as soon as possible.

1 – Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo

2 – Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

3 – James Synott [Lynott], Stonhall, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

4 – Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

5 – Patrick Hegarty, Treenagh, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

6 – James Synott [Lynott] (Jnr), Glenmore, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

7 – Thomas Jennings, Driminangle, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

8 – Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

Get them called and they cannot blame anybody. I told them I was writing you in the matter.

I also ask that John Murphy, Dooleghney, Castleconnor, Ballina, be called. This is a very good man with good record.

Undated appeal statement of 'applicant Martin Gallagher, Killala, Ballina':

1-1-1918 to 31-3-1918: Drills, Parades, establishing Dail Courts, which I was appointed one of the magistrates. Election duty. Collection of arms, was in Baton charge at Ballycastle which was resisted. Dispatch work.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: Attended Dail Courts monthly. Having decrees executed. Raids for arms. Sending dispatches. Attending first aid lectures. Collected funds for arms. Raid on Petty Session Clerk. Boycott of British Courts.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: Raids for arms some of which were resisted Orms [Ormes], Fethershaugh [Fetherstonhaugh], Irelands. Had to put up a fight before we succeeded in capturing arms. Boycott of British Courts. Collecting funds for arms. Dispatch work. Raids on P.O. Censorship of mails. Enforcing Belfast Boycott.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: Raids on P.O. Fight with Black and Tans near Belville, Granard P.O. Enforcing Belfast Boycott. Attended First Aid lectures. Collecting funds for arms. Preventing men joining RIC. Prevent people paying dog licences. Attending Dail Courts monthly. Enforcing its decrees. Dispatch work. Raids on Post Boys to see if information was been [being] given about Column which was very often in the mountain part of our area. On the run continually. Cut roads after fight in Ballycastle. Was at fight at Palmerstown, came there to take over prisoners to our area. Had roads blocked and trees felled that day.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: During Tan raid in our Co. area we surprised and disarmed two Tans. Continually on the run. Enforcing Belfast Boycott. Attending Dail Courts and enforcing its decrees. Protecting Kelly's farm at Muingerein where cattle were driven. Arrested ten men at Stonehall over land dispute where I got kicked and beaten. Had them guarded for three days and nights before we could have them tried by Dail Court when they had to have solicitor. Enforcing Civil law. Preventing Poteen making. Was with Column at Clydagh. Extensive blocking of roads and felling trees after Clydagh. Guarding Column and providing food and clothes for them while in our mountain area. Guard on two wounded men in our area. Had them attended by Dr. Surprised by Black



and Tans during raid on Post Office. Where got bullet would on head. Attended by Dr. Guarding Dr. Madden, John Barrett.

12-7-1921 to 30-8-1922: [note dates overlap with below] Went to Barracks. Training Camps. Week end camps. Police Duty. Organising and Drilling.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: Was in attack and capture of Free State troops at Glenossura [sic] and Glenamoy. Continually with Column.

1-4-1923 to end of following May: With Column until I had to resign through ill health on Dr advise [advice].

On representations of P.A. Calleary, Martin Gallagher was called for oral interview.

Summary of Sworn Evidence given before interviewing officers by applicant, Martin Gallagher, on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1941 and agreed to by him. (Ref. No. 11072).

Joined the Volunteers late in 1917 or early in 1918, and was made Captain.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Periods.

Routine Company duties as set out in his appeal statement (handed in). Took part in about 40 raids for arms. There was shooting at 3 houses. The raiders were fired on an[d] those houses replied to the fire. They succeeded in getting the guns.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Period

Belville Bridge – he got word that day from a friend, named Myles, that a cycling patrol had passed. Accordingly, he assembled about 15 men of the Company and disposed them in positions about the bridge. They were waiting 6 or 7 hours when, instead of the cycling patrol returning, two Lorries of Black and Tans came on the scene. They had sawn down a tree and blocked the road. The Lorries stopped when they came to the road block. The IRA opened fire on them. They were, however, outnumbered and made off. They were armed with 3 rifles and shotguns. Applicant had a revolver. He was in charge and was 40 yds. from the road block. He fired 6 rounds. Some of his men fired 3 or 4 rounds and some none at all as they got panicky when they saw the numbers of the enemy and wanted to make off. The enemy replied so fiercely that Mr. Gallagher thinks they were using machine guns. This occurred in the spring time.

He blocked roads about 15 times.

He was not in the fight at Palmerstown. He had got instructions to go there and take over prisoners whom it was the object of the IRA to arrest. When he came within half a mile of Palmerstown he heard firing; realised then that there would be no prisoners and returned.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Period

Took part in a raid on a Post Office at Granard [Garranard] in his own district. A lorry of Tans came during the raid. The IRA opened fire on them. He was armed with a revolver and fired at about 20 yds. range. He had ten men in the raiding party who fired on the Tans also. They managed to get away long the river which runs near the Post Office. Mr. Gallagher was wounded in the head on this occasion and was attended by Dr. McGuinness.

He disarmed two Tans by surprise on the roadway. They were guarding a lorry which had carried a party of raiders to the district. He got two rifles on that occasion and kept them in the Company.

He guarded Kelly's farm for two weeks full time.

He arrested ten civilians in connection with an agrarian dispute and held them for 3 days.

He was with the Column at Clydagh for one week, but had no engagement with them.

He guarded the Column about ten times.

Two wounded men named Swift and Chambers were in his area and had to be guarded for two months.

#### Miscellaneous Duties

In addition to the above, Mr. Gallagher attended the Dail Courts; executed decrees; sent despatches, a lot of which came thro' his district; raided the petty sessions clerk; boycotted RIC and British Courts; raided for Belfast goods; prevented people paying the dog licences; raided the postman; prevented poteen making; provided food and clothing for the Column.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Period

He spent six week-ends in camp at Stonehall; one week at Keenagh; two weeks at Artnabucky [Altnabrucky]. Spent one month in Farmhill Bks.; two weeks in Heathfield; and two weeks in Glenvilla.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Period

From Glenvilla he joined the Column under M. Kilroy and remained with that until he got into bad health which was in May 1923. He spent in all about six months with the Column. He took part in the fighting at Glenamoy and Glenlossera – both part of the same engagement – and afterwards retreated with the Column as far as Newport. He came home then and could do no more because he was in ill health.

Q. Does that cover it now?

A. I suppose it does. It does. I believe there are lots of small things that I can't recollect.

Q. Are you satisfied with that statement now?

A. I am. It is all right.

[End of interview] appended to end of summary of interview:

Advisory Committee:

Hold for Officers.

Applicant was Company Captain and took part in a couple of small engagements. He had a good deal of miscellaneous duty which is typical of this district, but I doubt that his Civil War service was as prolonged as he sought to make it appear in his statements. The truth appears to be to be as he gave it in his oral evidence – that he retreated with the column from Glenamoy to Newport and then came home. There were about 40 men in the Company on the outbreak of the Civil War and the same number at the date of the Truce. He states that they did not do very much during the Civil War.

[Note added by a reviewer later – ‘His description of the affair at Belville, which is substantiated by 11916 and 35488, does not correspond with anything in the Bde [Brigade] Committee’s list of Operations’]

Case was discussed with verifying officers on 14-1-1942 and the Referee’s report issued on 28-1-1942. A brigade statement was subsequently received in which his miscellaneous activities are summarised [see below].

Patrick Bourke Batt OC provided the following certified statement on Martin Gallagher [undated but noted 9-11-42 in pencil]

Martin Gallagher, Church St, Killala.

Martin Gallagher was the Co. Captain Moygownagh Coy and in this area A.S.U. spent a good part of their time while not engaged in activities. This is a mountain area with one road leading into Muingeraun, Srahmeen and Inagh, where active service unit spent times at rest. For their protection the road leading in had to be cut and locked all the time and he had to arrange to keep it blocked. He was in constant communication with A.S.U. when in this area and had to provide food, clothing etc. for them.

He with another was entrusted with all the dispatches going in and out to them and he had to arrange to call on them every day for this purpose. Owing to the danger of capture he had to do all this work in secret and it entailed the constant work of himself. He had to pilot the A.S.U. from this area when leaving it and his knowledge of the mountain (which is dangerous to strangers owing to lakes, bog holes and soft marches) made it necessary to accompany them. He was instructed by them to remain in the area for this purpose. He had the arrangement of blocking roads and he was constantly on the run, as his activities brought him under the notice of enemy forces. He kept constant guard for A.S.U. and was responsible for the care of arms seized, as well as guard for wounded men who also sheltered in this mountain area.

He had an engagement with Tans at Belville Bridge and was wounded at a surprise attack at Moygownagh Post Office. He took an active part in enforcing Belfast Boycott

and he helped to disarm Tans at Moygownagh Cemetery. He accompanied A.S.U. to Clydagh and was sent back with instructions to block the roads in Moygownagh area.

I certify above statements are true.

Patrick Bourke Batt O.C.

In the notes from the discussion of this case with 'Messrs Calleary and Burke {P. Burke Co. C Ballycastle}' dated 28-4-44, it was noted that at Belville Bridge incident there were 'RIC 4 or 5. Tenders 10/15 [...] 15 IRA men, road blocked, right in it'. Also that 'raids for arms, 30 – 2 Gentleman's residences Owenmore, Glenmore. Arms'. Belville Bridge and Moyownagh noted as 'very minor affairs' in North Mayo Operations in 27 & 36 [of Brigade Operations summary].

On 23-5-1944, the Referee reviewed his report in the light of the additional evidence and has confirmed his finding as set out in said report, with the result that Martin Gallagher was deemed not to be a person to whom the Act applies.

On 28-5-1957 Marin Gallagher again applied for a Service Certificate, seeking a reinvestigation with the following statement of facts:

1. I rely on the fact that I was Captain of my Company from its first inception in 1918 till 1923 and from the record of my services and activities, as set out on my application for a service certificate, as being facts sufficient to bring me within the provisions of the above Military Service Pensions Acts.
2. I further rely on the additional statements of my activit[ies] which I submitted at my interview in Dublin in 1941.
3. I also rely on the fact, that none of those whose names I gave on my application form were ever called to verify or give evidence on my behalf.
4. I also rely on the fact that I appealed against the decision of the Referee in refusing my application for a service certificate.
5. I further rely on the fact that my Battalion and Brigade officers, who are yet available, are both willing and anxious to give evidence on my behalf, on the re-investigation of my application.

6. I further rely on the fact that I am aware that there are five persons, who originally held the rank of Company Captains, in my Battalion area who are in receipt of pensions under the above Acts, with whom I served during the periods in question and the services of all Co. Captains in the above mentioned area were always regarded by our Brigade officers as being equal in efficiency.
7. From the foregoing facts, I now respectfully request, that my application be re-investigated.

The advisory committee [to the Referee] subsequently over July and August 1953, voted 3 to 2, that there was not a prima facie case that Martin Gallagher was a person to whom the Act of 1934 applied.

However, on 2 June 1954, Gallagher was notified that the Referee decided to re-investigate his application at the Courthouse, Ballina at 11am on 18-6-1954 where Gallagher was to attend and bring any supporting witnesses on that day.

There is no mention of any subsequent events. But the latest file entry of 8-7-1954 confirms no change in the original decision of the Referee.

Gallagher, William, Behy, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

DOB -

No file released [as per 10<sup>th</sup> release of the MSP files – May 2021]

There is a reference to Gallagher making a Service Pension application in the file of James Lynott [Snr], Stonehall, Crossmolina, File no. [34SP38217](#)

On 5-7-1941, James Lynott wrote to Minister for Local Government and Public Health:

Dear Sir,

I wish to remind you of the Moygownagh IRA Company as there has been no body called yet. We understand that Mr. John Deane is pressing forward two men, one from here and another from Crossmolina parish. Their names are William Gallagher and Michael Cafferty, Rathmore, Crossmolina. They joined up about Nov 1921. They don't turn up to any of the Moygownagh Company meetings. I have been informed that I have been turned down for good, Mr. Calleary told the Company Captain. We got a twenty one days notice which we returned and we got a final notice later. I gave mine to Mr. Calleary and he said he would see about it but I heard nothing about it since. Bartley Hegarty sent on a second form for me when he was on the pension board. I worked well under him and the brigade officers.

If Gallagher and Cafferty get the pensions for doing a while of drill after the truce it will leave a lot of dissatisfaction among the men that joined up in 1918. Some of them got land.

I hope they won't forget us altogether.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours Respectly, James Lynott [Stonehall, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo]

Hegarty, Patrick, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Crossmolina

DOB:

MD14857

He wrote seeking a (1917-1921) service medal on 19-11-48 and his application was received on 28-2-1950 and was granted it on 14-1-1953, after a delay due to his application after the original deadline of 31-12-1946. He also confirmed in his application that he had previously applied for a Service pension but not a disability pension.

In his original letter Hegarty claimed his lateness of application was due to:

[...] I was living in a backward district, was not aware that service medals were issued to men who served in the Volunteers and IRA (Pre-Truce) and consequently did not apply for one.

He lived at same address in July 1921

34SP37626

On 1-4-1935, he sought an application form for an IRA pension, received by the Dep of Defence on 4-4-1934 stating that he was 'a member of the IRA since 1919 and subsequently changed on to the Engineering Branch'. His subsequent application for a Service Certificate was rejected on 4-7-1940 as he was deemed not a person to whom the Act applies and he was notified of same on 25-7-1940.

Patrick J Rutledge TD received the following letter from J. Bolan (runai) of the Dept. on 30-6-1947:

With reference to your representations on behalf of Mr. P Bourke, MCC, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo, regarding certain applicants under the Military Service Pension Act, 1934, who desire to have their claims reopened, the Minister for defence desires me to say that any additional evidence which it is proposed to submit in support of appeals in respect of the under-mentioned should be submitted at once:-

Michael McDonnell, Anthony Quinn, William Greir, Thomas Tomlin, John Collins – all of Ballycastle. Peter Quinn Crossmolina, Martin Williams, Ballina, Martin Clifford (deceased).



Under the terms of the Section 5 of the Military Service Pensions (amendment) Act, 1945, the Minister's power to request the Referee to review his report in cases of the other applicants has been withdrawn, and in the circumstances it is regretted, that no further action is possible in connection with their claims.

He sought his Pension application case reopened, writing on 24-1-1950 stating:

I was on the engineering staff of Moygownagh C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (Ballycaste) North Mayo Brigade IRA. Some years back I sent to Pension Board completed form and I have heard nothing about the matter since.

