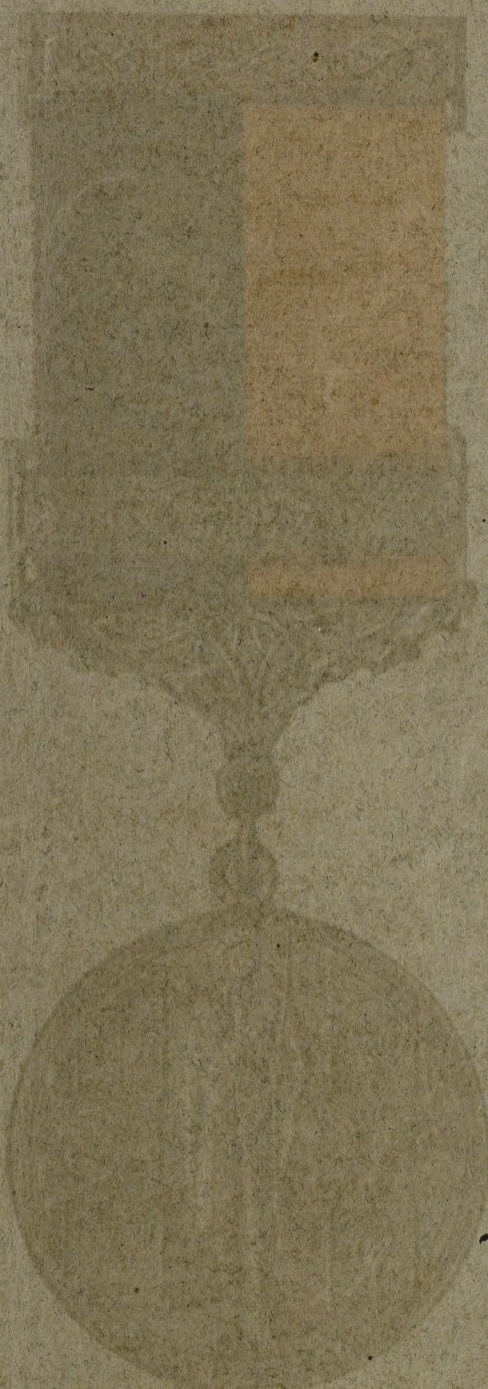


C<sup>2</sup>/129

.1.a.

Re Soldier James Byrne 2 Batt Dublin Eds.

Military Archives



Military Service  
Pensions Collection

Military Archives

Wpd-taorpsc

Mrs Byrne was paid D. A. at maximum rate as follows.

£ 7 on 23. x. 22

£ 2. 16 at fortnightly intervals since that date to be continued for a period of 6 months after soldier's death

Séamus se Ciamadwain

24. 1. 23.

Last Payment.

date of attestation 4. 3. 22. &

Po Ripteap O hEisceartais  
u capa.

I have seen Lieut Cannon, A.R. Corps on this case, and he states that he has definitely ascertained date of attestation as 4. 3. 22. Cheques will now be issued to cover period between that date and the date of the soldier's death.

Séamus se Ciamadwain

19. 2. 23

AN UNIFORM :

NOTAÍ ΟΙΡΙΣΕ.

# Military Archives



# Military Service Pensions Collection

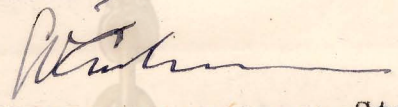
# Military Archives

Minute No 60

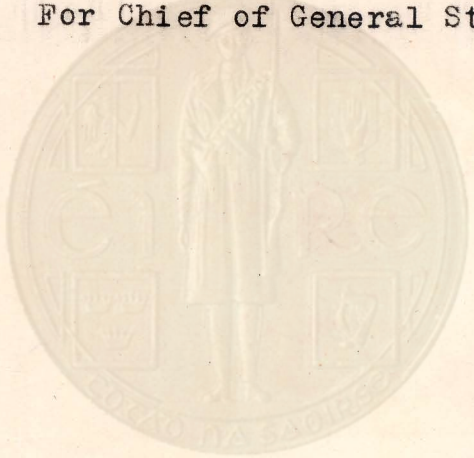
2nd. November 1922.

The Adjutant General,  
Portobello Barracks.

A soldier named Byrne was buried in  
Glasnevin last week unidentified.  
Can you say where this man was killed,  
as people by the name of Byrne are  
enquiring about their son?



-----Staff Capt  
For Chief of General Staff.



Military Service  
Pensions Collection (12441)

# Military Archives

C2/91.

3rd November,

22

SUBJECT:- re Soldier - Byrne Deceased.

To:  
Captain Stafford.

The following is a copy of a communication which I have received from the Chief of General Staff:-

"A soldier named Byrne was buried in Glasnevin last week unidentified. Can you say where this man was killed, as people by the name of Byrne are enquiring about their son".

Please let me have your answer to ~~same~~. *above query*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Capt.

FOR: ADJUTANT GENERAL.

K/AM.

# Military Service Pensions Collection

02/91. **Military Archives**

4th November,

22.

SUBJECT:- re Soldier - Byrne Deceased.

TO:  
CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF.

In reply to your Minute No. 60 of the 2nd inst,  
I submit herewith copy of report received from the Officer  
in Charge of Burials in this case.

Major Genl.

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Encl.

K/AM.

**Military Service  
Pensions Collection**

Military



Archives

PORTOBELLO BARRACKS  
November 4th 1922

TO ADJUTANT GENERAL.

RE YOURS. REFERENCE C2/91 - 3rd inst.  
-----

On October 18th I received from Cork Boat the Remains of Volunteer James Byrne , without escort. No Home address was given for this man, I made all possible enquiries and endeavoured to get him identified , but without success. I understand he was killed at Duagh, Co Kerry on October 14th I had him buried in a plot in Glasnevin on Oct 21st.

