Kilrossanty National School, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford.

8/4/14

Tony Gaynor,

Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit,

Department of Education and Skills,

Floor 2, Block 2,

Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1.

Dear Tony,

Please find enclosed our project on the "Decade of Centenaries".

Thank you very much for all your help and the opportunity to send this on to in paper form.

Yours sincerely,

Marian Coffey

School Secretary.

Template cover sheet which must be included at the front of all projects

Title of project: How World War 1 impacted on our local area.

Name(s) of class / group of students / individual student submitting the project: 5th and 6th Class

School roll number (this should be provided if possible): 017110

School address (this must be provided evenfor projects submitted by a group of pupils or an individual pupil): Kilrossanty National School, Kilmacthomas, Co.Waterford

Class teacher's name this must be provided even forprojects submitted by a group of pupils or an individual pupil): Ms. Ann Kavanagh

Contact phone number: 051 291419

Contact email address: kilrossanty.ias@eircom.net

Why we chose World War 1

Our school decided to focus on World War 1 and war horses in particular for many reasons. Firstly many people in our school and from our parish have relations who fought in World War 1. Mrs Murphy our previous principal and local historian grew up in the parish and had a lot of information about the war. She kindly came to our school several times to talk to us.

We also have lots of information about the Daly family in Cutteen, out of four brothers, three joined the British Army. We have letters and newspaper articles helping us to find out more about them and their part in the war.

We wanted to write about war horses as soon as Mrs Murphy told us that many war horses left Kilrossanty. Hunts and Shanahans sold horses to the British Army and we were able to interview Jenny Hunt and Jimmy Shanahan about these events.

We also read "War Horse" by Michael Morpurgo and loved it so much that we were elated when we realised that our annual school tour was to see "War Horse" in the Bord Gais Energy Theatre in Dublin. We had a ball. The show was unbelievable. Even though the horses were puppets we felt they were real. We could almost feel the war around us.

We can't get over the number of poems written about the the Great War. Our favourites are "Breakfast" by W.W. Gibson and "Sing a song of war time" by Nina MacDonnald. So many of these poems tell us that we must never forget this war, we must keep these remembrances alive for ever.

We have been very lucky in our school to have a wonderful historian Sile Murphy living locally who is happy to visit us often. Sile Murphy has told us so many stories, shown us hundreds of photos and read us numerous letters that we feel we could write a book on Kilrossanty and the Great War.

Memorial Wall for men and women who died in the Great War. Dungarvan Co. Waterford



Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them.

George Elliot

Tellisi i Martin Walsh Patrick KILROSSANTY - FEWS Barry William Daly Michael Daly Patrick Patrick Flynn William Hogan Richard Mooney Thomas O'Neill John Sheehan Francis Tobin John Whyte KNOCKANORE Oliver Havens Holroyd-Smith Charles Edmund

Kilrossanty and Fews locals who are mentioned on the Memorial Wall.

Our local soldiers

Many people from our area joined the British Army during the Great War. The family we have most information about is the Daly Family from Cutteen. There were four brothers in the family and three joined up. Their mother was dead and they had a sister Katty who was working in service in Gardenmorris in Kill.

Patrick Daly had joined the British Army before the war started. So when war was declared it was Pats who headed off first for active service. As Pats was a drill master he was well thought of when the Kilrossanty Corps of the Irish Volunteers was established. On Friday August 7th 1914, Pats headed to war and was given a spectacular "royal send off" by the local community. They were led off by Paddy Harris on a racing Cob and he got his men in line to march the seven miles with him to Kilmacthomas. The Kilrossanty band accompanied them. They didn't break ranks even though they passed 8 public houses along the way. On reaching Kilmacthomas the Fife and Drum band was there to lead them all to the train station, "The platform was packed to overflowing, each one eager to shake him by the hand and wishing him all sorts of good luck" (local paper report August 16th 1914) The train departed and the Kilrossanty and the Kilmacthomas volunteers cheered each other before the homeward march was resumed. The local people were indeed proud of their boys going to war.