On 3-5-1951, the Dept. wrote to Richard Walsh TD who had made representations on behalf of Patrick Hegarty, stating that a form of petition was sent to Hegarty on 20-2-1950 but had not been returned and that the closing date for return was 7-6-1951 for any case to be considered for reopening.

The Dept.'s reply to Patrick Hegarty's [of Treenagh, Moygownagh] appeal, on 20-8-1954 confirmed having considered the evidence presented by him, that there was not a prima facie case that he was a person to whom the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934 applied.

**On 13-3-1951, Mrs. Jim Jordan, of Enniscoe, Crossmolina wrote to Richard Walsh TD and enclosing details of Paddy [Hegarty] activities during War of Independence. [this is not the Paddy Hegarty of Treenagh and seems to be in the wrong file]. Similarly a letter from Tom Ruane of 3-3-1951 to Richard Walsh is referring to this different Patrick Hegarty.**

[MSP34REF35491](#)

On 6-12-1935 Patrick Hegarty of Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo, in his application form for a Service Certificate under the Military Service Pension Act 1934, stated the following:

In Moygownagh Company, Irish Volunteers, served from January to March 1918, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'by carrying out orders of my superiors'. His military operations consisted of 'drills, parades, anti-recruiting and extensive anti-conscription campaign'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: In Moygownagh Company, Ballina Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'away from work assisting Captain and organising Company. His military operations consisted of 'assisting Co Captain in the carrying out of decrees of Dail courts, organising Police for duty during election, extensive training, anti-recruiting and anti-conscription campaign.' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken, under commanding officer, Dr. Crowley Batt OC. His active service was 'by carrying out any orders given me'. His military operations consisted of 'enforcing Boycott of Belfast goods, drilling and attending military classes, the carrying out of raids for arms as ordered, raising funds for purchase of arms etc. '. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken, under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was 'neglecting and absence from home and work, carrying out orders of superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'organising general raids for arms and keeping of same. Police duty, enforcing arbitration Dail courts, boycott of RIC and Belfast Goods. Raising funds for arms and subscribed to same. Training and organising, care and transferring of arms'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Ballycastle, Lacken, Kilfian and Killala,, under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was 'absence from home and work, continually organising for Co'. His military operations consisted of 'policing and Dail courts. Raising levies for arms, dog licenses, assisting and hiding wounded and getting medical aid for same. Transferring arms from other Batt areas, also cleaning and oiling of arms.

Helping and assisting men on the run'. Referees; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Tom Newcombe, Bunree, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken, under commanding officer, Shaun Langan. His active service was 'continuous absence from home and work, always awaiting orders from superiors and carrying [sic] out of same'. His military operations consisted of 'training camps organisation work, drilling, IRA police duty, raising levies for arms'. Referees; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Michael Joe Kelly, formerly of Driminangle, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo, now of USA.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Kilfian, Killala, Ballycastle and Lacken, under commanding officer Dr. Crowley. His active service was 'absence from home and work, always ready to carry out any orders given to me'. His military operations consisted of 'trenching, blocking and blowing up of roads, raids on Post Offices, Boycott of Belfast goods. **Went with others to join Michael Kilroys Column at Glenamoy but owing to floods was disappointed**'. Referees; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; M. J. Kelly, USA; Pat McLoughlin, USA.

1-4-1922 to 30-9-1923: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Kilfian, Ballycastle and Lacken, under commanding officer Dr. Crowley. His active service was 'absence from home and work evading arrest of Free State troops'. His military operations consisted of 'bridge cutting, road trenching, felling trees and blocking of roads. Assisting, helping and feeding men on the run day and night'. Referees; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; M. J. Kelly, USA; Pat McLoughlin, USA.

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 1:

Private C Company, 4<sup>th</sup> [sic] Battalion, North Mayo Brigade, IRA

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 2:

Private C Company, 4th [sic] Battalion, North Mayo Brigade, IRA

Referees: P.A. Colleary B.E., Ballina, Co. Mayo; Senator Ruane, Ballina, Co. Mayo;  
Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

[Addendum to statement]

Joined IRA in 1918, did everything in my power for the furtherance of the movement. Carried out any orders given me, in fact to such an extent that I neglected my work for the whole period. I spent two or three weeks in camp training for the Engineering branch and subsequently carried out a lot of night work in connection with dug-outs.

Signed Pat Hegarty

Witnessed by: Thomas Jennings, PC, Driminangle, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo. 6-12-1935.

On 9-5-1938, the Land Commission sought information on 'particulars of Pre-Truce IRA Service claimed by Pat Hegarty, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo, who is an applicant for land.' In reply the Dept. of Defence stated the information in the form [of Patrick Hegarty's Pre-Truce service - not enclosed] was correct, his service pension claim was under consideration but that his service was not considered first class meritorious IRA service during the Pre-Truce period.

On 4-7-1940, the Referee refused his claim as he was not deemed a person to whom the [Pension] Act applied.

On 7-2-1941 P.A. Calleary wrote to PJ Ruttledge:

The aforementioned who were members of Moygownagh Co. IRA received notices some time ago that they were not considered as persons to whom Pension Act applied and asking that they might if they wish appeal. The appeals were sent away in the one envelope to Pension Board still two I think of them got notice again that they were turned down. However none of the rest were called up although most other areas were since called up not that in my opinion it makes an awful difference. However would you ring up Pensions Board and ask that they be called as soon as possible.

1 – Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo

2 – Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

3 – James Synott [Lynott], Stonhall, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

4 – Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

5 – Patrick Hegarty, Treenagh, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

6 – James Synott [Lynott] (Jnr), Glenmore, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

7 – Thomas Jennings, Driminangle, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

8 – Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

Get them called and they cannot blame anybody. I told them I was writing you in the matter.

I also ask that John Murphy, Dooleghney, Castleconnor, Ballina, be called. This is a very good man with good record.

A petition was received by the Dept. from Patrick Hegarty, signed on 2-6-1951, where he requested his case be reinvestigated. He gave his present and original address of his previous application as Treenagh, Garranard P.O., Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo, and stated the following facts:

I was a member of Moygownagh C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade. I subsequently joined the Engineering staff and took part in all activities in the area. I took part in raids for arms, raids for mails at P.O., blocking and cutting of roads, the guarding of wounded men, dispatch to and from Column, care of wounded, engagement at Palmerstown, fight at Belvill [Belville] and Cemetary [sic] at Moygownagh.

The advisory committee [to the Referee] subsequently voted 3 to 1, that there was not a prima facie case that Patrick Hegarty was a person to whom the Act of 1934 applied and he was notified of same by letter on 12-11-1953.

Jennings, Thomas, Driminangle, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo

No file yet released [as per 10<sup>th</sup> release of the MSP files – May 2021]

There is a reference to Jennings making a Service Pension application in the file of Hugh Finnerty i.e. [MSP34REF39168](#)

On 7-2-1941 P.A. Calleary wrote to PJ Rutledge:

The aforementioned who were members of Moygownagh Co. IRA received notices some time ago that they were not considered as persons to whom Pension Act applied and asking that they might if they wish appeal. The appeals were sent away in the one envelope to Pension Board still two I think of them got notice again that they were turned down. However none of the rest were called up although most other areas were since called up not that in my opinion it makes an awful difference. However would you ring up Pensions Board and ask that they be called as soon as possible.

- 1 – Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo
- 2 – Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo
- 3 – James Synott [Lynott], Stonhall, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo
- 4 – Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo
- 5 – Patrick Hegarty, Treenagh, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo
- 6 – James Synott [Lynott] (Jnr), Glenmore, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo
- 7 – Thomas Jennings, Driminangle, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo
- 8 – Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

Get them called and they cannot blame anybody. I told them I was writing you in the matter.

I also ask that John Murphy, Dooleghney, Castleconnor, Ballina, be called. This is a very good man with good record.

[Joseph, Kelly, Driminangle, Moygownagh.](#)<sup>1</sup>

DOB: 02-02-1900

[34SP11609](#)

Joseph Kelly applied to the Minister for Defence, for a form to make a MSP claim on 30-11-1934. His subsequent application for a Service certificate [to enable a pension claim] was deemed ineligible, as he was confirmed on 15-10-35 as not an applicant to whom the Act applies. His appeal was also rejected on 17-2-42. He again appealed on 28-12-45 stating:

I collected funds for the Dail loan and I assisted Column on the way to Clydagh the night before the ambush there.

He again sought a re-opening of his case under the Military Service Pension Acts 1934, on 26-1-50.

[MSP34REF11916](#)

Application for a Service Certificate under the Military Service Pensions Acts [1934]. Stamped received by the Dept. of Defence Pensions Branch – 9 Oct 1935. Extracts from the application as follows:

3

January to March 1918, [unit] C Company, 3rd Battalion, North Mayo Brigade. Continuous [service] always available to carry out orders of my superior officer [in district of] Moygownagh. Commanding officer Martin Gallagher PC, Killala. [Active service consisted of] **carrying out IRA instructions and organising dances etc. to procure funds for Headquarters.** [Also] drills, parades anti-conscription campaign. References: Martin Gallagher P.C. Killala, Co. Mayo. Dr. John Crowley (now dead), Ballycastle, Co. Mayo, Hugh Finnerty, Moygowna, Co. Mayo.

4

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<sup>1</sup> Spelling mistakes corrected for comprehension

1-4-1918 to 31-03-1919, C Company, 3rd Battalion, North Mayo Brigade. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygownagh, Ballina. Commanding officer(s) Martin Gallagher, Tom Ruane. [Active service consisted of] always available to carry out the instructions of my commanding officer [also] Helping in carrying out decrees of Dail Courts and general organising work. References: Martin Gallagher P.C. Killala, Co. Mayo. Thomas Jennings P.C. Moygowna, Co. Mayo, Hugh Finnerty Sec. Fianna Fail Club, Moygowna, Co. Mayo.

5

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920, Moygownagh Company, 3rd Battalion, North Mayo Brigade. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygowna, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken, Ballina. Commanding officer(s). Dr. John Crowley Batt OC. [Active service consisted of] always available to carry out orders of my superior officer [also] collecting funds for purchase of arms, scouting for enemy movements, helping in Boycott of Belfast Goods etc. References: Martin Gallagher P.C. Killala, Co. Mayo, Hugh Finnerty Sec. Fianna Fail Club, Moygowna, Co. Mayo, Michael Joe Kelly, Edgeley, North Dakota, USA.

6

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921, C Company, Moygownagh, Ballycastle Battalion. Continuous as necessity required day or night [service in district(s) of] Moygowna, Kilfian, Killala, Lacken, Ballycastle and Ballina. Commanding officer(s) Anthony Farrell, M Gallagher. [Active service consisted of] in that I was absent from and neglecting my work, carrying out the orders of my superiors [also] transferring arms, transferring Flying Column Goods, carrying out of decrees of Dail Courts, as Company Police Officer, taking part in raising money for arms and general activities. References: Martin Gallagher P.C. Killala, Co. Mayo, Michael Joe Kelly, Edgeley, North Dakota, USA, Anthony Farrell, New York City, USA, Hugh Finnerty Sec. Fianna Fail Club, Moygowna, Co. Mayo.

7

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921, Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygowna, Kilfian, Killala, Lacken, Ballycastle and Crossmolina. Commanding officer(s) Martin Gallagher, A Farrell. [Active service



consisted of] I was Company Police Officer during this time also, blocking roads cutting bridges, executing court decrees, also Sec of IRA Club, assisting men on the run, transferring arms from other areas. Martin Gallagher P.C. Killala, Co. Mayo, USA, Anthony Farrell, New York City, USA, Michael Joe Kelly, Edgeley, North Dakota.

8

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922, Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygowna, Killala, Ballycastle, Crossmolina, Kilfian. Commanding officer(s) Martin Gallagher, Sean Langan. [Active service consisted of] Drilling and camping, doing police duty, **destroying poteen etc.** References: Martin Gallagher P.C. Killala, Michael Joe Kelly, Edgeley, North Dakota, USA, Hugh Finnerty Sec. Fianna Fail Club, Moygowna.

9

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923, C Company Moygownagh, Ballycastle Battalion. Continuous [service in district(s) of] Moygowna, Kilfian, Lacken, Ballycastle, Killala, Commanding officer(s) Martin Gallagher, Dr. Crowley. [Active service consisted of] trenching and blocking of roads, Post Office Raids, felling trees, blocking bridges, escorting men on the run etc. References: Byron and Kennedy, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Michael Joe Kelly, Edgeley, North Dakota, USA, Hugh Finnerty Sec. Moygowna Fianna Fail Club, Martin Gallagher P.C. Killala.

10

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923, Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion. Continuous to Ceasefire order [service in district(s) of] Moygowna, Kilfian, Ballycastle. Commanding officer(s) Michael Joe Kelly. [Active service consisted of] road blocking and felling trees, helping to organise dances and collecting funds. References: Padney Winters, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo, Hugh Finnerty Sec. Moygowna FF [Fianna Fail] Club, Martin Gallagher P.C. Killala. Michael Joe Kelly, Edgeley, North Dakota, USA.

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 1:

Was company Police Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade, IRA.

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 2:

Sworn in an Irish Republican Soldier in 1918 and remained faithful to the ceasefire order at the end of 1923.

References: PJ Rutledge, Minister for Justice; Martin Gallagher, Commanding Officer; Michael Joe Kelly, Edgeley, North Dakota, USA; Hugh Finnerty Sec FF [Fianna Fail] Club, Moygowna.

[Addendum to statement]

In addition to the statement already outlined I wish to state that my home was always at the disposal of men 'on the run' and did shelter men (on the run) throughout the struggle for Independence. I can't give actual dates but my general statement is absolutely true.

Joseph Kelly.

Witness by M. Gallagher, Church St, Killala, Peace Commissioner. 7<sup>th</sup> October 1935.

The above initial application for a Service Certificate under the Military Service Pensions Acts [1934] and thereby enable a claim for a pension, was refused. In his appeal letter dated 20-05-1940 he provided 'further evidence of my claim':

Joined Volunteers in or about 1917 or 1918

Period 1-4-18 to 31-3-19

Drills, Parades, organising anti-conscription, collecting arms, collecting funds.