Signed John P. Stafford - Capt.

OFFICER I/C Internments.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY,  
MILITARY ARCHIVES  
ST. PATRICK'S MILITARY MUSEUM,  
DUBLIN

29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1922

Dear General O'Sullivan,  
I feel really sorry to trouble  
you, as I know how full your  
hands are at present, but I do  
not think there would be any use  
in writing to the people who  
do not know me. I feel quite  
sure you will have this matter  
looked up for me.  
Enclosed letter will tell you  
the whole case.

It is very sad for this poor  
mother to have no knowledge

Military Archives

of her son's fate. Hancey if he  
were alive he would have sent  
her a message.

Will you be very kind as to  
put enquiries in motion  
regarding his fate.

It seems that sometime after  
the ambush, an unidentified  
(private) soldier was buried  
in Glasnevin - taken up  
from the country.

The mother fears it was  
her boy.

I hope it is not very late in  
the day to offer you and  
Mr O Sullivan my hearty  
congratulations. I was  
so glad to get Mr. O Sullivan's  
post card. I hope you are  
both well and I hope and  
pray God will bless you  
both. I never forget to ask  
God and the Bd. Mother to  
protect and guard you.

I feel quite confident He  
is taking special care  
of you and all the brave  
men who are doing such

work for Ireland.

Forgive me for troubling  
you over this business - but  
it is a big thing for a  
poor creature.

Kindest regards to you and  
Mrs O'Sullivan. I hope  
Mrs Kerrigan is well.

Yours v. sincerely  
C.L.

Sister C. Padua (Haugan)

# Military Archives

30th. November 22

To:  
Sister Mary Padua,  
The Sisters of Charity,  
Mount St. Anne's,  
Milltown, CO. DUBLIN.

Dear Sister Mary Padua,

I got your letter this morning with enclosure  
from Mr. Dunne.

I will have immediate enquiries made into the  
Byrne's case. Unfortunately his is a rather common name  
in the Army and it may be difficult to trace him. However,  
I will do my best.

Thanks very sincerely for your good wishes  
and kind prayers.

Mise le meas mor,

---

P.D. I have also written to Mr. Dunne and return you his  
letter.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

30th. November

22

To:  
Mr. M. Dunne,  
Terenure Laundry Co. Ltd.,  
Terenure,  
Co. Dublin.

---

A Chara,

Sister M. Padua has told me you are interested in the whereabouts and welfare of JAMES BYRNE, who was wounded in ambush near Abbeyfeale about October 20th.

I am having an immediate enquiry into his case and will inform you and Sister Padua when I hear of him.

Would you give me his exact home address, or his Army number, so that he would not get mixed up with any other man of the name Byrne.

Mise le meas mor,

MAJOR GENERAL

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

AG/BN1R.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

30th. November

22

To:  
Commandant-General Brennan,  
G.O.C.,  
Limerick.

I have had several enquiries about JAMES BYRNE of the Dublin Guards, RATHPARNHAM, who was wounded in an ambush near Abbeyfeale 20th. October. Would you let me know his present whereabouts and if he lives.

MAJOR GENERAL.

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

AG/BNLR.

## Military Service Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

30th. November 22

To:  
Director General Medical Services,  
(Information Bureau)

Could you let me know the present whereabouts  
of and also let me have medical report on JAMES  
BYRNE, who was wounded in an ambush near ABBEYFEALE  
about October 20th.

MAJOR GENERAL

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

AG/BNiR.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

Terenure Laundry Co<sup>ltd</sup>

Terenure.

Co. Dublin

Ref Number

C<sup>2</sup> 129.

Major General Sullivan

Portobello Barracks.

Sir.

Your letter received this morning  
with many thanks.

The name & address in full  
of wounded soldier (sorry I do  
not know his number)

James Byrne.

Willbrook

Rathfarnham.

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Dublin Guards B<sup>co</sup>.  
we will all be so grateful  
for any information of him.

Yr obedient servant

P.A.

M. Dunne.

# Military Archives

TELEGRAPH ADD.:  
"HUMANITY, DUBLIN."  
4514.  
PHONE NO. 4515.

ÓBLAÍŠ NA n-ÉIREANN.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MEDICAL SERVICES,  
88 MERRION SQUARE,  
DUBLIN.

Department.....

Reference No. 1624/.....

11th December 1922.

To -  
Adjutant General,  
Portobello Barracks,

*OX*

Reference your C2./129. of the 30th of November  
re James Byrne.

I have made enquiries at various stations about  
this man and the attached is the only information I can  
get.

*n*  
12. DEC. 1922  
62/129  
OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

*James Byrne*  
8433 Deputy Director General Army Medical Service. Commdt. General.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

Copy

G.H.Q.

Limerick.

5/12/22.

Your Ref. No.1624,

To -  
The Director General of Medical Service.

Re Vol. Jas Byrne;

Vol. Jas Byrne was wounded in the Duagh ambush outside Abbeyfeale when General Murphy was coming up from Kerry about the date you mention. He died of wounds in Abbeyfeale. Lieutenant Lawson of Abbeyfeale states he is belonging to the Dublin Guards and that he knew him before. The corpse was sent to Dublin and Col. Duggan A.M.C. who accompanied the corpse to Portobello states it was

interred there by Byrne's people who came from Bishop St. Further enquiries regarding this matter could be made at Murphy Tralee.

I remain,  
Yours obediently,

George Blackall. Lt.-



Terenure Laundry Co Ltd

C<sup>2</sup> 129

Terenure  
Co. Dublin

13.12.22.

Major Gen. O'Sullivan  
Adjutant General  
Portobello Bn

Sir.