Mike and Jack joined up later and we don't know if they got the same send off. The Daly family had strong connections with Gwen Poer O Shee probably due to the Daly's getting employment in Gardenmorris. It seemed that Miss Poer O Shee treated Jack more like a son than an employee. We also know from Tom's letters to Miss Poer O Shee that the other wealthy ladies of the district namely Mrs Kennedy, Durrow house and Miss Fairhome were very good to Tom's father and aunt. They visited the Daly's home and tried to console him after the deaths of Pats and Mike. Also Mr Daly couldn't read as he had very little schooling and it was from the postman who read the letter for him he learnt of his son Paddy's death.

We also know that the kind Miss Poer O Shee paid for Jack Daly's stay in a convalescent hospital in Oxford which was run by Colonel George Ranking. While Jack was recovering, Tom left Cutteen and visited him in Oxford. We have many letters that were written by Tom and Jack Daly. Miss Gwen Poer O Shee and George Ranking (Hospital Administrator) during this time. Certainly in the earlier years of the war people felt that relations between the British and the Irish might improve as a result of the conflict. George Ranking put it very nicely in his letter to Miss Poer O Shee, "Please God one of the good effects of this terrible war will be to knit the hearts of the English and Irish still closer together, and defeat all the machinations of those who would make mischief between them", (letter from 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford, February 7th 1915)

What happened to Jack and Tom? Tom returned to Comeragh and he died in the 1950's. Jack is a mystery. We don't know if he ever came back home to Comeragh again to visit and we don't know what became of him after the war. Also we came upon another mystery in the Daly family. They had a sister called Katty, who also worked in Gardenmorris. Before the war she got a job as a ladies maid with the Countess Mycielska in Schloss Wollstein Br. Posey, Deutchland. She probably got this job because of her connection with Poer O Shee's. After the war we never heard of Katty Daly again and no one knows if she survived or not.

A neighbour of the Daly's Brigadier F.W.Hunt who was a grand uncle of Jenny Hunt who was interviewed for this project, was an Army Veterinary Surgeon during the WW1. He survived the war, but was plagued by neuritis for the rest of his life. He commented in his memories of the dreadful sights he witnessed when horses literally sank in a terrible sea of mud.

Another neighbour Mikie Cheasty of Lemybrien had joined the army in 1912 before the war broke out. He was sent to India in January 1914. "It took weeks to get there through the Suez Canal, Aden, The Red Sea and Indian Ocean and they landed at Karachi". (Waterford Heroes, Poets and Villains by Síle and Sean Murphy p 146) Then the war broke out. Imagine having travelled all that way and then to be sent back to France in December 1914. Mikie fought in the Battle of Ypres in the summer of 1915. At the end of that year, he was posted to the Balkans and landed at Solonica. In 1917 he fought against the Turks in Palestine. He was never injured in the war though a bullet went through his coat once.

At the end of the war Mikie came back to Lemybrien to work on the Fairholme Farm. He was a great story teller and loved to regale the neighbours with tales of the war.

The following seven pages show copies of the original letters mentioned in the above article.

02 ford 9/2/15 Dear Lady Your faithful Letter and Cheque to Hand and I beg to express my most heartful thanks for your Kindness. And also for your Kindness in Joing to bisit my Foor Dadan aunt in this hour of troubles But God and

Jack would be going to who is the owner of all Conselectuant but the Dortor the Singer bearing macines base desided to keep him; it is called mitten. Hill in About Trove how longer and they have given this shout Trove how long mice lovely place for a bid with all anticulars convelecant Home for a single house foldiers of well know foot fact, the wounded Soldiers the on gunday he had written to dee him dettled and will and will carmy the withrough until he go to connelecan, with poor gard, go of four of and I am going to go with out hankin informed him to see the place and to you and informed you be able to tell you all when that I was going Hame on I go forme. In Place Le belongs to mu Singer Mus Singer winted the who is the owner of all his Holy mother is good would like me to stay Inounday for he expected

Hospital about 2 weeks ago and gave nice Presents to Poor Jack when Ihe see he was to brave and as fan as I am conserened The applied for him to be sent to her convelecant Home. So I hake my foor dad an aunt wont worry until I go back for I will be able to tell all. With Best Respects and trindest Reguords Yours Sincerly Your Day

3rd SOUTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, GXFORD.