1-4-19 to 31-3-20

Raids for arms, preventing people attending British Courts. Anti-conscription, anti-recruiting collecting funds.

1-4-20 to 31-3-21

Raids for arms, some of which were resisted, but captured under fire, enforcing Belfast Boycott, fight with R.I.C. patrol near Belville, attending first aid lectures, collecting funds for arms, preventing young men joining R.I.C. preventing people paying dog licence.

1-4-21 to 11-7-21

Attending Dail Courts and enforcing its decrees, enforcing Belfast Boycott. I brought Flying Column stores on night after Clydagh Ambush to Crossmolina and had narrow escape with R.I.C. and Tans as they came to burn up the place. Helped to convey arms at different times through area. Protecting Kelly's land at Munnineerin whose cattle were driven and damaged. At arrest of 10 people at Stonehall in land dispute and guard on my turn for three days, before hearing of cases in Dail Court where they were defended by a Solicitor. Enforcing Civil law by preventing poteen making. Had several cases brought up before Dail Court and collecting fines in each case. Cut and trenched roads after Clydagh Ambush. Fight with R.I.C. during raid on P.O. Guard and protection for Active Service Unit. Guard for two wounded men on turn in our area.

12-7-21 to 30-6-22

Camp duty at Moygowna. Active police duty.

1-7-22 to 31-3-23

Cut and trenched roads after capture of Ballina. Cut Belville and Ballintubber Bridges. Sniped at F.S. [Free State] soldiers at Belville. Met A.S. Unit after Glenamoy fight. Guard and provided food for men of the Column. A number of dug outs completed.

1-4-23 to 31-4-23

Helped to dump arms. Assisted men on the run by providing food and accompanying them from place to place, being myself on the run. Kept roads constantly blocked leading to mountain area where Active Service Unit was camping. Martin Gallagher Co. Captain.

Undated appeal statement of 'applicant Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Granard [Garranard]'.

1-4-1917 to 31-03-1918: Drills, parades, establishing Dail Courts, election duty, dispatch work, collection of arms, resisted baton charge at Ballycastle.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: Drills, parades, organising, collecting funds, dispatch work, boycott of British goods, executing decrees of Dail Courts, raids for arms, collection of Dail Loan.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: Raids for arms, some of which were resisted but captured under fire, boycott of British goods and British courts, collecting funds for arms, raids on Post Office, censorship of mails.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: Fight with R.I.C. patrol near Belville. Raids on Post Office and Post man occasionally. Attending First-Aid lectures. Collecting funds for arms. Preventing men joining R.I.C., attending Dail Courts and enforcing its decrees, enforcing Belfast Boycott, dispatch work. **Was in Palmerstown at fight with B and Tans,** serving civil Bills.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: Was in raid on armed guard of lorry raiding for arms in Moygwna cemetery. Enforcing Belfast Boycott. Protecting Kellys land and stock. Land dispute at Stonehall. Attended Dail Courts. Conveyed Flying Column stores from Clydagh Ambush. **Specifically selected to convey arms from Kilfian, Killala to Crossmolina and from McDonalds Munineerin to Crossmolina.** Guard on turn on two wounded men in our area. Guard on Dr. Madden and G. Barrett. A. Service unit guarded on my turn.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-22: **Camp duty at Belvin and Stonehall. Collected funds for arms. Attended first aid lectures. Police duty and enforcing civil law.**

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: Camp duty. Cut and blocked roads effectively after capture of Ballina by I.R.A. of F.S. troops. Raid on p. Office. Collected Funds. Cut Belvin and Ballintubber Bridges at Moygowna, where we were surprised by Free State troops. Guard for men on the run. Providing food and clothing by raiding shops, also boots some badly in need. On the run whole of this period.

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923: Provided for men on the run. Collected funds for clothes and shoes and food for men badly in need. Helped to dump arms. Organising against National forces.

In handwritten notes, his service record file was summed up in 14-01-1942, as:

Belville (not major)

Palmerstown – not in fight.

All small things

Following his appeal request on 20-5-40, he was interviewed and his statement was as follows:

Summary of sworn evidence given before interviewing officers by the applicant, Joseph Kelly, on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1941 and agreed by him.

APPEAL

You joined the Volunteers in Moygownagh about 1917 or 1918.

3-4

Routine activities, parades, organising against conscription, collecting arms and funds for purchase of arms and equipment, preventing people from attending British courts, anti-recruiting for British Forces, carrying out decrees of the Dail Courts.

5

Routine activities continued. Raided for arms in about 60 houses at 3 of which shooting took place. He fired a few shots in one case at Ormes. The guns were captured in every case. Took part in the enforcement of the Belfast Boycott. Attended First Aid lectures. Prevented people from paying dog licences.

6

About this time he was appointed Company police officer and carried out decrees of the Dail Courts. He took part in the fight at Belville about the spring of 1921 with R.I.C.

at Kilfian who used to go by cycle to Crossmolina to attend the Sessions there. They had arranged to waylay them and took up position on the bridge. A tree was cut and thrown across the road. Instead of the patrol of police coming 2 Lorries of Black and Tans came unexpectedly. Applicant and his party opened fire on the Lorries, fire was returned by the Tans. The shooting lasted 5 to 10 minutes. He was armed with a rifle and fired 3 shots from 40 or 50 yards range. They were lying in wait from Midday until nightfall. With him were P. Quinn, Jos. [Jas.] Lynott and H. Finnerty. Martin Gallagher, Company Captain was in charge.

At Moygowna Cemetery about the summer of 1920 he took part in one attack on Tans who were searching for arms in the vaults. He was with 6 others including the Captain. 2 Lorries were on the road near the graveyard in charge of 2 R.I.C. men. Applicant and his party crept along the shelter of the wood and held up the 2 policemen. No shooting occurred. He took part in disarming them. He got 2 rifles. Later and engagement was taking place at Palmerstown with Black and Tans by another party of the I.R.A. who were waiting to hold up people going to British Courts. He and his party heard the shots and proceeded there. They got within half a mile of the shooting. He did not take actual part in it.

7

About July 1921 when raiding the post office at Granard [Garranard] for information they suspected was going through they were informed by scouts that Black and Tans were coming. They took up their position near a river convenient to the post office. 2 Lorries of Tans came and he took part in firing on them from his rifle at about 60 yds. range from the other side of the river. He fired 4 shots. Shooting lasted about 5 minutes. It occurred during the daytime. With him were H. Finnerty, P. Hegarty. Eddy Commons and Peter Quinn. M Gallagher was in charge.

Applicant's miscellaneous duties which occurred during this and the previous period consisted of the protection of Kelly's land and stock during the land dispute. He was on this duty for about 3 weeks in his turn. Also at Stonehall Farm for about a week. He conveyed arms to the Flying Column 4 or 5 times and also stores of food and ammunition after the Clydagh ambush. He continued with the enforcing of the Dail

Court decrees, prevented poteen-making, blocked roads about 10 times and took part in the knocking of 2 bridges. He did despatch work from 1919. Some weeks he carried 4 or 5, other 1 or 2, until the Truce, to Killala 6 miles; Ballycastle 8 miles; Crossmolina 5 miles and Kilfeihan [Kilfian] 3 miles. He was on the run for about 6 months before the Truce as his home was raided by the Black and Tans.

8

He put in 3 weeks training at Stonehall Camp and attended for 4 weekends at Belville Camp. He was not in barracks.

9-10

He took part with the Republicans in the Civil War. He was generally with the Flying Column when in the area where they came pretty often. They stopped sometimes for 2 weeks. While there he took part in guarding them and supplying them with food. On one occasion he sniped at Free State Forces at Belville. He blocked roads about 15 times, including the period after the capture of Ballina. He guarded men on the run on a mountain road leading to the place where the Flying Column was staying. Provided food and clothing for them by raiding shops in Moygowna. He was on the run practically all this time but was able to go home now and again. He carried on until the Cease Fire and took part in the dumping of arms.

Is that statement correct? A. yes

Are you satisfied with it? A. Yes

Have you nothing more to add? A. No.

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Advisory Cttee:

Hold for Officers.

Applicant claims a few engagements and appears to have rendered good service generally, though his part in the Civil War is not of great consequence. His main duty

then appears to be the guarding of the Flying Column. [Signed illegible name, dated 23/9/41]

He applied for a re-investigation on 26-1-50 and again on 4 June 1951 stating the following facts:

Fight with R.I.C. patrol at Belville, Moygownagh. Raids for arms and mails. Disarming Black and Tans, Moygownagh cemetery. Guarding wounded men and Column men. Dispatch work, Guides to Column. Roads blocking and trenching.

This was refused on 12 November 1953.

MD15348

He applied for a (1917-1921) service medal on 23-1-50 and was granted it on 14-9-1966. In his application he confirmed he had previously applied for a Service pension, but not a disability pension. In the course of verifying his claim the authorities noted that his name did not appear on the official nominal rolls for Pre-Truce Moygownagh 'C' Company and initially refused his claim. In a reappraisal of his claim, as promoted by PA Calleary TD, James Lynott [Stonehall] confirmed that Kelly had been 'active member from 1919 and I cannot suggest any reason why his name was omitted from the roll Anthony Farrell signed. Officers swore him in.' He (as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant C Company, Moygownagh), Peter Quinn (1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant C Company) and Patrick Bourke (Vice O/C 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade) certified that Joseph Kelly was a member of Moygownagh Company 'from October 1919 to 11<sup>th</sup> July 1921 and for period afterwards'.

Joseph Kelly provided the following information on 5-10-63, in the course of the claim adjudication.

I had one brother John Kelly who formerly lived at the above address and whose present residence is at Ballintubber, Kincon, Ballina. He was far too young at the time of the hostilities to be sworn in as a member of the IRA but assisted in the movement.



DP38026

He applied to the Dept. of Defence for 'a special allowance claiming to be incapable of self-support by reason of permanent infirmity of body or mind, under the Army Pension Act' , as a former member of the Irish Republican Army, which he was granted from 23 December 1963 at an annual rate of £106.

A medical report supplied in support of his claim on 23-10-1963, lists his former trade as Farmer, labourer, but he hadn't worked in three years due to chronic ill health. He was born in 1900. His father died from TB. Kelly claimed that his incapacitation was a result of his IRA 'activities in the armed forces' and sought a disability allowance.

Other information: He married Catherine Cronin 30-4-39. He died 12-02-1988.

Kelly, Michael Joseph, c/o Veteran's Service Officer, 111 West 4<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Building, Prinville (Prenville), Oregon, USA

DOB: 4-8-1896

MD40550

P.A. Calleary wrote on 18-2-1963 to the Dept. of Defence seeking an application form for a (1917-1921) service medal to be sent to 'Michael Kelly, Prinville Apts, Prinville, Oregon, USA' as a member of C Company (Moygownagh) IRA. He noted that 'His name returned on official list for Company as M.J. Kelly who was then as now in USA'. His application was received on 27-4-1963 with the following information:

DOB: 4-8-1896

Normal Trade at present: None

Address: 111 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Veterans Bldg, Prineville, Oregon, USA

Normal Trade in July 1921: Army

Address: Drimanangl, Myowgh, Co. Mayo, Ireland

Member of Moygownagh Company. Rank: Volunteer.

Signed as Michael Joe Kelly on 27-3-1963.

His referees included Martin Gallagher and James Lynott [jnr] who vouched for him from personal knowledge, while Patrick Scanlon said 'I know this man well'.

The Dept. followed up on 20-6-1963 to the USA address above requesting information on:

1. Were you ever interned and if so for which period?
2. When did you emigrate to the USA

No answer was received. On 2-8-1963, PA Calleary requested that Kelly's application be 'attended to as soon as possible. I am personally aware that he was a member of Moygownagh for period ending 11 July 1921 continuous membership for the three months prior to 11 July 1921.' He wrote again on 19-8-1963 to learn if any decision had been arrived at in Kelly's case and answered that enquiries were ongoing. However, no reply from Kelly is on the file and it remained incomplete.

DP37503

PA Calleary TD wrote to the Dept. on 25-3-1963 seeking an application form for 'MI Joseph Kelly' as:

He is in very poor health and has not any finance. He was [a] member of (Moygownagh) C Coy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Batt. North Mayo Brigade for period prior to 11 July 1921 and is given on lists as having been interned. His Co Captain is alive Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo also the Co Adj Hugh Finnerty Driminangle will certify for him. Kindly treat matter as urgent.

The Dept. replied on 1-8-1963 that:

[...] a statutory condition for the award of a special allowance in Mr Kelly's case is that he be duly awarded a Service (1917-1921) Medal in respect of continuous membership of [IRA] for the period of three months ended 11<sup>th</sup> July 1921. Mr. Kelly's medal application is under investigation and if it is successful he will be eligible to apply for an allowance.

No further correspondence is noted on the file.

Lynott, James [Jnr], Glenmore, Crossmolina

DOB: 11-1900

MD40684

He wrote seeking a (1917-1921) service medal on 12-5-1963 saying he 'never applied for a medal or a pension and I would be obliged [...] to let me know if I am entitled to this pension as well as my fellow-members [...] I was born in the year 1900'.

His application for a Service Medal was received on 5-7-1963. In it he described himself as a farmer in July 1921 in Glenmore, Crossmolina P.O., born Nov 1900 and was Quartermaster of Moygownagh Company. He had not previously applied for any pension or medal.

In error one of his validation forms was sent to himself instead of James Lynott of Stonehall. He filled it out in any case, validating himself by agreeing he had 'personal knowledge of the facts as laid out [by himself]'. A month later, the same form was sent to him again in error. Eventually James Lynott (Senior) of Stonehall was sent a form and replied validating him.

Another referee Patrick Scanlon validated him and replied that 'I know this man'. Company Captain Martin Gallagher also agreed stating that 'he was a reliable man and took part in any activities allotted to Company'.

The Dept. officials found some discrepancies in the entries for James Lynott Senior and Junior in the official nominal rolls and their claimed ranks in later pension / medal applications. On 26-11-65, despite doubt that James Lynott was Quartermaster as he claimed on 11-July-1921 (James Lynott Senior also claimed this rank), he was granted a Service Medal on the basis of being verified by the above officers. In the course of this investigation on 26-11-1965, a Dept. official noted that James Lynott (Jun):

[...] was incorrectly shown on the relative lists of verifying officers (compiled in 1957) as Coy. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. of C (Moygownagh) Coy, III Bn. N. Mayo.