In reference to a letter  
which we had from you  
Decr 1st regarding Private  
James Byrne Dublin Guard  
These further particulars  
have found. he was wound  
at Duagh about five  
miles from Distowel on  
the 13<sup>th</sup> of October at  
8.30. travelling from (8674)

~~Limerick~~ to Tralee to  
Limerick paper said he  
was seriously wounded  
his mother was told he  
was not seriously wounded  
by one of the men who  
was there: from that  
time until now every  
effort to find out any  
thing about him has  
been unsuccessful.

The Tuesday or Wed  
following the ambush  
a soldier killed in  
Kerry named James Byrne  
Dublin Guards was

brought from Kerry  
by motor his people were  
not told anything about  
it; the Sunday following  
it was announced in  
Sunday Independent  
Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> <sup>of his burial.</sup> We have had  
no further information  
we still believe that  
the boy is in some  
hospital in Co. Kerry  
would you kindly  
let us know if he  
is alive or dead  
& help his poor mother

she got some money  
from Government.  
dependents money  
on Sat Oct 21st &  
again last Saturday  
His army number is  
11797. sorry for  
troubling you.

Yrs obediently  
M. Dunne.

---



# Military Archives

## OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

MY REFERENCE NO.	C2/129
YOUR REFERENCE NO.	

Please quote my number and date.

General Headquarters,  
PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,

DUBLIN, 15th December 19 22

TO:  
O.C.,  
RECORDS,  
ORGANISATION DEPARTMENT

re Private James Byrne, No. 11797 of the Dublin Guards

The attached file regarding the above man is forwarded for your perusal and report.

Can it be stated definitely from your Records whether this man who was wounded in the Duagh ambush and subsequently, died of his wounds.

M. Kennedy Captain  
for ADJUTANT GENERAL

# Military Service Pensions Collection

Enclosure

J/MOK

QUERY FORM.

Name Byrne James

No 5-987 Rank Ntc

Address Woolbrook Rathfrilandham

Date of Attestation 27-3-22

Dependents Mother

Transferred to \_\_\_\_\_

No notification of  
man being in ambush or  
Now At having died received  
from D. S. M. S. or Capt Staffer

Discharged \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Discharge \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_



*Director Genl  
J/c Records*

# DÁIL EIREANN

(Párlimint Shealadach).

Military Archives

OIFIG AN CHLEIRIGH,

TIGH LAIGHEAN,

ATH CLIATH,

18.12.22

Chun an Aire *an Chosaint.*

A Chara,

Gheobhair mar aon leis seo cóip de

Cheist atá á chur ort ag.....

*Domas Mac Sain.* agus

a bheidh ar Pháipeur na gCeisteanna

ar *20.12.22*

Attached please find copy of a

Question addressed to you by.....

*Ihor Johnson* and

which will appear on the Question Paper

for *20.12.22*

Mise le meas,

COLM O MURCHADHA,

Cléireach na Dála.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

CHUN AN AIRE UM CHOSAINT

(To the Minister for Defence)

To ask the Minister for Defence whether he is aware that Volunteer James Byrne, of the Dublin Guards, was wounded in an ambush at Dunagh, Kilmorna, Co. Kerry on October 13th. that the casualty was reported in the "Sunday Independent" of October 15th. and that enquiries were made by this Volunteer's mother, Mrs Byrne, of 3 Willbrook, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin, at Portobello Barracks and Army Medical Headquarters, Merrion Square, during the following week but failed to elicit any information; whether the "Sunday Independent" of October 22nd reported the funeral of this Volunteer from Portobello Barracks, although no notification of his fate had been sent to his relatives; whether in answer to further enquiries, Capt. Stafford, the officer in charge of funerals at Portobello, told the mother on Monday, October 23rd, that he could not say if the lad buried was her son and expressed the opinion that the soldier buried was either killed instantly or else had died of blood poisoning; whether the same officer on the following day informed Mrs Byrne's sister-in-law that the boy killed was Mrs Byrne's son and that he had made enquiries in Rathfarnham and had sent notice to the newspapers that an unidentified body was lying in the Barracks in order to enable him to get into touch with the relatives- statements of which no corroboration could be obtained in the newspaper offices or in Rathfarnham; whether subsequently Army Medical Headquarters undertook to communicate with Abbeyfeale and then notified Mrs. Byrne that the boy who had been buried was not her son but a native of Kerry; whether upon enquiry being made at Oriel House, a message was sent by Mr Frank Fagan that Mrs Byrne's son had not been killed but was in hospital, not so seriously wounded as to require to be brought to Dublin for an operation; whether enquiries were also made of Commandant O'Connor at Beggar's Bush Barracks, who promised to communicate with Mrs Byrne, but failed to do so; whether Mrs Byrne was left without definite news of her son's death until she received on December 14th. in reply to an enquiry she had addressed to the Paris Priest, a letter from Father F. J. Harrington C. C. Dunagh, Kilmorna, Co. Kerry, stating that her son was wounded in the abdomen on October 13th. was removed in a motor ambulance to Abbeyfeale that night and died half an hour after his arrival there; whether he will ascertain and communicate to Mrs Byrne the exact facts of her son's death and burial, with an apology for the treatment hitherto accorded to her, and whether he will establish such machinery of identification and notification of casualties as will prevent in future such unnecessary suffering as was inflicted in this case.-

- Tomás MacEoin.

For recd. 20/12/22

# DÁIL ÉIREANN.

Aineáct Cósanta

Department of Defence

In reply please quote  
Ref. A.

**URGENT.**  
**DAIL QUESTION**  
Time *8.30pm* Date

18 DEC 1922

BY HAND

TO: *Adjutant General*

Subject: *Death of Val James Byrne*

Attached is a copy of a Question which the Minister should answer in the Dail on *Wed* next the *20<sup>th</sup>* instant.