Floring 7- 1915

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Pat Daly's Last Letter home

> ho. 265 47 28.11. 1914 Sunner P. Daly ho. 4 Mountain Batters R.S. A. Guetta Br. Balushistan

my len Father I got you ever welcome the tythe Rad mail from Surope - et We are shill waiting maker mobilisation for troops to seleve us from Suglaces There were lot lauded now to relieve the Pratteries that is fore from here(2) (1) to the Front but there is none more to come up to release us there are the young soldiers of he have then they are sender, here makead of no as we are bette trained woon a better able to thick the hard Info of war. Well, dear talker you any that we will be at Home apare P. J. but dear tather, Tam afraid it is hardy porte of we allessage. Three brothers it world be a miraste of we all came out m. Ideal care for westly of fod worth spare poor Jack a beside - thank for Tale vulared to die any minute of et is this will as for me, I don't enfect to see any I ye free again in his world but I hope deas takes, to meet you in Heaven please ford'

Dear Father Tursh you a happy Amas Christman Hawourap a don't be down hearted a bout us to all the fortunes of war this many the Happy Home has the Karser has mined. Herrenate your sons are fighting for an honourable cause. So Good by char Father from Jones from the Daly

letter home

his Siel Kath, was with a counter My

Schlon Wollstein Br. Posen Deutchlan

Intequiew	with	dimmy	Chanahan

Jimmy's Uncle Rodges Shanahan who wed in Ashtown hilmacthomas sold horses to the British Army during the Great Was. Jimmy was 15 years old when he went to live with Bodges. Jimmy is now 92 and Rodges is dead since 1954. Jimmy has many secollections from his whole of the Was Horse industry during World Was 1. Rodges Shanahan was boan in Scrathan in 1849. He was sent to school in Waterfood City but instead of going to school he went to see the Stables at Widgers, a business which bought and sold horses. When his mother found out, she was were angry and he was sent back to Scrahal Later on, he bought land in Ashtown and farmed it. During the Great Was he started selling horses to the British Ramy.

Jimmy told us that selling horses to the British Pring was a very lucrative business back in those days You could get between forty and sixty pounds for a horse Farming was very tough in those days so Chanahans were delighted to be able to sell horses to the British Arm. The buyers for the army would arrive and stay in the Hotel in kilmacthomas, Wash's Hotel.

keely asked Jimmy if selling horses to the British Army caused trouble in 1916 with the Easter Rising taking place. Were any of the Local people angry at Roger Siding with the "enemy". His answer was very interesting. He said that the Easter Rising didn't really affect our orea at all

These was talk about the Bising in Dublin and it was in the paper, but it didn't affect the every day lives of the people. These was alot of poverty here and the Locals were delighted with the extra money that the horse backling brought in. The Hotel in kilmacthomas was delighted with the extra ladgers and the money that the army men spent on meals and of cause extra horses meant extra workers.

Jennifer then osked Jimmy about the employment that Radgers from generated in the parish during World War 1. Jimmy informed us that a lot of work was generated as a Result of the Horse trade—The farm had ten permanent workers who would have worked the farm and travelled all over Munster buying horses. Also many extra hands were needed when driving the horses to the port in Waterford City. Horses were brought to Waterford by rand during the night leaving usually around 1 am. I'm sure the sight of the horses gave many a fright to the people living along the kilmacthomas—Waterford route: As they wouldn't be used to seeing such a spectacle in the middle of the night.