DP49721

On 31-1-1970, PA Colleary sought a special allowance form to be sent to James Lynott, Lecarrowaddy, Crossmolina as a holder of a Service Medal. Further enquiries by Colleary were replied that the matter would be dealt with expeditiously once the Dept. received the

completed form back from Mr. Lynott. On 9-7-1982, Sean Calleary TD sought an application form for the 'Old IRA Pension' to be sent to James Lynott, who was '78 years'. A completed form witnessed by Sean Calleary On 26-7-1982, was returned to the Dept. noting James Lynott was a widower, born 12-12-1902. He was granted a special allowance of £872 per annum on 9-9-1982. James Lynott died on 8-6-1984. On 10-7-1984, Sean Calleary sought a funeral grant application form for Mrs. James Lynott, which was issued.

[34SP47229](#)

On 12-4-1940 the Referee deemed that James Lynott was not a person to whom the Pension act applied in the case of his application for a Service Pension, thus a Service Certificate could not be issued.

Patrick J Rutledge TD received the following letter from J. Bolan (runai) of the Dept. on 30-6-1947:

With reference to your representations on behalf of Mr. P Bourke, MCC, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo, regarding certain applicants under the Military Service Pension Act, 1934, who desire to have their claims reopened, the Minister for defence desires me to say that any additional evidence which it is proposed to submit in support of appeals in respect of the under-mentioned should be submitted at once:-

Michael McDonnell, Anthony Quinn, William Greir, Thomas Tomlin, John Collins – all of Ballycastle. Peter Quinn Crossmolina, Martin Williams, Ballina, Martin Clifford (deceased).

Under the terms of the Section 5 of the Military Service Pensions (amendment) Act, 1945, the Minister's power to request the Referee to review his report in cases of the other applicants has been withdrawn, and in the circumstances it is regretted, that no further action is possible in connection with their claims.

On 28-1-1950 James Lynott wrote to the Dept. seeking an IRA service claim form.

MSP34REF45676

On 1-5-1935 James Lynott, 'as Qr. Master of Moygownagh C Company' wrote to the Minister of Defence seeking an IRA pension form. In his application form of 10-8-1936 he stated the following:

James Lynott of Leccerwaddy, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

In Moygownagh Company, served from January to March 1918, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'by carrying out orders of superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'drills, parades, anti-recruiting and extensive anti-conscription campaign'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: In Moygownagh Company, Ballina Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'away from work, assisting Captain in organising Company'. His military operations consisted of 'assisting Co. Captain to carry out decrees of Dail Courts, organising Police for duty during election, extensive training, anti-conscription campaign'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Dr. Crowley Batt OC. His active service was 'by carrying out any orders given me'. His military operations consisted of 'enforcing boycott of Belfast goods, drilling and attending military classes, carrying out general raids for arms as ordered, raising funds for purchase of arms etc.' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was 'neglecting and absence from work, carrying out orders of superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'organising general raids of arms and keeping of same. Police duty, enforcing arbitration Dail courts, boycott of RIC and Belfast goods, raising funds for arms and subscribed to same. Training and organising, care and transferring of arms. ' Referees: Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was 'absence from home'. His military operations consisted of 'policing and guarding Dail courts, raising levies for arms, dog licenses, Assisting and hiding wounded and getting medical aid for same. Transferring arms from other Batt areas also cleaning, oiling and inspecting, feeding and assisting men on the run. ' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Shaun Langan. His active service was 'continuous absence from home and work, always waiting for orders from superiors'. His military operations consisted of 'training camps, organisation work, drilling IRA, raising levies for arms.' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Dr Crowley. His active service was 'absence from home and work, always willing to carry out any given me'. His military operations consisted of 'trenching, blocking and blowing up of roads. Raids on Post Offices, boycott goods'. Referees: Pat McLoughlin, USA; Michael Joe Kelly, USA; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian, Lacken under commanding officer, Dr Crowley. His active service was 'absence from work and evading arrest of Free State troops'. His military operations consisted of 'road trenching, felling of trees and blocking of roads, assisting, helping and feeding men on the run night and day.' Referees; Michael Joe Kelly, USA; Pat McLoughlin, USA; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.

Additional information:

Joined the IRA Jan 1918, was appointed Quartermaster in Jan 1919. Did everything in my power in assisting the officer of Co. in recruiting, organising, drilling etc. Did everything in connection with my position, always carried out orders of my superior officers. Feed [sic] men on the run during both Pre Truce and Post Truce time.

Witnessed by Anthony Quinn, Ballycastle, Peace Commissioner. 10-10-1936.

His application was refused on 10-4-1940 by the Referee as he was not deemed a person to whom the [pension] Act applied.



Lynott, James [Snr], Stonehall, Crossmolina

DOB: 1-6-1889

34SP38217

On 4-7-1940 the Referee deemed that James Lynott was not a person to whom the Pension act applied in the case of his application for a Service Pension, thus a Service Certificate could not be issued.

On 5-7-1941, James Lynott wrote to Minister for Local Government and Public Health:

Dear Sir,

I wish to remind you of the Moygownagh IRA Company as there has been no body called yet. We understand that Mr. John Deane is pressing forward two men, one from here and another from Crossmolina parish. Their names are William Gallagher and Michael Cafferty, Rathmore, Crossmolina. They joined up about Nov 1921. They don't turn up to any of the Moygownagh Company meetings. I have been informed that I have been turned down for good, Mr. Calleary told the Company Captain. We got a twenty one days notice which we returned and we got a final notice later. I gave mine to Mr. Calleary and he said he would see about it but I heard nothing about it since. Bartley Hegarty sent on a second form for me when he was on the pension board. I worked well under him and the brigade officers.

If Gallagher and Cafferty get the pensions for doing a while of drill after the truce it will leave a lot of dissatisfaction among the men that joined up in 1918. Some of them got land.

I hope they won't forget us altogether.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours Respectly, James Lynott [Stonehall, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo]

This letter was acknowledged by the dept. on 11-7-1941. A further letter from the Minister of Defence on 14-7-1941 confirmed the Referee's original findings. On 20-7-1943 the Dept. confirmed receipt of new evidence in an appeal against the Referee's decision from James Lynott. The Minister directed the Referee to review his original report in light of the new evidence on 5-8-1943.

The Dept. received a Service Medal application from James Lynott, Stonehall on 22-8-1943 with the following details included: Service from 1 April 1917 to 30 Sep 1923 in Moygownagh C Company and noting his previous pension application ref: 36559, MSP/34/Referee. He also noted that he had received a notice to appear before the Service Board that October. Subsequently (on a form stamped 2-12-1943) his referee, Matt Kilcawley, vouched he was entitled to a medal for 'company work, guarding men on the run and [illegible]' and was an effective member on 11-7-1921 but not a member on 1-4-1916. On 24-4-1944 a Service Medal was issued to James Lynott.

On 23-5-1944 the Referee confirmed his original finding after review of Lynott's Pension claim, which was confirmed to James Lynott on 26 May 1944. On 28-12-1945, Lynott again wrote appealing the decision adding:

I was in a fight at Keevagh [Keenagh?] and I took a wounded man from there at one time I put a military car out of action by cutting the tyres.

In reply the Dept. sought more evidence from him before deciding any course of action. Lynott again wrote on 24-1-1950 to have his pension claim reviewed. This was refused in a letter of 12-11-1953 and again on 25-8-1954.

On 12-1-1956, Martin Gallagher, Captain of C Company Moygownagh, vouched that James Lynott of Stonehall, born 1891, for a Special Allowance as he was a member continuously for the period of three months ended on 11 July 1921:

This man was never absent as he was one reliable man and always ready and willing for any emergency at the time.

However his other references could not vouch for him; Patrick Scanlon did not know him and Patrick Scanlon Quartermaster, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, could not give information about Lynott's period of service referring them to the Coy. Captain. Also there was confusion between James Lynott of Stonehall and his namesake in Lecarrowaddy (Glenmore) within the Dept. files, which an official noted on 26-3-1960 on an internal memo to get sorted.

DP26798

On 17-2-1955, on foot of receiving his Service Medal, PA Calleary TD informed the Dept. that James Lynott wished to apply for a Special Allowance. A subsequent medical report on 11-5-1956 in support of his claim was sent to the Dept. by Dr. Rowland, Medical Officer, District Hospital, Ballina stating that he had serious impairment in his ability to walk (requiring two sticks) and not likely capable of earning a living.

On 13-10-1958 The Dept. refused a Special Allowance on the basis of his annual earnings exceeding the threshold allowed. Following up representations from PA Calleary TD, the Dept. confirmed the same on 21-12-1958 and drawing attention to enquires which revealed that sale of stone from a quarry to Mayo Co. Council – for a scheme of road repair in the Crossmolina - Moygownagh area, had not been included in his means assessment between 1956-8. In reply to PA Calleary TD, of 28-10-1958, James Lynott explained that his two sons were at home, and that ‘owing to his health condition my income is not £130 or anything near this figure [...] I personally gain very little from the sale of stone to the County Council’.

I could of course allow my sons to go to England where they could get employment. I prefer to keep them at home if I can at all do so. Surely I am not going to be victimised as a result, just because the way or method of computing my income is an artificial method in no way related to the actual income. If I were in reasonable good health I would not bother you about this matter at all. The services I rendered to my Country were not given with any view to future gain, but as we have achieved something it seems strange that at a time when my health has failed and I need some little assistance from the State, I should be refused because of a technical method of assessing my income.

Please could you make representations to the Minister.

As a result, his claim was referred on 17-9-1958 to the Social Welfare Officer to take account of Lynott’s payments to his two sons as claimed, but was again in December that year - after a re-investigation – refused. However after a series of representations by PA Calleary and a transfer of the land holding by Lynott to his son on 17-4-1961, he was eventually deemed eligible for a Special Allowance amounting to £92-10-00 p.a. in 1965, from a higher figure in previous years.

MSP34REF36559

On 27-9-1935 James Lynott of Stonehall, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo, in his application form stated the following:

In Moygownagh Company, Irish Volunteers, served from January to March 1918, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo. His active service was 'took part in all Volunteer activities, acted as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant up to 1920'. His military operations consisted of 'drilling, parades, anti-recruiting and anti-conscription meetings'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Sean Langan, Castlebar, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Gurrnard, Crossmolina.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: In Moygownagh Company, Irish Volunteers, in district of Moygownagh and Killala, Co. Mayo, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo. His active service was 'acted as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in all Company activities'. His military operations consisted of 'general organising of Company drilling and general military training. Establishing Dail courts'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Sean Langan, Castlebar, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Gurrnard, Crossmolina.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: In Moygownagh Co. Irish Volunteers and C. Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Battn, North Mayo Brigade IRA, in district of Battalion area, under commanding officer, Dr. Crowley, Ballycastle (now deceased). His active service was 'acted as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in all Volunteer activities'. His military operations consisted of 'drilling and general military training, carrying out orders of Dail courts, raids for arms and ammunition'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Sean Langan, Castlebar, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Gurrnard, Crossmolina.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: In C. Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Battn, North Mayo Brigade IRA, in district of Battalion area, under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell, now in USA. His active service was 'appointed Co. Quartermaster about June 1920 and acted as such in all Volunteer activities'. His military operations consisted of 'raids for arms, enforcing Dail court orders and decrees; storing and looking after arms ammunition etc.; police duties'. Referees: Patk Bourke M.C.C. Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Gurrnard, Crossmolina.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: In C. Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Battn, North Mayo Brigade IRA, in district of Battalion area, under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell, now in USA and Sean Langan, Castlebar. His active service was 'acted as Co. Quartermaster in all Company activities'. His military operations consisted of 'enforcing Dail courts, decrees and orders; took charge of wounded from Sth Mayo Battn: Police duties'. Referees: Patk Bourke M.C.C. Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Gurrnard, Crossmolina.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: In C. Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Battn, North Mayo Brigade IRA, in district of Battalion area, under commanding officer, Sean Langan, Castlebar. His active service was 'acted as Co. Quartermaster till Nov 1921 continued from that date without rank'. His military operations consisted of 'training in military camps, organising IRA, collecting levy for arms and ammunition'. Referees: Patk Bourke M.C.C. Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Gurrnard, Crossmolina.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: In C. Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Battn, North Mayo Brigade IRA, in district of Battalion area, under commanding officer, S Langan, Castlebar and Dr Crowley, Ballycastle (deceased). His active service was 'engaged in all Company activities'. His military operations consisted of 'blocking roads, supplying escorts for men on run, supplying information as to enemy movements'. Referees: Patk Bourke M.C.C. Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Gurrnard, Crossmolina.

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923: In C. Co. 4<sup>th</sup> Battn, North Mayo Brigade IRA, in district of Battalion area, under commanding officer, Dr Crowley, Ballycastle (deceased). His active service was 'took part in all Company activities'. His military operations consisted of 'supplying escorts and information to men on the run'. Referees: Patk Bourke M.C.C. Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Gurrnard, Crossmolina.

Rank on first critical date: Rank E

Rank on second critical date: Rank E

Referees: Senator T Ruane, Ballina, Co. Mayo; PA Calleary BE, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Lewis Shevlin, St Mary's Villas, Ballina.

Witnessed by John MacHale, Solicitor, Ballina, Co. Mayo, on 27-9-1935.

Statement in reference to James Lynott, claiming military service as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant B [sic] Coy. North Mayo Bdg. IRA and signed by Bartley Hegarty, OC 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion. In his accompanying cover letter to the Military Service Pension Board on 14-4-1939, Hegarty says:

I am recommending him [James Lynott] as a genuine applicant. In the interests of everyone concerned in his case, I am satisfied that he deserves to be placed [sic] on the roll for immediate hearing before the Board.

Statement as follows:

Applicant: James Lynott

Address: Stonehall, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

Unit: Moygownagh Co. IRA North Mayo Brigade

Period:

1. 1-4-17 to 31-3-18: I joined the Volunteers in March 1917. I held the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Moygownagh Co. I took part in all volunteer activities, drilling, parades, anti-recruiting and anti-conscription meetings. Patrick Hegarty was my OC North Mayo Brigade. Martin Gallagher, Killala, was my commanding officer.
2. 1-4-18 to 31-3-19: General organising of Company drilling and military training, establishing Dail courts, running dispatches, Martin Gallagher was my OC. In raiding for arms, fire was opened by the occupant, we replied and succeeded in capturing one shot gun and one revolver.
3. 1-4-19 to 31-3-20: Dr. Crowley, Ballycastle (now deceased) was my Battalion OC during this period I carried out all his orders, running dispatches, raiding for arms, and suppressing of British courts. During training operations in my Co area, we were surprised by a cycling patrol of RIC. We engaged them, the fire lasted for half an hour, we captured two bicycles.