Will you please furnish a draft reply to that Question at the earliest possible moment.

The envelope containing your reply should be addressed to Mr. C. B. O'Connor, Commander-in-Chief's Office, marked IMMEDIATE and delivered by hand.

*C. B. O'Connor*  
RUNA IDHE

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

CHUN AN AIRE UM CHOSAINT

(To the Minister for Defence)

To ask the Minister for Defence whether he is aware that Volunteer James Byrne, of the Dublin Guards, was wounded in an ambush at Dunagh, Kilmorna, Co. Kerry on October 13th. that the casualty was reported in the "Sunday Independent" of October 15th. and that enquiries were made by this Volunteer's mother, Mrs Byrne, of 3 Willbrook, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin, at Portobello Barracks and Army Medical Headquarters, Merrion Square, during the following week but failed to elicit any information; \* whether the "Sunday Independent" of October 22nd reported the funeral of this Volunteer from Portobello Barracks, although no notification of his fate had been sent to his relatives; whether in answer to further enquiries, Capt. Stafford, the officer in charge of funerals at Portobello, told the mother on Monday, October 23rd, that he could not say if the lad buried was her son and expressed the opinion that the soldier buried was either killed instantly or else had died of blood poisoning; whether the same officer on the following day informed Mrs Byrne's sister-in-law that the boy killed was Mrs Byrne's son and that he had made enquiries in Rathfarnham and had sent notice to the newspapers that an unidentified body was lying in the Barracks in order to enable him to get into touch with the relatives- statements of which no \* corroboration could be obtained in the newspaper offices or in Rathfarnham; whether subsequently Army Medical Headquarters undertook to communicate with Abbeyfeale and then notified Mrs. Byrne that the boy who had been \* buried was not her son but a native of Kerry; whether upon enquiry being made at Oriel House, a message was sent by Mr Frank Fagan that Mrs Byrne's son had not been killed but was in hospital, not so seriously wounded as to require to be brought to Dublin for an operation; whether enquiries were also made of Commandant O'Connor at Beggar's Bush Barracks, who promised to communicate with Mrs Byrne, but failed to do so; whether Mrs Byrne was left without definite news of her son's death until she received on December 14th. in reply to an enquiry she had addressed to the Paris Priest, a letter from Father F. J. Harrington C. C. Dunagh, Kilmorna, Co. Kerry, stating that her son was wounded in the abdomen on October 13th. was removed in a motor ambulance to Abbeyfeale that night and died half an hour after his arrival there; \* whether he will ascertain and communicate to Mrs Byrne the exact facts of her son's death and burial, with an apology for the treatment hitherto accorded to her, and whether he will establish such machinery of identification and notification of casualties as will prevent in future such unnecessary suffering as was inflicted in this case.-

- Tomás MacEoin.

For recd. 20/12/52

# Military Archives

## OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

General Headquarters,

PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,

DUBLIN, 19th December, 1922

MY REFERENCE NO.	
YOUR REFERENCE NO.	

Please quote my number and date.

TO:

Minister for Defence.

Re. Yours of the 19th inst. in connection  
with death of Volunteer James Byrne.

On the 16th October I received from the British & Irish Steampacket Co. the remains of Volunteer James Byrne, supposed to be killed in action at Duagh, Co Kerry, on October 14th. I looked up the records, but found we had several men of the same name in the Army. I made exhaustive enquiries to try and ascertain the identity of this man, but without success. Hundreds of people visited the Mortuary for identification purposes, but as the man had been shot by poisonous or explosive bullets and was practically beyond recognition (his face was swollen twice its ordinary size, and was quite black) identification was quite impossible.

It is mentioned in the question under consideration that Mrs Byrne of Rathfarnham called on me in connection with the case. Such is not a fact. I have never seen the lady; neither have I seen the other lady referred to.

Notices were inserted in the Dublin evening papers that the remains of a Volunteer Byrne was lying unidentified at Portobello Barracks. Files of such papers can vouch for truth of same.

*Sunderland  
15th + 22nd  
Oct*

*D.M.P.*

Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

Re. Volunteer James Byrne, deceased (Contd).

Those remains were buried with full military honours in the Army Plot, Glasnevin Cemetry, on October 21st. after being removed the previous evening to Rathmines Catholic Church.

John P. Stafford Capt.  
I/C Interments.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

From "Sunday Independent"  
15 Oct. 1922.

From "Sunday Independent"  
22 Oct. 1922.

### MILITARY FUNERALS.

#### Coy. Sergt. O'Sullivan and Two Volunteers Laid to Rest.

With full military honours the interments took place in the Army Plot on yesterday of Coy. Sergt. Sean O'Sullivan, of the Quartermaster's Staff, Wellington Barracks, late of 33 Glengariffe Parade, N.C.R.; Volunteer Patrick Collins, late of 14 McDowell terrace, Mount Brown; and Volunteer Jas. Byrne, Dublin Guards.

Sergt. Sullivan, who was only 16 years of age, was brother of Diarmuid O'Sullivan, who was sentenced to be hanged during the Black and Tan regime, but was reprieved on account of his extreme youth. Sergt. Sullivan was accidentally killed in Corporation St. early on Wednesday morning while on patrol duty. Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul was offered up in St. Joseph's Church, Berkeley street, yesterday morning.

The chief mourners at the funeral, which took place subsequently, were:—Mr. D. O'Sullivan (father) and Mrs. O'Sullivan (mother).

#### KILLED IN DUNDALK.

Volunteer Collins, who was aged 20, was accidentally killed in Dundalk. The funeral took place after 10 o'clock Mass in James's St. Church. The chief mourners were:—Mr. James Collins (father) and Mrs. J. Collins (mother).

Volunteer Byrne, who met his death in Co. Kerry, was aged 20 years.

