

# BACK TO NENAGH.

## RE-INTERMENT OF CAPT. STARR

### IMPOSING FUNERAL DISPLAY.

Amid the prayers and sorrow of his kinsfolk, neighbours and countrymen the remains of Capt. Pat Starr were laid to final rest yesterday in the churchyard of Tyone. His life, though short, was a crowded and adventurous one. First a member of the Fianna; his next activity was as a member of the Volunteer police force; after which he graduated into the I.R.A. He was an active member of the Nenagh Corps, and later joined the East Limerick Brigade. After many desperate adventures he was killed in action at Shraharloe, a district on the borders of Limerick, Tipperary and Cork, under the shadow of the Galtee mountains. He fell on the 2nd May last, and his remains were subsequently interred in a churchyard near Fermoy. They were disinterred to be brought back to his native spot on Wednesday last.

The remains, accompanied by his parents and many friends, arrived in Nenagh at 9.30 on Wednesday night, by Mr. D. K. Ryan's motor hearse, and were conveyed to St. Mary's of the Rosary, where a large congregation assembled, the Rosary being recited in Irish by the Rev. Father O'Halloran, C.C. The coffin, which was covered by the tri-colour, was surrounded by a number of beautiful wreaths, sent by parents, relatives and sympathising friends.

A guard of local Volunteers kept vigil throughout the night and day beside the bier, crowds passing in single file past the coffin paying a respectful tribute to the dead.



THE LATE CAPTAIN STARR.

On yesterday (Friday) business was entirely suspended in Nenagh until 5 p.m. when a number of shops were permitted to open to provide food and refreshments for the large numbers who had come to town for the funeral. From an early hour a constant stream of visitors poured in by car, motor, cycle, and train. A very large contingent came by train from Limerick, the different corps of East Limerick especially being largely represented with their officers. Capt. Starr served for a considerable time in that area; it was there he fell in action, and his comrades certainly came to honour him and to show their respect for his work and sacrifice in no unmistakable way.<sup>sc</sup>

High Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's of the Rosary at 10.30 o'clock yesterday morning. The Right Rev. Monsignor McMahon, P.P., V.G., presided; Father O'Halloran, C.C., was celebrant, and amongst the priests present were: Rev. T. O'Donoghue, C.C. and Rev. Fr. Roche, C.C., Nenagh; Rev. M. Hogan, P.P. and Rev. Fr. Vaughan, C.C., Silvermines; Rev. J. O'Halloran, P.P., Rev. J. Barry, C.C., Youghal; Very Rev. Canon O'Meara, P.P., Rev. J. Fogarty, C.C., Puckane; Rev. T. Meehan C.C., Rev. Fr. Meagher, C.C., Berrisokane; Rev. Fr. Fogarty, C.C., Tarryglass; Rev. Fr. Smith, C.C., Killeen; Rev. P. Hewitt, C.C., Toomevara; Rev. Fr. Smyth, C.C., Rev. T. Sammon, C.C., Cloughjordan; Rev. Fr. Kennedy.

During the High Mass the church was packed. The centre aisles had been reserved for the family and relatives, members and officers of the I.R.A., Cumann na mBan, etc. Admission was arranged by Volunteers wearing armlets and all were shown to their proper places with perfect decorum and despatch. The sacred music was beautifully rendered, and a large choir was present.

At the conclusion of the Mass the number of people in town had increased greatly. As the various contingents arrived they were formed up, and at 12.30 the Courthouse Square presented a unique display with its masses of young men in regular formation, all placed in perfect order preparatory to being formed into processional order for the funeral. Meantime the entire road from the Church to the graveyard at Tyone was lined on both sides by Volunteers; a clear road was kept throughout, and while the public were given every facility to view and take part in the procession, there was not the slightest interference with, or break in the processional order. The control of the traffic at every point was perfect.

Sharp at the hour fixed—one o'clock—the coffin was removed from the Church on the shoulders of members of the I.R.A., and the funeral procession started. The order was as follows—Firing Party; Nenagh Battalion under its officers. Members of the Nenagh Urban Council and other public bodies; Cumann na mBan; clergy; coffin; Limerick Battalion; Motor containing Wreaths; chief mourners, St. John's Band, Limerick; I.R.A., Fianna; general public. The band played appropriate funeral music throughout, and the entire ceremonial was of the most impressive character. The arrangements at the burial ground were in the hands of a section who carried out their duties with perfect order and decorum. When the procession arrived at the Abbey field gate the various companies were deployed to the left and right and on the hill at the south-eastern side large numbers were massed by their officers. The bearing of the men and the readiness with which they fell into position was the subject of general commendation.

The clergy who officiated at High Mass were also present at the graveside. After the usual prayers the massive coffin, wrapped in the Tricolour, was lowered into the brick-lined grave

The whole was shortly covered and in the quiet stillness of the autumn evening the grave closed over the brave young life for ever.