4. 1-4-20 to 31-3-21: Anthony Farrell, Ballycastle, was at this period my OC. I was appointed Co. Quartermaster and had to provide ammunition and arms for the Column, which was operating in our Batt area. I carried dispatches to and from the West Mayo Column. I was always under arms and raided for by the police. During a Black and Tan raid for arms in Co. area, we disarmed two men after a quick engagement.
5. 1-4-21 to 11-7-22: Sean Langan, Ballycastle was my OC. I took charge of wounded men from West Mayo Flying Column. I was responsible for their safety. I had to provide them with medical attention, food, cloathing [sic] and smokes. I acted as escort for the Column and was with the Column at Clydagh on the morning of the ambush June 1921. Bartley Hegarty was in charge of the Column. I had important dispatches on my possession from the Column OC and delivered them afterwards. I had a small Webley Revolver and very little ammunition. Eamonn Gannon was our Brigade OC.
6. 12-7-21 to 30-6-22: I was sent to Keenagh training camp for a course of training. Seamus Kilcullen was our instructor. I collected money for arms and ammunition. Seane Langan, Ballycastle was my Battalion OC. I also done camp duty in Stonehall.
7. 1-7-22 to 31-3-23: I was still Co. Q.M. and acted as escort for men on the run. I was running dispatches, blocking roads and causing every obstruction to harress the enemy. **During the cutting of the Betvine [Belville] bridge Moygownagh, we were surprised by a big party of Free State troops. [W]e had a long engagement, it lasted for over one hour.**
8. 1-4-23 to 30-9-23: I constructed dug-outs and provided a guard for men on the run. I had to travel [sic] long jorneyes [sic] as guide for the Column and was well known by practically all our men in that capacity [sic]. I had billets ready for the Column and food provided at all times.

On 4-7-1940, the Referee refused his claim as he was not deemed a person to whom the [Pension} Act applied.

A summary report was received by the Dept. from the North Mayo Brigade Committee on 10-2-42:

Applicant James Lynott, Senior, Stonehall, Crossmolina, no. 36559.

James Lynott belonged to Moygownagh Co. and was specially selected for dispatch work, where a big amount of this work was necessary owing to the mountain area where active service unit spent [spent] periods.

He was engaged in keeping the road blocked leading into Shrameen, Muingeraun and Inagh for the protection of the A.S. Unit.

He had to go with dispatches to them daily and was constantly engaged in this work while A.S.U. was in the area which was very often. When in any operations over Battalion, Battalion area the A.S.U. went back to this area for to rest and their protection was entrusted while there to a few of Moygownagh Co. as to their presence had to be kept secret. **This distance into Muingeraun is about nine miles from where James Lynott lived so it took his full time to do the necessary delivery of dispatches.**

He was active with his Company in all raids for arms and all other activities and he was one of the most trusted men in all dispatch work and care and protection of wounded men, two of whom he took into the area for safety.

On foot of this report, a Dept. official noted on 28-3-1942 that it 'reveals good services but would not appear to be up to Keyman standard'.

James Swift by letter of 11-9-1943 and Michael Hughes by letter of 15-9-1943 confirmed that James Lynott had given them every assistance while they were in the North Mayo Brigade area recovering from wounds received at the Battle of Kilmeena on 19-5-1921. Hughes described him '[...] at the very risk of his life. He was a most capable member of the IRA at the time.' Accompanying Swift's letter, James Lynott, Stonehall, Crossmolina, provided the following evidence of his claim in seeking to have his case reopened:

Statement of my activities

1-4-1917 to 31-3-1918

Drill, parades anti-recruiting, dispatch work collection of arms and in charge of dump where collected arms was kept.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919



Acted as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in all Co. activities and helped in organising same, and drilling, carried out raids for arms also dispatch work & boycott of British goods.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920

Oilling [sic] and general military training, carried out orders of Dail courts, raids for arms and ammunition, collecting funds for arms, raids on Post Offices, censorship of mails.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921

Appointed Co. Quartermaster and acted as such in all Volunteer activities, attended First Aid lectures, prevented men joining RIC, attended Dail courts and enforced its decrees.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921

Enforcing Dail court decrees. Took charge of 2 men wounded at Kilmeena ambush (Hughes and Swift) and brought them from place to place while they were in our area. (Letter attached from Swift one of the wounded men). Bringing food etc. to Column and directing Column when in my area and looking after all the arms collected and keeping same oiled.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922

Training in military camps, organising IRA, collecting levy for arms and ammunition.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923

Blocking roads, supplying escorts for men on the run also information as to enemy movements. Helped to cut and block roads after capture of Ballina by the IRA. Cut Belville & Ballintubber bridges.

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923

Supplying escorts and information to men on the run, helped to dump arms

List of names of houses where I escorted men on the run or Columns, also 2 wounded men.

1. Martin Murphy, Leherawaddy, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo
2. Mich. [? word partly legible] Murphy, Rathmore, Crossmolina.

Above are 2 houses that harboured Swift and Hughes while wounded in our area. I looked after men during their stay and got them changed from one house to the other, when there was any danger. I brought the 2 men also from the Murphy's house to the O'Boyle's of Tooreen, Crossmolina.

The following is a list of houses I escorted the men on the Column to

Mrs. Heffron, Gortnahurrgh, Crossmolina

Mrs James Birranne, Currawooken, Dooleague

Mrs Tighe, Callaghada, Granard, Crossmolina

Michael Monnelly, Shanitera, Granard, Crossmolina

- Boland, Rathoma, Kilala with Dr. Madden

Jas Weir, Breaffy, Kincon, Killala

Martin Hegarty (Comndt)

John McLoughlin, Callaghada, Granard

James Hagarty, Altderrig, Ballycastle

Frank Callaghan, Behy, Crossmolina

On 16-10-1943, JJ Leonard, (former Lt. General) 4<sup>th</sup> Western Division Old IRA, wrote vouching for James Lynott, as he had found him 'to be a very active IRA man', during the years 1919-20 and 'I consider he's a man that deserves favourable consideration from the Military Service Board. On 18-10-1943, Edward O'Boyle, adjutant 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, North Mayo [IRA] also wrote vouching for Lynott stating that 'I have known this man James Lynott before 1918 and since then he was one of the best in the area. He and I had full charge of two wounded soldiers from South Mayo'.

Dr. J. A. Madden wrote a letter to the Military Pensions board vouching for Lynott's service on 4-11-1943, knowing he was to appear before the board the following day.

I beg to state that Mr. James Lynott of Stonehall, Crossmolina, County Mayo, was an active member of the IRA up to the 'Cease Fire', and he was a key man in his Area.

On several occasions he found billets for myself and others passing through, and provided a guard for us. He was also an important centre of communications in that difficult area.

I know that he took charge of the wounded after the Battle of Skirdagh, and he had to look after them for a considerable time – a week at least – in the middle of the huge Black and Tan round-up with great danger and difficulty to himself. At one period he was the only man I know of, within a radius of seven or ten miles, on whom I could rely. He was always most willing and ready to carry out any orders given to him, usually, in my case, in the middle of the night.

The following day Lynott gave an oral interview, recorded as follows:

Summary of evidence given before the Interviewing Officer on 5-11-1943 by James Lynott (36559) and agreed to by him.

Joined in 1917 at Moygowna, 4-miles from Crossmolina.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Period

After the formation of the Company consisting of about 19 men, he was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He was appointed Q.M. of the Company in June, 1920 and held that rank up to the Truce. The Company strength was then about the same. He took part in the usual drills, parades, anti-conscription, anti-recruiting activities.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Period

Routine activities continued. He helped to organise the Dail courts; carried some dispatches; raided about 50 houses for arms. **Trouble occurred at a few houses including John Irelands' at Glenmore; Dunleavy's at Doobagh [Doobeha]; Oram's [Orme's] of Owenmore; Munnelly's of Ballintubber where some shooting occurred.**

The police were patrolling on the road at the time. Applicant discharged two shots. No

shooting occurred at any of the other places. He helped suppress the British courts and the Dail courts to function and enforced its decrees.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Period

Routine activities continued. A dump was kept at a bog about 1 ½ miles from his home. It was later changed to Oram's [Orme's] estate and put in a rick of hay where the arms were kept for about 12 months. He had charge of two rifles, up to 25 shot-guns, some hand-grenades, rifle and revolver ammunition. Most of the latter was obtained in raids. He helped in the boycott of the British courts. He did dispatch work from the early period and continued at that activity up to the Truce. He took part in two raids on the Post Office at Graard [Garranard], near Moygowna. He did guard while the mails were being censored. He attended First Aid lectures, about 6 or 8 months, given by Nurse Farrell.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Periods

In April 1920, he was appointed Q.M. and had charge of all the arms of the Company and was responsible for the repair, transfer and transport. He carried them himself in a bag, across fields and brought them to A. Farrell of Lacken about 12 miles; to Ml. McDonnell, Kilfyne, 4 miles; to Myles, Captain of Killala Coy., 9 miles; to Martin Hegarty, Laherdane, 10 miles. They were usually required in connection with attacks and ambushes. He carried dispatches all this time visiting the places mentioned and also to Ballycastle, 10 miles, Dooleague, 11 Miles; Keenagh, 14 to 15 miles, cycling most of the time. He considers he handled from 2 to 8 or 10 mostly every week and this continued up to the Truce. He was in touch with Hegarty's Column and helped to supply them with food, tobacco and cigarettes; occasionally arms when in his area. He helped to guard the Column at night, probably about six to eight times, and guided them to different places in his area as required.

He continued to assist the Dail courts to function and in the enforcement of its decrees. He had trouble on one occasion over the latter. He helped at the blocking of roads six or more times and was at the knocking of two bridges. He did not take part in any actual engagement. He was on guard at the disarming of two RIC men; took charge of two wounded men after the Kilmeena ambush, James Swift and Ml. Hughes.

He took them to a backward place off the road, got a doctor for them and had to shift them from place to place afterwards on 4 or 5 occasions. He had the assistance of Ned O'Boyle and two others on this work. He found billets for men of the Flying Column and men 'on the run' up to three dozen times.

Q: Would that cover your activities up to the Truce?

A: It would.

8<sup>th</sup> Period

He attended at Keenagh Training Camp off and on for a month but did not stop there and also visited Lacken camp 5 or 6 times. He was engaged a good deal during this time looking after the arms, cleaning them, collecting the levy for arms and ammunition and helping to raise funds otherwise.

9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> Periods

He continued activities during the Civil War in much the same way as before, carrying dispatches, looking after arms, escorting members of the Columns from place to place and finding billets for them; blocked roads up to eight times and hindered the Free State forces in every way he could. He obtained information of their movements and reported same. He helped to cut two bridges. He continued his activities up to the Cease Fire order and took charge of the dumping of arms. He looked after the needs of men 'on the run' up to the end.

Q: Is that all right now?

A: It is.

Q: Are you satisfied with it?

A: I am.

Subsequently appended to this report on 18-11-1943

Advisory Committee:

Applicant had a good number of activities apparently and possibly his case might be considered in the light of a 'key-man'.

In handwritten notes, dated 14-3-1944, attached to the file – for use in officials' discussion with [PA] Calleary and P [Patrick] Bourke, Ballycastle the following was recorded of James Lynott's claim:

Moygownagh Area. Made Dugouts. Transferred to Ballycastle Coy. Early 1920.

And again on 28-4-1944

Moygowna. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Appointed early.

Raid for arms. Mullenays [Munnelys?] Ballintibber [Ballintubber] (~~shooting~~ Broke in) No gun. Orams [Ormes] Owenmore (shooting). Glenmore (shooting). Dunleavys (No shooting).

Road Cutting. Not much.

Raids for arms. Any [illegible word] not a lot (3)

**Took charge in Gallagher's absence.**

Wouldnt handle an amount of arms [each?]

Week - Shifted Swift & Hughes.

Company QM

3 / 4 weeks camps. Would not. No arms [?]

Nothing alarming. Billeting.

On 23-5-1944, The Referee was reported by the Dept. secretary to have reviewed his original report and confirmed his findings as set out in the report.

On 6-6-1951, the Dept. received a petition from James Lynott dated 3-6-1951, seeking a reinvestigation of his original claim for a Service Certificate, stating:

I was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Moygownagh C Company and took part in all raids for arms in district. I have already furnished letters from wounded men. J Swift and M Hughes. That I was guarding and minding them in my area. They were wounded at Skirdagh (West Mayo).

I was engaged in dispatch work. Raids for arms. Was guide and guard for Column after Clydagh ambush. Cutting and trenching roads. Fired on by RIC during trenching operations. Waited ambush for patrol Moygownagh. Took part in Belville fight.

The advisory committee to the official Referee advised him in July and August 1953, 4 to 1 that there was no prima facie case that Synott [Lynott], James, was a petitioner to whom the 1934 Act applied. He was advised of same in 12-11-1953.

McHale, John James, Rathglass, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

DOB: 12-9-1900

MD40553

On 23-4-1963, the Minister for Finance requested that the claim of John McHale c/o Tom Hennigan, 21 College Park, Terenure, Dublin but residing in 37-43 North Magnolia Ave., Chicago 13, Illinois, USA, to a Service Medal be investigated as quickly as possible and that he be kept apprised of the case.