The funeral procession was accompanied by the pipers' band from Beggar's Bush under Lieut. Lawlor, and a firing party and a guard of honour under Lieut. Wynne. A body of I.R.A.P. formed the escort, and a number of officers and men from Portobello and Wellington Barracks also marched in the procession.

Rev. A. Concannon, C.F., officiated at the graveside.

### NEAR LISTOWEL.

#### Dublin Guardsman Wounded by Ambushers.

(From Our Special Representative.)

Limerick, Saturday.

Sergeant Browne, of the Limerick Brigade, was shot dead, and Volunteer Jimmy Byrne, Dublin, of the Guards Brigade, was seriously wounded, in an ambush at Duagh, about five miles from Listowel, at 8.30 last night.

A party of about 15 soldiers in a Crossley, with the armoured car "Danny Boy," was travelling from Tralee to Limerick, when, in the darkness, they ran into a barricade in the village opposite Lyons's public-house.

The cars stopped, and at once a concentrated fire was opened on the ten occupants of the Crossley from the upper windows of the house and from the opposite side of the road.

#### SHARP FIRING.

About fifty shots in all were discharged by the ambushers in less than a minute, when they fled. One of them is believed to have been wounded. The occupants of the tender were lucky that they were not all killed or wounded.

An officer who was in a vehicle told me that the attackers' rifles were turned on them at almost point blank range, and with the utmost unexpectedness, from their selected positions. The soldiers at once opened fire into the houses, and dismounted.

Sergeant Browne was just getting into action when he was shot through the head.

With rifle in hand he stood up in the lorry, although the bullets were whizzing about. He was in the act of jumping out when the fatal bullet struck him in the temple and passed out at the other side. He fell on to the road dead.

#### THE ARMOURD CAR.

It was his intention to take some of the men to the rear of the attackers' position, in the house, as most of them were concealed there. Vol. Byrne was hit in the back, in the lorry.

The armoured car was brought into action, but as soon as the troops began to fire the attackers' retreat began hurriedly across the fields. They were aided in their escape by the darkness.

The attackers, who numbered between twenty and thirty, arrived at the house that evening. The place was occupied by two women and an old man. A hastily erected barricade was at once made on the road, and when darkness fell positions were taken up at upper windows and behind the wall at the opposite side.

When the firing began the women became hysterical and were found by the troops in a back room in a frightened state. They stated they had nothing to do with the attack, and added that three men took over the place that evening, giving them no explanation. Some rifle ammunition was found in the rooms.

A young member of the Lyons family was shot dead by Black and Tans at Gurtagianna during the terror.

Sergt. Browne came from Knocklong district. His body is now in Limerick.

# Military Archives

Ref. No. A. 4446

PICCOLI BARRACKS,

DUBLIN

20 DEC 1922

BY HAND

DO: Cleireach na Bala,  
Dail Eireann,  
Tigh Laighean.

DAIL QUESTION No.

on 20. 12 1922

by *T. Johnson T.W.*

With reference to your memorandum of the *18th* instant forwarding a copy of a Question which will appear in the Question Paper for *to day* there are attached hereto four copies of a draft of the reply which will be given by the Minister for Defence.

*[Signature]*  
RUHAIDHE

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

Death of Volunteer Byrne.

---

Question in the Dail by T. Johnson, T.D.

---

Reply by the Minister for Defence.

---

*Capt. Stafford*

On the 16th of October the Officer in Charge of Casualties and Internments at G.H.Q. received from the British & Irish Steam Packet Co. the remains of Volunteer James Byrne, supposed to be killed in action at Duagh, Co. Kerry on October 14th. The records were looked up, and it was found that there were several Volunteers of the same name, and many of them on duty in Kerry. Exhaustive inquiries were made to try and ascertain the identity of this man, but without success. A large number of people visited the Mortuary for identification purposes, but as the man had been killed by poisonous or explosive bullets, he was beyond recognition. Identification was therefore impossible.

*It is suggested* It is suggested that Mrs Byrne, of Rathfarnham, called on the Internments Officer at Portobello. That is not a fact. The Internments Officer says he has never seen the lady mentioned. Notices were inserted in the Dublin evening papers that the remains of Volunteer Byrne were lying unidentified in Portobello Barracks. The remains were kept in the Mortuary until October 21st, when they were buried in the Army plot at Glasnevin with full Military honours.

It is much regretted that the relatives of any of our soldiers, who fall in the service of their country, should be caused any pain in connection with their deaths, and everything possible is done to deal with the question of casualties from this point of view in a humane and sympathetic manner, and it is regretted that in this instance the remains could not be identified.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

Death of Volunteer Byrne.

---

Question in the Dail by T. Johnson, T.D.

---

Reply by the Minister for Defence.

---

On the 16th of October the Officer in Charge of Casualties and Internments at G.H.Q. received from the British & Irish Steam Packet Co. the remains of Volunteer James Byrne, supposed to be killed in action at Duagh, Co. Kerry on October 14th. The records were looked up, and it was found that there were several Volunteers of the same name, and many of them on duty in Kerry. Exhaustive inquiries were made to try and ascertain the identity of this man, but without success. A large number of people visited the Mortuary for identification purposes, but as the man had been killed by poisonous or explosive bullets, he was beyond recognition. Identification was therefore impossible.

It is suggested that Mrs Byrne, of Rathfarnham, called on the Internments Officer at Portobello. That is not a fact. The Internments Officer says he has never seen the lady mentioned. Notices were inserted in the Dublin evening papers that the remains of Volunteer Byrne were lying unidentified in Portobello Barracks. The remains were kept in the Mortuary until October 21st, when they were buried in the Army plot at Glasnevin with full Military honours.