The firing party was then ordered forward and at the command of its officer three volleys were fired over the grave.

When the volleys had been fired over the grave a short oration was delivered by a Volunteer officer, in the course of which he said that the firing squad had just paid the last tribute to a dead soldier, and there was nothing left for him to say except in the usual way to offer their sympathy to the parents and friends of Capt. Starr. He had been asked also to offer the sympathy of the East Limerick Brigade—the area in which he fell on May 1st. Further than that he merely wished to pay a tribute to him as a man. They all knew what he had done in the field as a soldier, but, perhaps, there was hardly an officer in the Tipperary No. 1 Brigade to-day who knew better than he (the speaker) did what Capt. Starr was as a man. He was a glowing example to the rest of the young men in the district; he was a terror to the evildoer in the town in which he was born and he was a disciplined soldier of the first order. Concluding, the speaker said: "Come what may in the near future my only hope is that the rest of the young men will be ready to step into the shoes of Captain Starr and die if necessary a soldier's death in the field for Irish freedom."

Immediately afterwards a decade of the Rosary was said in Irish by Father O'Halloran, over the grave, and the people withdrew. All companies were at once formed up, marched back to town in the same excellent order; and were dismissed at the Square. A short interval was allowed for necessary refreshment, and by four o'clock practically all those who came from country districts were on their homeward journey. The large contingent from Limerick returned home by the 7.30 train, and were played to the station by their Brass Band accompanied by a large crowd.

In addition to the Limerick contingents large numbers were present from East Clare, and every part of North Tipperary was represented. Roscrea, Toomevara, Moneygall, Boryrisokane, Cloughjordan, Portroe, Ballywilliam, Silvermines, Lorrha, Kilbarron, Puckane, Newport, Banna, etc. were all strongly represented and tribute must be paid without exception for their fine bearing, discipline and general orderliness throughout.

The chief mourners were—Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Bridget Starr (parents), Joe (twin brother), Mrs. John Gleeson (sister), Joseph and Michael Starr (uncles), Michael Joseph, and Thomas Starr, Patrick, Peter and Harry Dunne, S. Flannery (junior), and Mrs. John Dunne (aunts); S. (brother-in-law), Mrs. M. Whelan, Miss M. A. Starr, Mrs. S. Flannery, and Mrs. John Dunne (cousins), S. Flannery, J. Whelan, Jim and Peter Gleeson, J. Waite, J. Lynch, etc., etc.

As to the personality of the deceased the appreciation of his superior officers which we give hereunder speak for themselves. He was a product of the times we live in. No previous era in our history has produced such intense earnestness or such a spirit of sacrifice. Physically slight, he possessed the spirit of a hero. If he excelled in one thing above another it was in keenness, intelligence, and energy. As Commandant Hoolan said he was the terror of the evildoer, and the people of Nenagh, perhaps, do not realise all that he and men like him have done in the Volunteer police activities in preserving order, detecting crime, making property secure and in lifting up the standard of public morality in every direction. He bore no personal enmities. His guiding motive was love of country. For this he gave his life. It is sad to contemplate the loss of one so young, one with so many lovable qualities. But though dead he sleeps in an honoured grave, blessed by the prayers and benedictions of his countrymen. May the life and sacrifices of such as he end in the achievement of Irish freedom. Under its benignant influence alone can the long drawn-out tragedy be ended and our country enjoy happiness and progress, with equal rights and equal opportunities for all within its shores.

The Adjutant of Tipperary No. 1 Brigade, I.R.A., in the course of a letter to deceased's father, said—"I need scarcely say that we all feel the loss of your son very keenly, both in a military and social sense, as his career was the ideal from a Volunteer point of view, and his good natured gaiety made of him a treasured pal to all the boys. Personally, as one who had been in close touch with him, both before and when hostilities were on, I never found a more ardent, self-sacrificing or braver lad than Pat, and I take this opportunity of congratulating his parents on the upbringing of such a noble and patriotic son."

The Officer Commanding Head Quarters, Mid-Limerick Brigade, also bore testimony in a letter to his father of his gallantry. He was not only energetic, but one of the bravest amongst them, and though ordered to retreat when military, numbering 70 surprised 15 of their men, he remained in position, fighting bravely, until he was surrounded by the enemy. He regretted sincerely that such a gallant soldier fell under such unfortunate circumstances. He was an ardent, concluded the letter, not alone to his parents and the town of Nenagh, but to Ireland, for which he fought and died, as a whole."

Mr. Thomas Starr and family, through our columns, desire to express their sincere thanks to the priests and people of Clare, Limerick, and Tipperary for the great tribute of respect paid to their dear son at yesterday's funeral.