On 6-5-1963 the Dept. received the following letter from John McHale, 21 College Park, Terenure, Dublin 6. (Signed in his Irish name):

Gentlemen,

Here are a few things I do remember. I'm not too sure of the dates, because its 50 years since I joined Sinn Fein in 1913. I was going from Carn N. school in Moygownagh parish. Crossmolina was our nearest town, Co. Mayo. In 1917 the RIC with a Capt. White and some of the B & Tans from Ballina came to our home in Rathglass, Moygownagh. They wanted us to tell who the leaders of Sinn Fein was in that area and they said that they were going to put a bullet in our head if we didn't. When they couldn't get any information two of the Tans grabbed me by the feet & hands then threw me head first into a barrel of water at the end of the barn. From that day to this I don't know who pulled me out. They had my Dad cornered in the barn while I was in the barrel (half full of water). I tried to hold myself up with my hands on the bottom and my insteps on the edge on the barrel. While I was there in the barrel I thought I heard a shot. Anyways, after I was pulled out and I was laying on the street one of the Tans hit e on the side of the head with the butt of a rifle. The mark is still there, a little crescent. About that shot I heard, later on in the day, we saw a little mark on the barrel. We emptied out the water and there it was, a Webly bullet was stuck in the other side of the barrel. I think the bullet is still at the old homestead in Rathglass, Moygownagh. Again in Sept. 1922, myself and two other boys, Peter Quinn and Mike Fleming were talking at a Crossroads when some soldiers came along and told us to keep walking. They had bicycles and two would cycle in front and two more would sit on the fence and watch us until we caught up with the two in front. I went all the way to Crossmolina like that. The[n] when we got there they put us in the RIC barracks and



searched us again. I had a chalk pipe in my inside jacket. I used to smoke cigarette butts. They thought it was a revolver and they were so disappointed that one of them hit me across the nose with the pipe and I [bled] a lot. We were held in Crossmolina for a week and then sent to Ballina Workhouse. Mike Fleming was released from there and myself and Peter Quinn was sent to Athlone, with a lot of others. We tried to escape from there but we got caught when we had the tunnel almost finished. Then we were sent to the Curragh Camp Tintown #2. We were unconditionally released in November the following year (1923).

I went to the United States in 1929 and I don't think I ever had a good night's sleep until 1960. I always had to get up and take aspirins for a headache. The doctors told me they didn't know what it was but when I had my stroke in 1960, they had to perform surgery on my head to remove a bloodclot and they said it all came from an old head injury. I know and I'm sure the only knock I ever got on the head was when the B&Ts hit me with the butt of a rifle.

Gentlemen that's as much as I can remember. I'm sure that Mr. Calleary TD from Ballina knows a lot more about what happened away back when?

PS. I'm still disabled from the stroke.

My left hand is inactive and my left eye is very lazy. I have to drag my left leg.

I was born 12<sup>th</sup> September 1900.

Sincerely yours,

Seagan[?] Mac Eil

On 4-5-1963, McHale applied for a Service Medal as a member of Moygownagh C Company IRA in July 1921, when he was a farmer's son. He had not previously applied for any pensions. He was presently not employed as disabled and gave his address as 21 College Park, Terenure, Dublin 6.

His referees confirmed his membership by personal knowledge including; James Lynott (Lecarrowaddy, Crossmolina) (12-5-1963); Martin Gallagher, Killala. But Patrick Scanlon on

14-6-1963 replied that 'I don't know this man better refer to Company Captain Martin Gallagher'.

A newspaper cutting [from USA?] undated, is contained within his file, with the following report:

### **Ruined tycoons**

Let's start with returned exile ... John MacHale left his native Mayo in 1929 and landed in Chicago right in the middle of the depression when ruined tycoons were throwing themselves in despair from the tops of sky scrapers. MacHale took what work offered itself and when the depression ended went into the grocery business. After that he travelled all over Illinois as a salesman and finally got a job at Chicago's airport. He rose to be superintendent of the ninety buses which operated a shuttle service between the airport and the down-town hotels. Then he suffered a stroke which paralysed his left side. But from the hospital bed he fought back. Re-educating the crippled arm and leg with exercises on an inflated motor tube suspended from the ceiling. Doctors and nurses followed the Irishman's grim fight with admiration. He was cited as an inspiration to patients who had lost the will to live. Today, MacHale is travelling across Ireland to his native village of Rathglass, Moygownagh, near Crossmolina in Co. Mayo. This evening he shall be reunited with many relatives and friends he has not seen since the late Twenties.

### **Mere Youth**

They will recall the dangerous work he did as a mere youth in the troubled times – dispatch rider for the Republican forces in North Mayo. Once the Black and Tans in an attempt to make him reveal names, thrust him head first into a barrel of water, firing shots about his head. But he didn't talk and they released him after beating him severely. On arrival in Dublin by air from Chicago, John MacHale stayed with his sister Agnes who is married in College Park, Terenure. He was granted a special audience with President de Valera at Arus an Uachtarain. John MacHale belongs to an old North Mayo family which claims kinship with the great Archbishop John MacHale of Tuam.

On 3-6-1963, PA Calleary TD made representations to the Dept. of Defence regarding expediting the processing of McHale's claim. He was informed on 20-6-1963 that a Service (1917-1921) Medal had been duly awarded to John McHale on 17-5-1963.

DP37823

The Minister for Defence noted on 22-6-1963 to his officials that John McHale intended applying for a Special Allowance and that he (the minister) sought that it be then expedited while keeping him informed of progress.

On 6-7-1963 John McHale wrote to the Dept. of Defence from Rathglass, Rathnamaugh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo:

Dear Sir, This is to acknowledge receipt of a service medal No. 1.12 which I received some few days ago. For this I am very grateful and proud to be a member of those who helped make Ireland what it is today. I am also happy to know that my name was alive on the records after 34 years as immigrant in the USA. I am now disabled and wish to apply for a disability pension. I would agree to a sensible bulk allotment for the years that are past and those that I hope to live? This would help when I return to the States (I hope in October) to pay the many debts I have incurred for doctors and therapy since 27 April 1960. On that date I had a stroke on my left side. The doctors and [surgeons] said it was a result of an old head injury and that I remember well, when the Black and Tans came to the above address in 1917 and beat me with the butt of a rifle. My left hand is inactive, my left eye has poor sight. I can't hear good with my left ear and I have to drag my left foot. When I got the stroke I had to have a surgery operation on the right side of my head to remove an old blood clot and the doctors said it was a miracle I lived. My trip to Ireland was arranged by my daughters and friends. It's the first in 34 years. I hope to get back to the States sometime in October so I can start getting some more therapy treatments. Faithfully yours, John J McHale. Seagan Mac Eil.

On 10 August 1963, the Minister's office wrote advising McHale that his application for a Special Allowance was refused on the basis that his yearly means (including his wife's means) exceeded the statutory threshold in his case of £156 – thus no award could be made. His

application for a disability pension was ruled out as the time limit had long since expired. The calculated annual income (allowing for his entitlement to a USA disability pension) was £796. PA Calleary TD was advised of same on 5-10-1963, following representations.

On 5-10-1963, McHale wrote from 3743 Magnolia Ave, Chicago 60613, Illinois, USA, to the Taoiseach Sean F. Lemass, which was passed onto the Minister for Defence for 'full consideration':

Dear Mr. Lemass, On St Patrick's day last, with the help of my friends and the AOH I made a trip to Ireland, 34 years from the day I left for the States in 1929. I made this trip under a very long severe handicap because I can't use my left hand and I have to drag my left leg. I'm also partially blind in my left eye and deaf in my left ear. However, I was determined to see if our time and effort in the IRA had accomplished what we hoped it would. After been [sic] driven around Mayo and other counties by some of my old pals, I'm glad to say (with the exception of the 6 counties) THERE HAS BEEN A BIG CHANGE and thank God for the best. I can see a great future for the young men and women of Ireland, not like when I was growing up. I was born in 1900 and I joined Sinn Fein in 1913 and stayed in the IRA all the way through until I came to the States in '29. I missed out on a College education in St Muredach's College in Ballina, Mayo because I went on the run in 1916. I was interned in the Curragh Camp for one year 1922-23. In 1917 and again in 1920 I was beaten up by the TANS. The [surgeons] who performed the operation on my head for a blood clot in 1960 told me that it all came from an old head injury to my head. I remember well when I was hit on the head with the butt of a rifle by the Tans, the crescent is still there.

[Page 2 missing]

And I quote 'It seems there are still some people in Ireland who are interested only in their own behalf. Why don't you write to Mr Lemass or somebody who was around in your time. We never heard of a Mr. Bartly until we read in an Irish paper where he got marooned with his yacht somewhere on the west of Galway. It was us (meaning the IRA) that made it possible for them to have yachts and a government today'. Indeed the letter made a very poor impression on all who read it.

It could never happen in America. If a person here is entitled to a gratuity or pension, they get it without any questions asked, even if it was a hundred years later. I'm very thankful to God to be alive. He has taken care of me in darker days and I'm sure he will take care of me again. I'm writing to you Mr. Lemass because I know you understand and you were in the midst of everything like myself. I remember seeing you in Ballina at one time campaigning for an election. I belong to the North Mayo Brigade. I knew PJ Rutledge well RIP and I talked with M. Kilroy here in Chicago in 1955 RIP. He was here for his sons wedding. The Irish here in Chicago are very intimate and have a lot of Irish clubs and that's the story of case 704-64. Thanks for reading my letter. God save all of Ireland and God bless America. May you live for ever and never die in spirit.

An old IRA man, John J McHale.

On 29-9-1963 PA Calleary TD was again advised that McHales' income exceeded the allowable threshold for the Special Allowance and that:

With regard to his proposed claim for a disability pension under the Army Pension Acts, I am to state that it was open to him to submit an application under section 10 of the army Pensions Act 1932. That act required that such applications should be made before 11<sup>th</sup> December 1933. The Army Pensions Act 1937, extended this time limit and provided for the consideration of a claim made within twelve months of the passing of the Act i.e. on or before 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1938. The time limit was further extended to the 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1942 by the Army Pensions Act 1941. There is no record of an application having been received from Mr. McHale on or before that date and an tAire has no discretionary power under the Acts to accept an application after the expiration of the statutory time limit. It is regretted that in the circumstances no action is now possible in the matter.

On 20-3-1965, John McHale wrote to the office of the Taoiseach, from 3743 Magnolia Ave, Chicago 60613, Illinois, USA:

A chara, TO the Taoiseach and all members of the Finna [sic] Fail party. Now that your having an assembly of the new Dail on April 21<sup>st</sup> to which I'm sure your party will again [be] re-elected. Don't you think its about time you do something for those who helped put you there in the first place? Men like myself, who sacrificed home and education for the glorious living you have today. I have been disabled from an old bloodclot in my head, carried around since 1919, caused by a beating from the Black and Tans, which caused me to have a stroke in 1960. My left hand and leg is inactive. Because I have exhausted my maximum disability pension from the US before I became 65, or I have not worked for 5 years prior to that time, which will be in Sept of this year, I will receive only about £17-7-0 r one forth [sic] ½ of the maximum which is 84 dollars per month. My wife will have to live with our married daughter and I will have to go to a State home, and turn over my check to them for my keep. This is like going to the Poorhouse in Ireland, in my day 1900 to 1929 when I left Mayo. Early in 1964, I wrote to a Mr. Boland whom I was told was Minister of Social Welfare. I sent him some documents and asked him to intercede for me but I never received an answer, not even the documents? Mr. Brian O'Kelly, Counslate [sic] General of Ireland here in Chicago, also wrote to Dublin last summer 1964. He too got the silent treatment. I talked to him by phone a few days ago. It was President de Valera who first sent me to the Minister of Defence office on April 19<sup>th</sup> 1963. Thow [sic] I could hardly walk when I went to see the President on that date. The trip was made possible by the AOH and KC. My first n 34 years. While I was home in Ireland March to Sept. I received my service medal from the President for my service in the North Mayo IRA 1916-1923.

Mr. Bartley has all the facts and figures on my case many times since 1963. Mr Calleary TD Ballina Co. Mayo has brought his attention to the issue more than once. Please excuse typing, my left eye is hurt also. My heart is still in Ireland and I hope it wont be too long until the Tricolor flies over all 32 counties.

Good luck in your coming election.

John J McHale

[PS] I think I am justly entitled to a gratuity of at least £10,000, ten thousand pounds, since the law was enacted. This would keep me out of the State or County institution.

In their reply on 8-5-1965, the dept. restated its decision. On 15-5-1965, the dept. asked the Consul of Ireland in Chicago to arrange completion of a form commutating John McHale's income.

On 16 September 1965, the Dept. sought certificates of McHale's wife's birth and their marriage. In reply, on 9-10-1965, McHale wrote to the Minister of Defence:

Dear Sir, I want to thank you and everybody concerned for your interest in my case because after Dec 1<sup>st</sup> there will be no funds to pay my monthly rent and I will be forced to go to the State Home for the aged etc. This will kill me at the age of 65 which I passed on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> last. My wife will have to live with our married daughter for a while, about 20 miles outside the city. My total income is only 34 dollars a month approx. £11-18-0. I'm awaiting documents requested, please excuse writing my sight is poor. Sincerely yours in All-Ireland Freedom. Seagan Mac Eil

[PS] received documents requested all enclosed.

I was about to seal this letter when I received the notice to more [sic] now I am confused

John J McHale

On 30-10-1965, McHale provided the sought documents and confirmed that John James McHale married Mary Frances Irving in Chicago on 2-9-1939. He also noted that they had been moved by his landlord to another building on October 16<sup>th</sup> due to remodelling on the building where they had lived for 25 years. The new address was 2743 W Giddings St, Chicago, Ill. 60625, USA. Unfortunately. The Dept. returned the documents to his old address, as confirmed on 26-11-1965.

On 26-12-1965, McHale wrote to 'Mr. Hilliard TD Minister of Defence' confirming he had received a letter on 8-11-1965 confirming he had been granted a Special Allowance of '£99 only per anum'.

Only is the word, because it falls short of even paying our milk bill for a year. It's a small gratuity for a person who was kicked, beaten-up, jumped-on, imprisoned and

has lost the full use of his left hand and leg, not forgetting the awful headache I suffered from the bloodclot I carried around in my head until 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1960 when I suffered my stroke, and underwent surgery for the removal [sic] of the bloodclot. Enclosed is the certificate was a form asking for a specimen of my signature, and to be signed by a sargent [sic] of the local Garda. Which of course could not be done in Chicago. I phone the Consulate General Mr. Brian O'Kelly and he advised me to take it to him and he would sign it, which he did and then posted it to you in an official envelope on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. I was expecting a check (as small as it is) at least before Christmas to help pay my rent, but I had to borrow money from m good Chicago friends on the strength of a benefit dance they intended to hold for me on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. Up to the time of writing Dec 26<sup>th</sup>, I haven't had a reply. Again I must say its very poor gratuite [sic] for a person who helped to accomplish something that Irishmen have tried to do for more than 600 years.