It is much regretted that the relatives of any of our soldiers, who fall in the service of their country, should be caused any pain in connection with their deaths, and everything possible is done to deal with the question of casualties from this point of view in a humane and sympathetic manner, and it is regretted that in this instance the remains could not be identified.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

AITHEACHT CHUAINTE,

BEAHRAIG PORTOBELLO,

BAILE ATHA GLIASH.

20th December, 1922

Draft of the reply to Dail Question No.      which will appear  
on the Question Paper for the 20th December, 1922

---

CHUN: TOMAS MAC NOIN, T.D.

On the 16th October Capt. Stafford received from the British and Irish Steam Packet Company the remains of Vol. Jas. Byrne, supposed to have been killed in action at Duagh, Co. Kerry on October 14th. Records were looked up and it was found that there were several Volunteers of that name and many of them on duty in Kerry. Exhaustive enquiries were made to ascertain the identity of this man but without success. Notices were inserted in the Dublin evening papers that the remains of Vol. Byrne were lying unidentified in Portobello Barracks. A large number of people visited the Mortuary for identification purposes, but as the man was beyond recognition, identification was presumably impossible. The remains were kept in the mortuary until October the 21st when they were buried in the Army plot Glasnevin with full military honours.

It is much regretted that Mrs. Byrne should have  
caused any unnecessary pain. Everything possible

# Military Archives

(Continued)

secure identification but identification did not result.

Enquiries have not yet been completed in respect of some of the details given in the Question nor as to what the final aspect of this matter is as regards identification.

RICHARD VA MACHATHA.

AINE CHOCANTA

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

*6009*  
*6009*  
*27/12/97*  
*28/12/97*

# Military Archives

21st December,

22.

SUBJECT:- PRIVATE JAMES BYRNE. NO.11797  
DUBLIN GUARDS.

TO:  
M. DUNNE, ESQ.,  
TERENURE LAUNDRY, LTD.

I have made enquiries regarding the wounding of this man and have been informed that this soldier cannot be traced as having been in an ambush, of having died. Enquiries, however, are being instituted, the result of which shall be communicated to you later.

for: ADJUTANT GENERAL. CAPT.

*K/SO'D.*

## Military Service Pensions Collection

Any reply to this letter should be  
addressed to Military Secretary,  
Commander-in-Chief and this  
reference quoted.

A/7776.

OGLAIGH NA H-EIREANN.

OFFICE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,  
General Headquarters,  
Dublin.

21st. December, 1922.

m.

URGENT.

Do'n:

Ard Chongantoir.

A Chara,

I am in the position that it is necessary for me to write to Mrs. Byrne in this matter and before doing so:

- (1). I want to know whether I am in a position to tell this particular woman that we are now satisfied that the boy who was killed and buried was her son, and,
- (2). Whether the statement about her being sent from one person to another is correct and whether any suitable expression of apology is due from me that she should have been inadvertently etc. treated in this way.

The matter is one that I should like to deal with immediately.

I should also like to be in a position to give her a statement of the circumstances in which her son was killed.

Beir Beannacht,

*Michael Dineen*  
GENERAL.  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.



MOR.

(9197)

2/1 *[Signature]*  
OFFICE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,

A/7776.

# Military Archives

21st. December, 1922.

\_\_\_\_\_ m.

URGENT.

Do'n:

Ard Chongantoir.  
-----

A Chara,

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- (1). I want to know whether I am in a position to tell this particular woman that we are now satisfied that the boy who was killed and buried was her son, and,
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The matter is one that I should like to deal with immediately.

I should also like to be in a position to give her a statement of the circumstances in which her son was killed.

Beir Beannacht,

*Posther!*  
*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GENERAL.  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

MOR.

Óglaíocht na h-Éireann.

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL,

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,

DUBLIN.

Department.....

Reference.....

Capt Stafford

Re Vol Byrne Dec.

1 Are you satisfied that  
the boy is the son of Mrs Byrne  
Rathfarnham

2 to the statement of Johnson.

T. D. that, Mrs B was sent  
from one person to another;  
correct

Please let me have answer

to above at yr earliest  
convenience

C. O'Brien

Óglaíocht na h-Éireann.

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL,

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,

DUBLIN.

Department Interventions

Reference.....

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 22.

To Capt. Selgan  
a 9<sup>th</sup> Dept.

Re. Vol. Byrne. Deceased.

Your Query No 1.

I have no proof whatever that  
deceased was the son of the lady mentioned,

No 2.

The statement of Mr Johnson G. D.  
is quite inaccurate as I have never seen  
Mrs Byrne or the other lady referred  
to, in Mr Johnson's original question  
referred to me for answer by Cui C.  
a copy of my answer you will find enclosed.

John P Stafford Capt.

# Military Archives

19th December,

22

TO:

Minister for Defence.

Re. Yours of the 19th inst. in connection  
with death of Volunteer James Byrne.

On the 16th October I received from the British & Irish Steampacket Co. the remains of Volunteer James Byrne, supposed to be killed in action at Duagh, Co Kerry, on October 14th. I looked up the records, but found we had several men of the same name in the Army. I made exhaustive enquiries to try and ascertain the identity of this man, but without success. Hundreds of people visited the Mortuary for identification purposes, but as the man had been shot by poisonous or explosive bullets and was practically beyond recognition (his face was swollen twice its ordinary size, and was quite black) identification was quite impossible.

It is mentioned in the question under consideration that Mrs Byrne of Rathfarnham called on me in connection with the case. Such is not a fact. I have never seen the lady; neither have I seen the other lady referred to.

Notices were inserted in the Dublin evening papers that the remains of a Volunteer Byrne was lying unidentified at Portobello Barracks. Files of such papers can vouch for truth of same.

Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

Re. Volunteer James Byrne, deceased (Contd).

Those remains were buried with full military honours in the Army Plot, Glasnevin Cemetry, on October 21st. after being removed the previous evening to Rathmines Catholic Church.

