



The platform party watching the Army Band march past at the unveiling ceremony of the Liam Lynch Memorial.

22 April 1978

THOUSANDS PAY TRIBUTE TO LYNCH

THE TINY County Limerick village of Anglesboro has honoured one of its greatest and most illustrious sons in a commemorative ceremony more than half a century after his death.

On a bleak hillside, in the shadow of the Galtee mountains, overlooking the humble birthplace of the famous Irish patriot, a memorial to the memory of General Liam Lynch was unveiled by the Minister for Justice, Mr. Gerry Collins, on Sunday afternoon.

The stirring ceremony was attended by several thousand people from all parts of the country — and a few of the patriot's former comrades as well as many of their descendants — as the true spirit of republicanism was recalled.

Among the attendance also were Mr. Sylvester Barrett, Minister for the Environment; Mr. Gene Fitzgerald, Minister for Labour, deputies senators and councillors from Limerick, Cork and Tipperary.

Before the unveiling, Mass was celebrated at Anglesboro Church. The chief celebrant was Rev. G. Bourke, C.C., assisted by priests from many parts of Munster.

A guard of honour was formed by T. Company, F.C.A., directed by Lt. W. Gleeson, and Lt. W. Enright. The 14th Batt. F.C.A. under Commdt. J. Corrigan and Parade Commdt. B. Magner, also took part in the march from Anglesboro village to the unveiling.

They were led by the Band of the Southern Command, under Col. Kiely, and the Anglesboro Liam Lynch Pipe Band.

The Last Post and the Reveille was sounded by the Band of the Southern Command.

Mr. Collins unveiled the memorial, which was blessed by Rev. P. Kiely. The Minister said that he

was honoured to be present at the ceremony to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the death of Liam Lynch. He welcomed the opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of this gallant Irishman.

"Liam Lynch was a born soldier, inspired by the highest patriotic ideals and a lofty sense of chivalry. He was a man whose whole endeavours and great natural talents were devoted selflessly to the cause of Irish independence to which he had contributed so much before his untimely death.

"In honouring the memory of Liam Lynch today we pay tribute, through him, to all those who down the centuries have contributed to the cause of Irish freedom.

"We owe it to that tradition and to the aspirations of unity which we all cherish to keep a firm grasp of the true ideals of republicanism and to re-affirm them in the face of those whose actions misrepresent them.

"From the time when it first emerged as a political force almost two hundred years ago, that spirit has sought, in the classic formulation of Wolfe Tone 'to unite the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of all past dissensions and to substitute the common name of Irishmen in place of those labels which divide us.

He said that if the memorial ceremony had been held 10 or 15 years ago they would have had among them many more of the comrades of Liam Lynch, but most of them had now passed to their eternal rest.

A copy of the life of Liam Lynch was presented to the Minister. The history was compiled by Deputy J. Walsh, Cork.

Among the other speakers were Commdt. Paddy O'Brien, Cork, and Fr. Kiely.

The history recalls that Liam Lynch, intrepid freedom fighter and leader extraordinary, was born at Anglesboro. He was educated at

the local National School and served his apprenticeship to the hardware trade in Mitchelstown and Fermoy.

He joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913 at the age of 20 and swiftly rose through the ranks.

In 1919 he became Commandant of the Cork No. 2 Brigade and when the First Southern Division was formed from nine Southern Brigades in April 1921, he was appointed Divisional Commandant.

He was the sole member of the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood who opposed the Treaty.

During the Civil War, he was Chief of Staff of the Republican Army. He died of wounds received in action on the slopes of the Knockmealdown Mountains on April 10, 1923. He is laid to rest beside his friend and comrade Mick Fitzgerald in Kilcrumper Cemetery, Fermoy.



Gerry Collins, Minister for Justice, unveils memorial to Liam Lynch at Anglesboro on Sunday.