

Sean Hogan Rescue Recalled

Death Of Last Survivor

The death occurred at his residence, 30 Frankfort Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin, of Commandant John Joe O'Brien, after a fairly long illness. The deceased was the last surviving member of that gallant Galbally quintet who participated in the rescue of Sean Hogan from Crown Forces and the R.I.C. at Knocklong railway station in May 1919.

It will be recalled that Hogan was being taken by train from Thurles to Cork Jail and when Dan Breen, Sean Treacy and Seumas Robinson looked for volunteers to assist them in the daring ordeal of rescuing Hogan, they communicated with the Galbally men who were members of the then Galtee Battalion.

Five men, the late Captain Ned O'Brien, the late Captain Sean Lynch, the late Volunteer James Scanlan, the late Volunteer Ned Foley, who afterwards gave his life for Ireland in Mountjoy Jail for his part in the rescue, and Commandant John Joe O'Brien set out for Emly railway station where they boarded the train conveying Sean Hogan to Cork.

What happened at Knocklong station on that memorable May evening is now history. Sean Hogan was rescued and all five Galbally men took a leading part in the rescue.

Captain Ned O'Brien and the late James Scanlon were seriously wounded in the affray but due to the care and attention bestowed on them by the late Dr. William Hennessy, then M.O. at Galbally, their lives were saved and they afterwards made their way to America in disguise where they remained until the Truce.

Commandant John Joe O'Brien, with his brothers Ned and Willie Pa, joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913. During the War of Independence, Commandant O'Brien served with the East Limerick Brigade and also with the 3rd Tipperary Brigade Flying Column. In February 1921, he was appointed Vice-O.C., 6th Battalion, East Limerick Brigade, and he later served in the Free State Army.

A keen and respected business man, the late Commandant O'Brien owned licensed premises in Galbally, Tipperary and Dublin.

Of quiet and unassuming disposition, the late Commandant O'Brien was a great favourite with everybody and his passing is deeply regretted in his native Galbally.

His remains were removed to Galbally Church and the interment took place in the family burial ground in the local cemetery. The coffin draped with the tricolour was borne through a guard of honour of old comrades and members of the 12th Battalion, Sarsfields Barracks, Limerick. The C. J. Kickham Band from Tipperary led the funeral cortege to the cemetery and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by an army bugler.

The oration at the graveside was given by an old comrade-in-arms, Mr. Thomas Malone, better known as Sean Forde. Full military honours were rendered by a firing party from the 12th Battalion.

The chief mourners were Mrs. Elizabeth O'Brien (widow), Messrs. Liam and Stanislaus (sons), Carmel (daughter).

O'BRIEN (Rathgar, Dublin, and Galbally, Co. Limerick, also late of Glen Aherlow House, Emmet Road, Inchicore)—November 10, 1967, at his residence, 30, Frankfort Avenue. Comdt. John Joe, dearly loved husband of Elizabeth Gabriel, and father of Liam, Carmel and Stanislaus: deeply regretted by relatives and friends. R.I.P. Remains leaving Frankfort Avenue today (Saturday), approximately 1 o'clock, arriving Parish Church in Galbally, Co. Limerick, approximately 5 o'clock. Funeral after 12 o'clock Mass tomorrow (Sunday).