I/C Interments. Capt.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

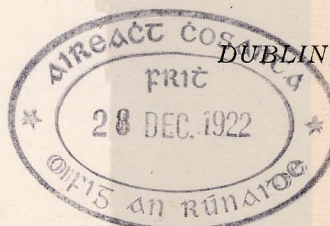
# Military Archives

MY REFERENCE NO.	C2/129
YOUR REFERENCE NO.	A/7776

Please quote my number and date.

## OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

General Headquarters,  
PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,  
DUBLIN, 27adh Mi na Nodlag 1922



To:  
Commander-in-Chief.

Re:- VOLUNTEER BYRNE - Deceased.

In reply to your A/7776 of the 21st. inst. I beg to submit the following facts:-

- (1) There is no proof whatever that Byrne was the son of Mrs. Byrne of Rathfarnham;
- (2) Regarding the statement about Mrs. Byrne being sent from one person to another I have made enquiries, but have failed to elicit any information as regards this.
- (3) I have not yet received a report from Kerry regarding the circumstances in which Byrne was killed, but hope to be able to let you have same in the course of a couple of days.

S. J. M. ... COMDT. GENERAL.  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL.

K/BNIR.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

C2/129

27adh Mi na Nodlag 22

To:  
Adjutant,  
Kerry Command.

Re:- VOLUNTEER BYRNE - Deceased.

With reference to a Volunteer named Byrne who was killed at Duagh, Co. Kerry, on October 14th, and whose remains were forwarded to Dublin for interment, I shall be glad to hear from you the circumstances in which he met his death.

CAPTAIN

for ADJUTANT GENERAL.

K/BNLR.

# Military Service Pensions Collection

Oglaigh na h-Eireann.

ADJUTANT'S DEPARTMENT.

My Reference No.	D. 239.
Your Reference No.	

Please quote my number and date.

FIELD GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

KERRY COMMAND,

TRALEE, January 3rd, 1923, 1922

To  
Adjutant General.

Portobello Barracks,  
DUBLIN.



Re Volunteer Byrne - Deceased.

In reply to yours of 27th ultimo, re above, Volunteer Byrne was one of an escort accompanying General Murphy and other Officers from Tralee to Limerick. Fire was opened on the party from behind a stone hedge at a range of about 3 yards and Volunteer Byrne was shot dead in the first volley.

Donnall O'Sullivan Capt.  
Comdt.,

For. COMMAND ADJUTANT.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection (434)

Unsent  
by hand.

Ministry of Defence,  
Secretary's Office.

Military Archives

6. 1. 23.

To: Adjutant General.

Death of Volunteer Byrne,

With reference to your letter No. C 2/129  
of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult. the Minister would be  
glad to have an immediate report as  
to the position of this case.

L. J. O'Donnell  
for Secretary.

5<sup>th</sup> Dist -

Ostais na h-Éireann  
RECEIVED  
6. JAN 1923  
C 2/129  
OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

[Handwritten signature]

(618)

Handwritten  
by hand.

Ministry of Defence.

Secretary's Office.

# Military Archives

23.

To: Adjutant General.

Recall of Volunteers Beyond.

In reference to your letter No. C 2/129 of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. the Minister would be glad to have an immediate report as to the position of this case.

Yours faithfully,  
Secretary.



Military Service  
Pensions Collection

Military Arch



MY REFERENCE NO.	C2/129.
YOUR REFERENCE NO.	A/7776.

Please quote my number and date.

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

General Headquarters,  
PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,  
DUBLIN, 6adh Mi Eanair, 1923

COMMANDER-in-CHIEF.

re Volunteer Byrne - Deceased.

Further to my C2/129 of the 27th ulto., I am now informed that VOLUNTEER BYRNE was one of an escort accompanying COMMANDANT GENERAL MURPHY and other Officers from TRALEE to LIMERICK, and on the way fire was opened on the party from behind a stone hedge, at a range of about three yards, and that VOLUNTEER BYRNE was shot dead in the first volley.

Gerard Sull Major-General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

K/B.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

# DÁIL ÉIREANN.

ΔΙΡΕΑΚΤ ΔΟΣΑΝΤΑ

Department of Defence

In reply please quote  
Ref. A. 7776

8th January, 1923

*Urgent*

TO: Adjutant General.

Volunteer Byrne, Deceased

With reference to your minutes No. C.2/129 of the 27th ultimo and 6th instant, the Minister would be glad if you can now state definitely whether Vol. Byrne was or was not a son of Mrs. Byrne of Rathfarnham, and if you will kindly return my file No. A.7776 which was sent to you on the 21st ultimo.

*W. Keenan*

AR SON: RUNAIDHE



Military Service Pensions Collection (472)  
CBCC/ES

# Military Archives

C2/129.

9th January, 23.

Subject:- Volunteer Byrne, Deceased.

To:  
Captain Stafford.

I enclose you my complete file in this case. You will note the letter which I have to-day received from the Minister for Defence.

I should be glad to hear from you if you have received any further report from anyone from which we could state whether Volunteer Byrne was or was not a son of Mrs Byrne, of Rathfarnham. Please ~~xxxx~~ return file immediately.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Capt.

FOR: ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Encl.

K/AM.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

Military Archives

MY REFERENCE NO.	
YOUR REFERENCE NO.	C2/129.

Please quote my number and date.

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL,

General Headquarters,  
PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,

DUBLIN, 10th January, 1923.

To..... ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Subject: Re Volunteer Byrne - Deceased.

In reply to yours of the 9th instant, under above number, I have no further information in this case, and am, therefore, not in a position to say whether or not the deceased was a son of the lady mentioned in your communication.

John P. Stafford Captain.

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE INTERMENTS.