The horses were driven by two dravers on horse back. Four Jobbers on horseback went ahead and between two and four men would take charge of the side pools. Once the horses reached the City, more men were sometimes required to keep order. The horses then were held in Widgers yourd before being loaded onto the boat in most cases they were slung on to the boat with a coone.

Alannah asked what type of hosses were sold to the army and were any family pet horses sold. Jimmy told us that no family horses were involved so there wasn't any soddness associated with the selling of the horses. And eventhough they knew that these horses were going to war and most wouldn't swawive it was a necessary business venture. On the subject of the type of horses sold, we found out that they dealt mainly with good quality leich draught horses. When asked if thire horses were sold. Jimmy answered that the Shires were "too soft," and wouldn't have been good to deal with the war conditions.

Amy osked about the numbers of horses sold to the was. Jimmy believed it to be about too approximately over the was years. Some would have been becased on the form in Ashtown but most were bought in from the swarounding countries. Sometimes formers in the area would be glad of selling a horse or two to get some extra money for their formities during the difficult war years.

Jimmy was asked what happened after the war when horses weren't needed so much. He said that the form then concentrated on cattle, however they did sell horses to the Swiss Army in World War 2; but nothing on the same numbers.

Jimmy Shanahan mentioned the Hotel in Kilmacthomas doing great business during the war. A regiment of soldiers passed through Kilmacthomas and one of the officers Blake O Sullivan became faiendly with a Miss Walsh of the hotel. Our historian Sile Murphy showed us a letter that this officer wrote to Miss Walsh. "all that crowd of splended men who marched through your sleepy little Kilmaethomas are... killed on wounded! They were the bravest of the brave !... Iney were the bravest of the brave...

Imagine all these men who marched happily through our parish to end up in such a terrible war.

We found marvellous photographs of horses in the magazine Country Life, March 12, 2014:

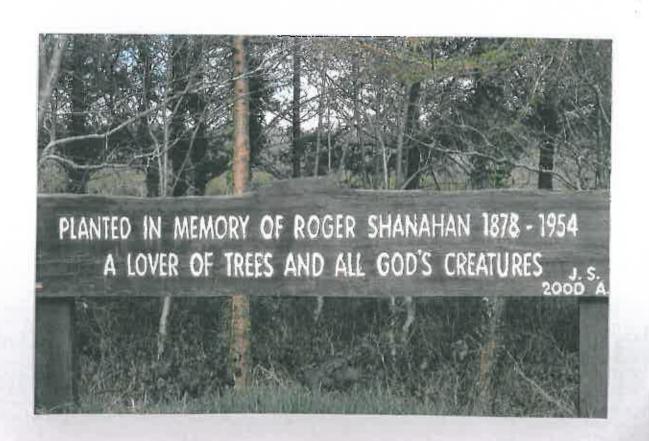
Ne saw the painting, "Pestination Unknown," by Lionel Edwards, skowing the horses being lifted by crane onto the boats. It was just as Jimmy Shannahan had explained to us in his interview. What we found interesting also was that Jenny Hunt has an original painting of the same artist Lionel Edwards, of a horse hanging on her wall.



Jack Hunt



Jimmy Shanahan pictured with Alannah, Keely, Jennifer and Amy.



Interview with Jenny Hunt On the 1st April 2014, Philip Dunwoody and Cavimhin Walstr, Clan Dunwoody and myself Stephen Henrebry went to Rock-Mou in Wilcomeragh with Mrs. Durwoody Ms. Navanagh and Mrs. Murthy to Ms Jerry & whose family supplied the British army to with horses during the first world her cowin Sally was present we asked the questions which we had prepared in school and Sally took a copy of them to ask her 96 year-old father Jenny show us an abibum with old fictures in it, which was but together by her grandmother we got a photograph taken by with Jenny and Sally We asked Jenny how her grandfather felt about when his horses were going to war. She said that he was devastated he *knew what was ahead of them Jen horses surine. The friend of good news was that one horse did return, Jock the Charger and he lived out his years to a site Murphy actually tried to find his grove as it was marked by a large stone Unfortuarmately we think that "Coillte" while replanting the area may have unlerfered with the stone so now we can't see

exactly the location of the grow just the

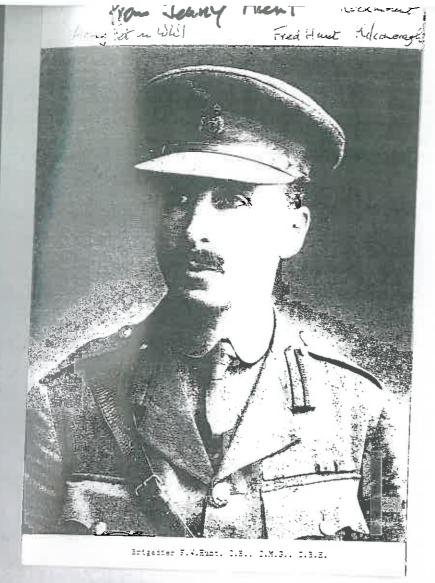
While the Shanahar's in Ashtaun bought horses all over Munster to sell on to the army, Ituris reared their horses themselves, so they would have personally looked after them their horses that were later going to war Eventhough it was a very profitable business and necessary in those days as farming was difficult, it was at hard for them to would eventually take them to France



Jenny Hunt and Sally Hunt pictured with their interviewers Philip, Stephen, Caoimhin and Alan.



Sile Murphy, pictured above who is a local historian made numerous visits to 5th and 6th Class. Her passion and love of local history, not to mention her contribution of magazines, photographs, pictures, paintings, books, DVD's, census reports and the original letters, enthused and inspired us to find out all we could about our area during World War 1.



Fred Hunt of
Rockmount
Kilcomeragh
was an Army
Veterinary
Surgeon in
WW1. Grand
Uncle of Jenny
and Sally Hunt.



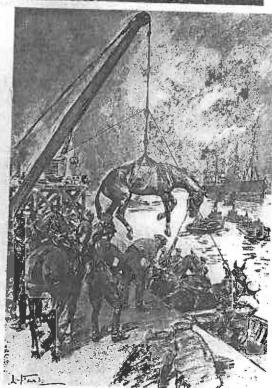
Jack Hunt, Grandfather to Jenny and Sally Hunt.

COUNTRY LIFE and the Great War Horses at war

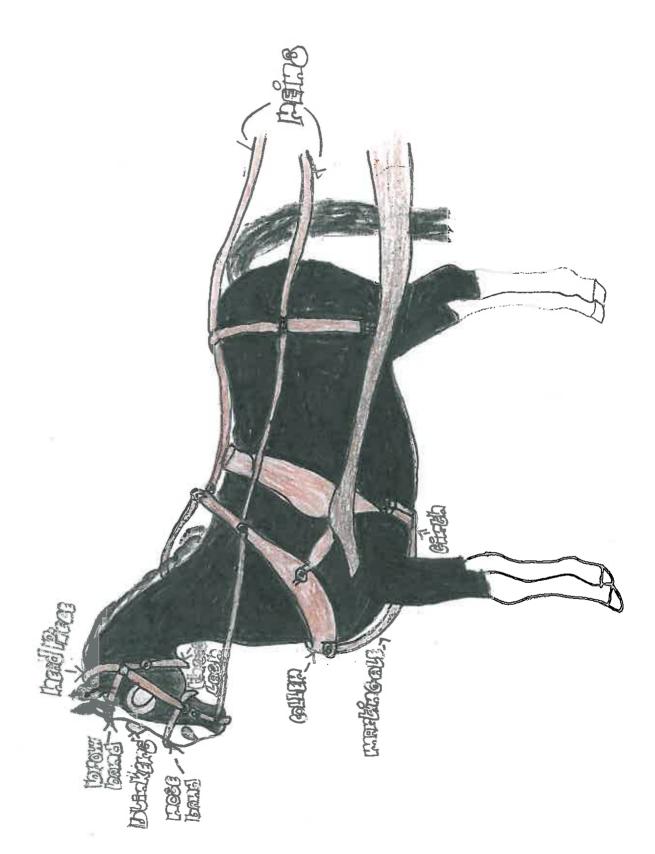


The Lesboeufs Road outside Flers, November 1916. In such conditions, disease and sheer exhaustion accounted for a great number of war-related equine casualties





Left: England as an armed camp: Country LIFE charted the militarisation of the countryside in 1914. Here, a troop of the Territorial Army return after a day of exercises. Above: Destination Unknown by Lionel Edwards, published in 1914. Horses remained crucial to the war effort and were transported in huge numbers to the front



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In apaid I never thanked you for the letter you sent my when I was in Dance I was very pleased to pat it but was in a dreaght state of comparison as the whole regiment was an route to the lonume of I couldn't pot a moment to write to amyone. In apaid I'm not av ken on the Destry, water now as it have to many painful memories to me We was freezely associated with cherry were to who are now all dead Especially one called Oslowe, you may formity remember, I was very fond of. Just think of it, all that crowd of oplandid men who manylood

through your sleepy little kil machtomes are beard ale keled or wounded !! Buy were the harest of the have & dies like the Leroes try were I van hundreds of them, were I'd instructed & blackgranded & loved for mouths lying about mangled o tom o lead You may have reard of the hish at-Guillement It was the Rangers & Limites who look that auful place though the papers ? reports dedut fine is much creat for it. I feel like weeping when I think of Them are 20 I'd fetter stop. This is a nice clean right, to Your cheful little 115te. I shortdut have started on the Rayon tack across my back at Guillemond. on the 3th Sept 8 am how praducy getty bette again I engled be so back to Knink again before I rejoin the ballation al the dront I tope you are beging well of as til wastomer recorded from one in varion you Best of heat Sloke o Fallina



Fresh horses skirt a huge shell crater on the way to the front in 1918. Almost half a million horses and mules were then serving the British forces in France



Above: An operation in a veterinary hospital to extract shrapnel, published in 1918. Right: A 1915 advertisement for the Blue Cross Fund, first set up in 1912 during the Balkan War



Woughal House from the Prost as "O. D. F. L." Blue Cross Haspital on France

IF YOU SYMPATHISE

With the WAR HORSES, which under the best conditions must undergo considerable suffering, fright, and pain, we carnestly ask you to

HELP THE

BLUE CROSS FUND

(President LADY SMITH DORRIEN)

For Patriotic, Economic, and HUMANE REASONS,

Donations to ARTHUR J. COKE, Secretary,
Our Dumb Friends League Offices,
58, Victoria Streat, LONDON, S.W.

Claude Chavasse

Claude Chavasse was born in Whitfield on the 28th April 1897, He lived much of his life in Comeragh where he died on the 29th April 1983. He was an officer during the Great War and took a huge interest in his horses and always made sure they were treated properly. Chavasse adored the Driving Drills and even bought tins and tins of "Brasso" for his men so they would look magnificent.

In his memories, he told a sad story about a mule that got tetanus, "He became as stiff as a toy horse. We put him in a dark, cool cellar, fed him on green grass and water and pumped anti-tetanus vaccine into him and he wonderfully recovered ". Unfortunately later that same mule took fright and got stuck in mud, leaving only his head above. Poor Chavasse had to work his way out on a plank over the mud and shoot the poor creature in the forehead.

Chavasse constantly praised the mules for their endurance and strength. He wondered why the British Army didn't use more mules and less horses in the war. If that was the case I wonder if Jimmy Shanahan would have his jobbers buying mules all over Munster and then driving lines of mules to the port in Waterford City.



Born Whitfield hived and died at Comeragh Souton's House

1

Lackendara - Hermit of the Comerages

Jim Fitzgerald was born in Lackendara, Bullinamult, in

1889. His father was a farm labourer and Jim spent his

childhood days helping his father. It was there that he

got his first liking far nature, and peace and satisface. But

when Jim grew up times were hard and at the age of 23 he had to leave home and find for himself. He joined the connaught hangers in 1913 and was sent out to fight in France. Then in 1916 he was transferred to Mesopotamia to light the Tunks. to fight the Tunks. friends died in agony. When he got home he was shell shocked. "That's why I hate living with people. They're very exuel," Jim said. In 1918 Jim was demobbed and heturned to Ballinamult to work as a farm labourer. However he couldn't live amongst people. He found a quiet place to live in Kilchoney in the mountain. His home was not perfect but at least it was quiet. His bed was outside his hut and he aways hid himself from strangers. He lived on his \$2 per week British Army pension which he cashed every two weeks in lapea, where he bought his supplies for the fortnight. He always ate tea, bread, butter and milk. spoken to would always be polite and respectful. The local children were more increase than afraid of Lackenclara' as she was then called. He Retired up in kilchomey because people were always fighting and workying in the clamp, wet, boild weather Lockendara suffered and got pneumonia. He was rushed to Arakeen Hospital and was cleaned and his beard was shaven off. He never elept in

hospital bed. But every night when the lights were out he enawled on the place and slept these. He improved and returned to his home in the mountains. Sadly he died 1959 and was buried at Clones Power . So ended a peaceful, gentle man who will be remembered much in the great War that he was unable his family and community ever again. He by everyone as Lackendara, Hermit of everyone as Lackendara, Hermit of the written by Jason Myers who wrote about the suffering the soldiers experienced if and when they returned home.

"In southern heland, the men who left home as heaves by no fault of their own came back only to be branded as traitors.

They had fought for the wrong cause."

Also Tock D Neill wante into the ment. Also Tack D Neill wrote into the Munster Express Feb. 12th the uneaked survivous of this so eatled breat War. Men with arms mussing, men with artificial legs, men blind from yas attacks and with shattened newer from artiflery bombardments stood around street corners A handaut from the people who had prospered in lack O'Neill's uncle left his job to join the British was promised his job if and when he returned but when he came home his job available any mone and anyuny "he was deemed to be unsuitable because of disabilities"

Maybe people like Lackerdago whose mind was upset by the was were better off returning to swall places like the Comeraghs than having to deal with the hustle and bustle of the city. Perhaps being away from noise and talk was a blessing.



LACKENDARA' JIM

Conclusions

The War horse business was beneficial to the people of our area. Many people prospered as a result of this trade. Not only the farmers and those they employed, but also the surrounding villages, shops, pubs and hotels thrived during this time.

Many families lost loved ones. However those who returned were able to live out their lives here in peace and harmony. We saw how the employers were concerned and caring towards their employees who had joined up. This is very evident from the correspondences between Gwen Poer O Shee, Tom and Jack Daly and George Ranking.

For the soldiers who returned from the war we think that they were accommodated better in the rural areas like Kilrossanty rather than in the cities. However perhaps things were different for these ex-soldiers during the civil war.

In doing this project we found that we got a deeper understanding of the effect of the war on our locality and its people. It was like sitting in the Bord Gais theatre watching War Horse. It brought to life the events of the war and we were able to fully empathise with those who lived through it.

Having finished this project, we now feel we have a far deeper sense of place. We have forged links within our community across the generational divide. It has awakened our curiosity in this topic and we feel this is not the end, but the beginning of a life long interest in World War 1 and its implications. Hopefully our generation can learn important lessons from this study and carry them with us into the future.



Our recent trip to The Bord Gais Energy Theatre to see the West End production of "War Horse".

Bibliography and Resources

Primary Sources: A collection of letters written by Blake O'Sullivan, Miss Gwen Poer O Shee, Tom, Patrick and Jack Daly. Provided by Síle Murphy

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