The remainder of the file contains correspondence between the Dept. and John McHale over the ongoing payment of the Special Allowance (paid quarterly) which fluctuated depending on his means assessment which had to be done annually, but rising to £179 by 31-8-1974, while McHale was noting by the Dept. to be receiving increased Social Security payments in the USA along with free fuel and free lodging for both he and his wife.

A note on file date 1-9-1976 states 'John James McHale - Please note rejection with effect from 1-9-1974'. This was in consequence to a letter from the Dept. to McHale on 24 August 1976 where his award was terminated as he had not completed his means assessment as required and the Consul General in Chicago was unable to confirm his wife's earnings. An undated memo referencing a discussion of 7-1-1976 confirmed that John McHale had suffered a stroke in August 1974 and was hospitalised for a long time.

He never received a retroactive payment or lump sum cheque.

Extract from one of his final letters (undated):

My wife should not have worked at all because of her arthritis condition [in the library]. But she tried to defray my nursing home and therapy expenses, on which I



have no insurance. We try to get along on my social security Pension. I often wonder if I did the right thing or not, when I joined Sinn Fein on June 5, in 1913 as a school boy. But I didn't want to be a slacher [sic] and I followed the hraid [sic] and here I am disabled 62 years later and 37 hundred miles from where I was born with 5 brothers and 2 sisters. I am the oldest and was known to my neighbors as John Francis McHale, Sonny McHale and Johnnie McHale. The one and the same person and I don't pretend to be any of the 3 Divine persons. But I try to follow the foot steps of Christ on his way to Calvery and the cross. There's nothing more I can tell you unless I tell you lies and that's something I detested all my life.

Quinn, Patrick, Ballinagur, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

DOB: 17-9-1887

DP36970

Mentioned in Medal File but not in released material to date (10<sup>th</sup> release).

MD40295

Patrick Quinn applied for a Special Allowance to the Dept. of Defence and in reply on 19-12-1962, the Dept. stated that in order to process any such application, he must first apply for a Service Medal (1917-1921). On 21-12-1962 Patrick Quinn applied for a Service Medal claiming he was a private in Moygownagh Company IRA on 11-7-1921 and giving the following information;

Address on 11-7-1921 and at present: Ballinagur, Garranard, Ballina. Co. Mayo [but stated that Crossmolina was the postal town in 1921]. Trade in 1921 – Assisted Parents on Farm, present trade: Retired Ganger. Referees: Company Captain, Martin Gallagher, (then) Gortnahurra, Moygownagh, Crossmolina; Company 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, Michael Joseph Kelly (then) Driminangle, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, now in USA; Batt O/C, Thomas Ruane, Bridge St. Ballina, Batt C O/C, Matt Kilcawley (deceased) Eniscrone. He also confirmed he had applied for a Military Service pension as well as the present Disability pension application. He was ‘unable to write due to the failure of sight’ and the form was witnessed by John J Moyles.

His application that he was a member of Moygownagh C Company for a period of 3 years prior to 11 July 1921, was certified in writing by M [Martin] Gallagher, Co. Captain (20-4-1963), Hugh Finnerty, Adjutant Moygownagh C Company (20-4-1963), Pat Hegarty (member of Moygownagh C Company) of Treenagh, Moygownagh, (20-4-1963).

On 30-5-1963 officials at the Dept. of Defence wrote to the Sergeant-in-charge at Crossmolina Garda station, saying that their efforts to communicate to Patrick’s brother Peter, who lived in the same house and who had also made a medal & special allowance claim application, was frustrated by Patrick opening his brothers correspondence and replying instead on his own behalf. Sergt. Patrick J Sharkey replied on 5-6-1963, that he could offer no practical solution to distinguish between them – as ‘perhaps putting ‘personal’ on the letters would not be of

much use', but that he could contact John J Moyle (who witnessed the Quinns' applications) on the Dept.'s behalf and explain the situation to him.

Patrick Scanlon vouched for his IRA membership for three months continuously up to 11-7-1921 on personal knowledge and 'on information'. In reply to the Dept.'s query as to why Patrick Quinn's names did not appear on the Pre-Truce IRA nominal roll for Moygownagh C Company, Martin Gallagher confirmed on 16-9-1963 that he had personal knowledge that Quinn was such a member but had not taken part in the normal activities of the Company:

The reason he did not take a prominent part was he was on intelligence and getting information regarding the enemy.

When confirming Peter Quinn's membership of Moygownagh Company on 12-9-1963, James Lynott of Glenmore, Crossmolina said that as regards Patrick Quinn, 'I cannot verify the matter'. Lynott also drew attention that while Peter Quinn was listed as Company Quartermaster [as at 11-7-1921], 'As far as I am aware I was Quartermaster during that period'.

On 18-12-1963 Patrick Quinn was notified that his Service Medal application was refused as his membership of the IRA Pre-Truce could not be established on evidence available. Further representations by PA Calleary TD on Quinn's behalf in December 1963 and on 1-5-1964, 25-6-1964 were likewise answered.

Quinn, Peter, Ballinagur, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

DOB: 16-4-1898

34SP37423

On 1-7-1935 Peter Quinn sought an application form for an IRA pension. His subsequent application for a Service Certificate was rejected on 28-1-1942 as he was deemed not a person to whom the Act applies. He appealed the decision on 28-12-1945, and was advised on 6-5-1946 to provide further evidence if his appeal was to be considered.

Patrick J Rutledge TD received the following letter from J. Bolan (runai) of the Dept. on 30-6-1947:

With reference to your representations on behalf of Mr. P Bourke, MCC, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo, regarding certain applicants under the Military Service Pension Act, 1934, who desire to have their claims reopened, the Minister for defence desires me to say that any additional evidence which it is proposed to submit in support of appeals in respect of the under-mentioned should be submitted at once:-

Michael McDonnell, Anthony Quinn, William Greir, Thomas Tomlin, John Collins – all of Ballycastle. Peter Quinn Crossmolina, Martin Williams, Ballina, Martin Clifford (deceased).

Under the terms of the Section 5 of the Military Service Pensions (amendment) Act, 1945, the Minister's power to request the Referee to review his report in cases of the other applicants has been withdrawn, and in the circumstances it is regretted, that no further action is possible in connection with their claims.

On 5-4-1950 Peter Quinn wrote to the Dept. seeking a '1916, 1918 pension form'.

On 20-8-1954 the dept. advised Quinn that the facts alleged in his [Quinn's] petition and evidence previously submitted did not amount to a prima facie case that he was a person to whom the Act applied.

DP4440

On 20-3-1967 PA Calleary TD wrote to the Dept. seeking a Special Allowance application form Peter Quinn, as he had a Service Medal. Quinn was sent the relevant form on 26-4-1967,

which was received back on 2-5-1967, claiming the allowance under the provision of being incapable of self-support by reason of permanent infirmity of body or mind as per attached medical certificate. A Pensions Medical Officer was appointed to examine Peter Quinn locally, and confirmed same in his report of 24-6-1967 – wherein he also noted that Quinn was a retired single farmer who lived with his married nephew. Quinn was advised in August 1967, that as his profit from his holding exceeded the threshold allowed for a Special Allowance, his application was rejected.

#### MD25430

On 3-4-1950 Peter Quinn wrote to the Dept. of Defence seeking a '1916-1918 Service Medal'. In his subsequent application received by the Dept. on 17-2-1953 contained the following information:

Peter Quinn served in Moygownagh, C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade of the IRA, continuously from 1918-1921. His Brigade Commanding Officer was PA Calleary TD; Battalion Commander – Sean Langan and Company Commander – Martin Gallagher. He had applied for a Service Pension and Service Medal, but not a disability pension. The address he resided in on 11-7-1921 was 'No. 8 Tintown, The Curragh, Kildare'.

PA Calleary TD made representations to have Quinn's application expedited but the Dept. advised that Quinn was asked for further information in support of his medal claim which to date (27-4-1963) he had not supplied. Instead Patrick Quinn [his brother who lived at the same address] replied providing his own date of birth to that of Peter's – which the Dept. was seeking.

On 30-5-1963 officials at the Dept. of Defence wrote to the Sergeant-in-charge at Crossmolina Garda station, saying that their efforts to communicate to Peter, who lived in the same house as his brother Patrick and who had also made a medal & special allowance claim application, was frustrated by Patrick opening his brothers correspondence and replying instead on his own behalf. Sergt. Patrick J Sharkey replied on 5-6-1963, that he could offer no practical solution to distinguish between them – as 'perhaps putting 'personal' on the letters would not be of much use', but that he could contact John J Moyle (who witnessed the Quinns'

applications) on the Dept.'s behalf and explain the situation to him. On 13-6-1963, Peter Quinn provided his date of birth to the Dept.

During June and July 1963, his referees; Patrick Scanlon, Martin Gallagher and James Lynott (Glenmore), confirmed Peter Quinn's membership of the IRA for the 3 months previous to 11-7-1921. In 17 October 1963, PA Calleary was advised that a decision was delayed due the Dept.'s issue of some confusion with both applications from the same address. A Service medal was awarded to Peter Quinn on 10-12-1963.

[MSP34REF35488](#)

On 11-12-1935 Peter Quinn, Ballinagur, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo, in his application form for A Service Certificate under the Military Service Pension Act, 1934, stated the following:

In Moygownagh C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade, served from January to 31 March 1918, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'carrying out all orders given me by superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'drills, parades, appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant organising and anti-conscription'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo; John Deane, Ballycastle.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: In Moygownagh C Company, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'carrying out all orders given me by superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'drills twice weekly, carrying out decrees of Dail courts, anti-recruiting and anti-conscription' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo; John Deane, Ballycastle.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: In Moygownagh C Company, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'carrying out all orders given me by superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'enforcing Belfast Boycott, drills twice weekly, raids for arms and caring [sic] same.' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo; Patrick Bourke, Ballycastle; John Deane, Ballycastle.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: In Moygownagh C Company, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'carrying out all orders given me

by superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'general raid for arms, guarding same, police duty Dail Courts, preventing people from paying dog licences, working making dug-out at Curvaderra, enforcing Belfast Boycott, raising funds for providing arms..' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo; Patrick Bourke, Ballycastle; John Deane, Ballycastle.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: In Moygownagh C Company, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'carrying out all orders given me by superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'blocking roads, cutting wires, drills twice weekly, police duty, Dail courts, Raid on Moygownagh Post Office, Preventing people paying dig licences, carrying out decrees Dail Courts.' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo; Thomas Newcombe, Bunree, Ballina; Patrick Bourke CC, Ballycastle;

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: In Moygownagh C Company, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'carrying out all orders given me by superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'drills twice weekly, camp duty and training in Camp at Keenagh, raising funds for arms.' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo; Patrick Bourke CC, Ballycastle; Denis Sheeran, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: In Moygownagh C Company, continuous [duty] up to my arrest in August, in district of Moygownagh. Arrested in August and kept in Crossmolina one night, two in Ballina and then to Athlone for about six months, taken to Tintown. Under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'carrying out all orders given me by superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'attacked Free State troops prior to arrest and drilled Coy nightly.' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo; Andie McReilly, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923: In Moygownagh C Company, in gaol, in district of Athlone and Tintown. Under commanding officer, B Malone in charge of hut. His active service was 'being kept in gaol because of my previous activity'. His military operations consisted of 'I was not released until after Cease Fire order.' Referees: P. Coleman, Ballina, Co. Mayo; M. Byron (Byron's Garage) Ballina, Co. Mayo.

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 1:

Rank D 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 2:

Rank D 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant

Referees: Martin Gallagher, Killala; P. Bourke, Ballycastle, John Deane, Ballycastle, M. Byron (Byron's Garage) Ballina.

Additional statement of information:

I joined in 1918 and rank 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Done everything in my power to organise the equip the Coy with arms by collecting money and seizing arms wherever we knew they were. Always carried out my duties and was never absent on any roll call night or day. My house was constantly raided and I did not sleep at home for months during Black & Tan period, and had to sleep out when the National army came into force, as we were constantly watched and threatened to be shot. I was caught at Owenmore one evening when trying to come home for a change of clothes. I lost all I had because of my activity.

Signed Peter Quinn – witnessed by Anthony Quinn, Peace Commissioner, Ballycastle, 11-12-1935.

His application was officially rejected by the Office of Referee on 3-5-1940 as he was not deemed a person to whom the Act applied. On 20-5-1940 he replied with further evidence of military service enclosed:

Name: Peter Quinn.

Joined Volunteers about 1917 or early 1918.

Periods

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: Drills – parades – organising – anti-recruiting – anti-conscription. Collection of arms – Collecting funds.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: Raids for arms – preventing people attending British courts, anti-conscription – anti-recruiting – collecting funds.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: Raids for arms some of which were resisted but captured under fire. Enforcing Belfast Boycott – fight with RIC patrol near Belville – attending



First Aid Lectures – Collecting funds for arms – preventing young men joining RIC – preventing people paying dog licenses.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: Attending Dail courts and enforcing its decrees – enforcing Belfast Boycott – protecting Kelly's Cattle at Muingreeran whose cattle were driven and tails cut, at arrest of ten people at Stonehall in Land dispute and guard on my turn for three days before hearing cases before Dail court where prisoners were defended by a solicitor – enforcing civil law by preventing poteen making had several cases brought up before Dail court and collected fines in each case, had to seize bicycles in a few cases before fines were paid – cut and trenched roads after Clydagh ambush. Engagement with RIC during raid on post office – guard and protection of A.S.Unit – guard for two wounded men on my turn who were in area.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: Arrested by Free State troops – interned at Athlone for 12 months and after released did all in my power organising etc.

Signed

Co. Captain.

On 7-2-1941 P.A. Calleary wrote to PJ Ruttledge:

The aforementioned who were members of Moygownagh Co. IRA received notices some time ago that they were not considered as persons to whom Pension Act applied and asking that they might if they wish appeal. The appeals were sent away in the one envelope to Pension Board still two I think of them got notice again that they were turned down. However none of the rest were called up although most other areas were since called up not that in my opinion it makes an awful difference. However would you ring up Pensions Board and ask that they be called as soon as possible.

1 – Martin Gallagher, Killala, Co. Mayo

2 – Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

3 – James Synott [Lynott], Stonhall, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

4 – Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Gurrnard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

5 – Patrick Hegarty, Treenagh, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

6 – James Synott [Lynott] (Jnr), Glenmore, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

7 – Thomas Jennings, Driminangle, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

8 – Joseph Kelly, Driminangle, Gurranard PO, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

Get them called and they cannot blame anybody. I told them I was writing you in the matter.

I also ask that John Murphy, Dooleghney, Castleconnor, Ballina, be called. This is a very good man with good record.

Statement of Peter Quinn accompanying appeal:

Name of applicant: Peter Quinn, Ballinagur, Garranard.

30-4-1916 to 31-3-1917: Drill and parades, organising Co. area.

1-4-1917 to 31-3-1918: Drills, parades, establishing Dail courts & election duty, collection of arms, resisted baton charge at Ballycastle, dispatch work.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: attended Dail courts, raids for arms, dispatch work, attended first aid lectures, election duty, collected funds for arms, raid on Petty Session Clerk, boycott of British courts.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: Raids for arms some of which were resisted Orms, Fetherstonhaugh & Irelands. Those three defended and we captured under fire. Boycott on British goods anti-conscription. Collected funds for arms, dispatch work, raid on Petty Session Clerk. Raid on Post Office, censorship of mails, specially selected to convey arms from Kilfian to Crossmolina.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: Raids on Post Office. Fight with Black & Tans near Granard [= Belville Br.' glossed in later note] P. Office. Enforcing Belfast Boycott attended first aid lectures. Collected funds for arms. Prevented men joining RIC. Prevented people paying dog licences. Attended Dail courts and helped enforce its decrees. Dispatch work, raid on Post boy to see if information was him [?] given about activities of A.S.

Unit who were in the mountain part of our area. I was continually on the run, cut roads after fight in Ballycastle Jun 4. Cut & blocked roads after BT fight in Palmerstown, memory of fight we were ordered there to take prisoners expected to be captured.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: During a Black and Tan raid in Co area we surprised and disarmed 2 B. Tans who were taking part in raid. Enforcing Belfast Boycott, attended Dail courts and enforced its decrees. Boycott of British courts, protected Kelly farm at Muingeran whose cattle were driven, arrest of ten people at Stonehall on land dispute, guard in my turn for three days and nights before cases were heard at Dail court. Enforcing civil law by preventing poteen making, brought cases of poteen making before Dail courts and enforcing payment of fines, cut and trenched roads after Clydagh ambush. Raid in Post Office and fight with RIC patrol during raid on Post Office. Guard and protection for A.S. unit, guardin[g] turn on two men while in the area, guard for Dr. Madden and J Barret, fight with Tans at Clydagh.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: Camp duty Keenagh etc., collected funds for arms and attended First Aid lectures. Police duty and enforcing civil law.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: Blocking roads, helping men on A.S. Unit by providing food etc. while we were in area near where I lived, arrested in August 1922 an[d] spent remainder of period in Athlone and Curragh.

1-4-1923 to 30-9-1923: In jail, I was released in Sept.

Peter Quinn was called for oral interview based on his appeal:

Summary of Sworn Evidence given before interviewing officers by the applicant, Peter Quinn (no. 35488), on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1941 and agreed to by him.

Mr. Quinn joined the volunteers in 1916

Periods 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>:

Routine Company duties. He took part in the establishment of the Dail courts, helped at the elections, collected arms and for arms. In all he visited some 40 houses in the search for arms. There was shooting at two of them.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Period

### 'Belville or Belvin Bridge', also referred to as 'Granard':

Information was received that a cycling patrol of Tans had passed and as it was assumed that they would return, the Company Captain, Gallagher, assembled a number of men and put them in positions about Belvin Bridge. He caused a tree to be felled. They lay in wait from mid-day until the evening. Applicant had a rifle, was placed behind a wall. J Kelly and J Lynnott [Lynott] who had a shotgun. Instead of the cycling patrol two Lorries of Tans came onto the scene. Fire was opened at them at 60 to 65 yards. They stopped near the tree and returned the fire very sharply. The shooting lasted about 10 minutes. The IRA were outnumbered and had to retreat.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Period

A party of Tans were raiding a grave-yard in Moygownagh. Their lorry was standing on the road guarded by two men. Applicant was one of a number who crept up on them, surprised them and disarmed them. They got two rifles.

### Granard Post Office

When raiding this place for mails warning was received from the scouts that the enemy were coming. The raiders skipped and got away along a river that ran near the Post Office. Fire was opened at them at about 60 yards by Tans who had come in Lorries. He was armed with a rifle and replied, firing 5 shots. There were about 15 IRA men concerned.

His miscellaneous duties during the forgoing period consist of the following:

Raided the postman once.

He guarded a farm in his turn for 2 or 3 weeks.

Carried dispatches 5 or 6 times.

Blocked roads a good few times.

Guarded the Column twice.

Raided Petty Sessions Clerk.

Conveyed arms from Kilfian to Crossmolina.

Enforced the Belfast Boycott.

Prevented men joining the RIC and paying dog licences.

Attended the Dail courts and enforced its decrees.

He went to the fight at Palmerstown. Their instructions were to take over prisoners who were expected to be captured. They did not get as far as the fight and did not get any prisoners.

He did guard o two wounded men who were in his area for about 3 months. This duty was undertaken in turn.

He prevented poteen-making and brought poteen-makers to court.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Period

##### Camp:

Three weeks at Keenagh, Three week-ends at Stonehall. One week in Ballycastle.

No barrack service.

Usual Company training and police duty.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Period

He did a little blocking of roads and helping of men on the run at the commencement, but had no fight.

He was arrested in August, 1922, about 3 miles from his home and was interned from then until Sept. 1923 when he was released from the Curragh.

Q: Does that cover your service?

A: It does.

Q: Do you want to add anything to that?

A: I don't, I think.

Mr. Quinn added that he escorted Eamon Gannon a distance of 6 miles to Crossmolina on one occasion.

He claims that he was First Lieut. Of the Company, having been appointed in 1920. J Molloy was the First Lieut. At the start. He believed he was Quartermaster later. Applicant had been Quartermaster at the start of the Company.

Subsequently appended to this report on 20-9-1941

Advisory Committee

Hold for Officers.

This man claims a fight at Belvin Bridge and a little engagement at the Post Office at Granard [Garranard]. He seems to have had a considerable amount of miscellaneous duties which kept him busy and he was on the run for 12 months prior to the Truce.

Noted on his file for discussion with Mr. P Bourke on 14-1-1942:

Belville or Belvin Bridge

General Work.

His appeal was rejected by the Referee on 28-1-1942

On 3-6-1951, Peter Quinn again appealed for a reinvestigation of his claim for a Military Service Certificate with the following statement of facts:

I was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Of Moygownagh Company. I transported arms to safety after Clydagh ambush – stored same till Column re-organised. Guarded Column, provided food, raids for arms, escaped from patrol that attacked Company during training operations. Guard two wounded men and on Column after Clydagh ambush. I took part in fight in Palmerstown and all raids for arms in district and had to use firearms where resistance offered – two cases.

The advisory committee [to the Referee] subsequently over Oct and Nov 1952, voted 3 to 1, that there was not a prima facie case that Peter Quinn was a person to whom the Act of 1934 applied. This was officially confirmed to Peter Quinn on 12-11-1953.

Reape, Thomas, Fotish, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

DOB: 1903

34SP37427

He sought an application form for an IRA pension, received by the Dep of Defence on 12-12-1934. His subsequent application for a Service Certificate was rejected on 12-4-1940 as he was deemed not a person to whom the Act applies and he was notified of same on 1-5-1940.

On 22-10-1944 he sought a form to apply for a Service Medal. In his subsequent application from Fotish Road, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo, he gave his dates of active service as 1-4-1917 to 30-6-1923 in Moygownagh C Company. He confirmed he had applied for a Service and Disability pension and gave the following details of service:

Carried out all orders given by superior officers, attended drill and parades (1917 to 1918). References: Martin Gallagher, Killala; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Granard, Crossmolina; Peter Quinn, Moygownagh, Crossmolina.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: Drill, organising, collection of arms.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: Enforcing Belfast Boycott, Raids for arms, drill etc.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: Raids for arms, Drill twice weekly. Enforcing Dail Courts decrees, censorship of mails. Preventing people paying dog licenses and boycott of British Courts.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: Raising funds for arms, drill, Belfast Boycott and Dail Courts decrees, same references as above.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: Camp duty and drill.

1-7-1922 to 30-3-1923: Trenching and blocking roads. Raids on Post Offices, organising and providing food for men on the run in the Active Service Unit.

He was issued a Service Medal on 26-6-1945. His referees Thomas Jordan, Edward O'Boyle and Michael Mulhern signed the following declaration of his service that he was an effective member [of the [IRA] on 11-7-1921 and over the period April 1920 to April 1923 by:



Running dispatches, making dug outs, raids for arms, raids on Post Offices, trenching roads.

He was found to have been 'very obedient and attentive when detached off for duty'.

He sought his Pension application case reviewed writing on 3-6-1950 and again on 14-6-1950 stating as he had received his Service Medal he 'trusted you will look after my case as I am entitled to a pension'. The Dept.'s reply on 20-8-1954 confirmed having considered the evidence presented by him, that there was not a prima facie case that he was a person to whom the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934 applied.

On 21-1-1969 the Dept. wrote to the Gardaí at Crossmolina seeking to confirm that Thomas Reape of Fotish who had applied for a Special Allowance, was the same as listed on the nominal roll for Moygownagh C Company 'compiled around 1935' is the same person listed as Thomas Reape Ferrew, Moygownagh' therein. It was answered in the affirmative.

[MSP34REF35491](#)

On 8-11-1935 Thomas Reape of Ballina St., Crossmolina, Co. Mayo, in his application form for a Service Certificate under the Military Service Pension Act 1934, stated the following:

In Moygownagh Company, Irish Volunteers, served from January to March 1918, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'by carrying out orders of my superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'drills and parades'. Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919: In Moygownagh Company, Ballina Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, under commanding officer, Martin Gallagher. His active service was 'away from home in organisation work'. His military operations consisted of 'assisted in the carrying out of decrees of Dail courts, extensive training, anti-recruiting and anti-conscription campaign.' Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo;

Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken, under commanding officer, Dr. Crowley Batt OC. His active service was 'by carrying out orders of my superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'the enforcing Boycott of Belfast goods, drilling and attending military classes, carrying out of general raids for arms, raising funds for purchase of arms etc. '. Referees: Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken, under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was 'neglected absence from work, carrying out orders of superiors'. His military operations consisted of 'organising general raids for arms and keeping of same. Police duty, enforcing decisions of arbitration Dail courts, boycott of RIC and Belfast Goods. Raising funds for arms and subscribed to same. Training and organising, care and transferring of arms'. Referees: Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Kilfian, Lacken and Ballycastle, under commanding officer, Anthony Farrell. His active service was 'absence from work and home while doing duty and dispatch rider'. His military operations consisted of 'guarding Dail courts as ordered. Raising levies for arms, dog licenses, assisting and hiding wounded and finding medical aid for same. Transferring arms from other Batt areas. Cleaning and oiling. Helping and assisting men on the run'. Referees; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken, under commanding officer,

Shaun Langan. His active service was 'continuous absence from home and work and carrying out orders from my superior officers'. His military operations consisted of 'training camps, drilling as member of IRA, police duty, raising levies for arms'. Referees; Paddy Bourke, Ballycastle, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

1-7-1922 to 31-3-1923: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken, under commanding officer Dr. Crowley. His active service was 'continuous absence from home and work'. His military operations consisted of 'trenching, blowing up of roads, raids of Post Offices, Boycott of Belfast goods. **Did my best of [sic] meet Gilroys Column at Glenamoy but owing to floods was unsuccessful**'. Referees; Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; M. J. Kelly, Formerly of Driminangle, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Edward Cummings, Treenagh, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

1-4-1922 to 30-9-1923: In Moygownagh Company, Ballycastle Battalion, in district of Moygownagh, Killala, Ballycastle, Kilfian and Lacken, under commanding officer Dr. Crowley. His active service was 'absent from home and work'. His military operations consisted of 'road trenching, felling trees and road blocking'. Referees; M. J. Kelly, Formerly of Driminangle, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Pat McLoughlin, USA; High Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo.

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 1:

Private C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, North Mayo Brigade, IRA

Rank and nature of appointment on critical date 2:

Private in Engineering

Referees: Martin Gallagher, Church St. Killala, Co. Mayo; Hugh Finnerty, Driminangle, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo; Peter Quinn, Ballinagor, Moygownagh, Co. Mayo.

[Addendum to statement]

Joined IRA in 1918. Was trustworthy and obedient. Carried out any orders given me. Did everything in my power to help in Company. In 1920 I was appointed dispatch rider and carried out duty satisfactorily.

Witnessed by: Thomas Jennings, PC, Driminangle, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo. 8-11-1935.

On 12-4-1940, the Referee refused his claim as he was not deemed a person to whom the [Pension] Act applied.

A petition was received by the Dept. from Thomas Reape on 7-6-1951, where he requested his case be reinvestigated. He gave his original address of his previous application as Fotish, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo, and stated the following facts:

Continuous active service from 1917 to 1918, joined in 1917 (Moygownagh, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo). Officer commanding Martin Gallagher, Church St., Killala. Carried out all orders given me by senior officers. Service rendered, drill, parade and organising. Refs: Martin Gallagher, Killala, Peter Quinn, Ballinagor and Hugh Finnerty, Drumangle, Granard [Garranard], Crossmolina.

1-4-1918 to 31-3-1919

Service, drill organising, collection of arms and attending Dail courts. Same references as above.

1-4-1919 to 31-3-1920

Service drill, enforcement Belfast Boycott, raids for arms, collecting funds.

1-4-1920 to 31-3-1921

Raids for arms, drill twice weekly, enforcing Dail court decrees and Belfast Boycott. Fight with Tans near Moygownagh Post Office. Censorship of mails on Post Office and attending first aid lectures. Preventing people paying dog licences to British and boycott of British courts.

1-4-1921 to 11-7-1921

Service raising levies for arms, providing medical aid for men wounded and ill.

12-7-1921 to 30-6-1922

Camp duty, drilled, learning first aid.

The advisory committee [to the Referee] subsequently voted 3 to 0, that there was not a prima facie case that Thomas Reape was a person to whom the Act of 1934 applied and he was notified of same by letter on 12-11-1953.