S/JK.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

# Military Archives

MY REFERENCE NO.	C2/129
YOUR REFERENCE NO.	

Please quote my number and date.

## OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL,

General Headquarters,  
PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,

DUBLIN, 15adh Mi Eanair 23  
.....19.....

To:  
Officer in charge Records.

Re:- Volunteer Byrne, Deceased.

I enclose you my file in connection with this case which you will return when perused. The case is rather complicated in as much as we are not aware what particular Byrne is dead. Will you please look up the records and let me know what Byrne is really dead.

*C. O. O'Zain*

CAPTAIN

for ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Encl.

C/BNiR.

# Military Service Pensions Collection

Army No	Name	Address	Army No	Name	Address
R/ 4	James Byrne	11 Redmond Hill Dublin	16464	James Byrne	Timolin Rd, Ballylore Co Kildare
VR/ 347	✓	11 Waterford St ✓	16719	✓	Ballymillan, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow
R/ 408	✓	Kilcullen Co. Kildare	16789	✓	Stapleton Co Carlow
R/ 534	✓	8 Bayview Ave. N <sup>o</sup> Strand Dublin	17214	✓	17 Auckland St. Vauxhall London S.E. 2
R/ 585	✓	4 Bonham St. Dublin	18601	✓	35 Bride St., Dublin
R/ 590	✓	35 Bride St ✓	18605	✓	4 Bonham St ✓
R/ 411	✓	Old Serrig, Castledermot	19046	✓	23 Michael St. Kilkenny
VR/ 1008	✓	3 Corporation Place, Dublin	19329	✓	Ballard Shillelagh, Co Wicklow
VR/ 1214	✓	74 St. Dominick St. ✓	19466	✓	Leigh, Three Castles
VR/ 1323	✓	9 Mary St. Dunleary	24630	✓	20 Warrenmount Place, S.C.R. Dublin
VR/ 1423	✓	Strand St. Wicklow	24873	✓	White River Dunleer, Co Fouth
VR/ 2641	✓	Trinacally Hill, Anghrim, Co Wicklow	26122	✓	Chapel Hill, Fermoy
VR/ 3413	✓	Boyne Place Drogheda	26629	✓	33 St. Dominick St. Dublin
VR/ 3805	✓	41 Main St., Bray, Co Wicklow	26878	✓	74 Dominick ✓
VR/ 4743	✓	1 Bride Rd. Dublin	28165	✓	Jr Borris, Co Carlow
VR/ 5279	✓	Jeagh House, Bride St, ✓	28221	✓	Rathvilly, ✓
6452	✓	Umiskin, Kilcar, Donegal	31830	✓	4 Holles St. Dublin
9037	✓	112 Scarlet St. Drogheda	35094	✓	12 St Anthony's Rd. S.C.R. Dublin
9300	✓	Bloughlee Manor, Kilbride, Co Dublin			
9392	✓	Railway St. Navan,			
9894	✓	Rathsker Rd, Naas			
10308	✓	Riverchapel, Gorey			
10741	✓	12 The Crescent, Downbrook			
11074	✓	21 Mulgrave St. Dunleary			
11785	✓	Mill Bank, Lucan			
12378	✓	Gardice, Co. Meath			
12895	✓	7 Kelly's Row. Dublin			
13183	✓	9 Redmond Cotts, Bath Ave, Sandy Mount			
14211	✓	2 Gravel Walk. Drogheda			
16099	✓	7 Montague St. Dublin			
16101	✓	11 Malpas St. New St.			
16307	✓	Rakeen, Co Carlow			

# Military Archives

Ref.No: C2/129.

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

Records Office,  
General Headquarters,  
Portobello Barracks,  
D u b l i n.

16th January 1923.

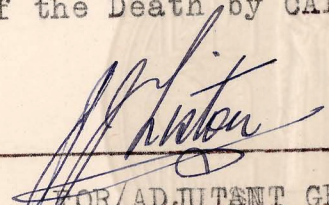
TO . . .

CAPTAIN COLGAN,

RE: VOLUNTEER JAMES BYRNE - DECEASED.

With reference to attached file concerning the above-mentioned subject, as the Army Census was not taken until the 21st November 1922, VOLUNTEER JAMES BYRNE'S name would not appear, as he was killed sometime in October.

I am unable to find any trace of him on records existing before the 21st November 1922, and do not appear to have been notified of the Death by CAPTAIN STAFFORD at any time.

  
Captain

FOR ADJUTANT GENERAL.

JL/MG.

Will you let me have  
names & home address of each  
Byrne still serving (9709)  
206



# Military Archives

List attached as requested.  
we have no record of any  
Byrne at present serving.  
Discharged or deceased  
with address as stated  
in this case.

With reference to attached file concerning the  
above-mentioned subject, as the Army General was not taken  
until the 21st November 1923, VOLUNTEER JAMES BYRNE's name  
would not appear, as he was killed sometime in October.

I am unable to find any trace of him on records  
existing before the 21st November 1923, and do not appear  
to have been notified of the Death by CAPTAIN SIMMOND at  
any time.

Captain

FOR ADJUTANT GENERAL

11/10/23

W. H. P. for let me have  
Military Service  
Pensions Collection



MY REFERENCE NO.	C2/129.
YOUR REFERENCE NO.	

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL,

General Headquarters,  
PORTOBELLO BARRACKS,

DUBLIN.....20th January,.....1923.

Please quote my number and date.

Subject:- Volunteer Byrne Deceased.

To:  
Minister for Defence.



Further to mine of the 10th inst, I enclose you your file in this case, and I must again state that I am not in a position to say definitely if Byrne deceased was or was not a son of Mrs Byrne, of Rathfarnham.

M. O. Cunniffe Captain

For: ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Encl.

K/AM.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection