

CAPT. L. CLANCY, MAGOWRY

Death struck the week before last at a family that gave magnificent service to the country in the most strenuous days of the fight for freedom — the Clancy family of Magowry, Drangan. The news of the death of Capt. Laurence Clancy came as a shock to the neighbourhood and to the friends who knew him in various parts of Ireland. He was a retired captain of the National Army and was a comparatively young man. Up to shortly before his illness he had been in his usual health.

Laurence was one of three brothers remarkable for their courage, moral and physical, and a passionate devotion to the cause of Irish independence. Joining the movement in 1918 they never spared themselves in any way and the burning truth of that is in the sad, but glorious, fact that two of them gave their young lives in the fight. They were Patrick, a lieutenant, and Martin, a battalion adjutant. The loss of two from one family, in active service, earned the homage, admiration and esteem of all Tipperary in those eventful days and is a sacrifice that will stand the test of time. Laurence, like his two brothers, was a fearless soldier, with a deep sense of duty and a character that had no use for anything less than the purest sincerity. In actual combat he was as cool as the proverbial cucumber and all those who soldiered with him ranked him as one of the bravest and cleanest fighters that the county produced in a period of heroic men.

Captain Clancy joined the Treaty side in 1922 and went through the Civil War engagements in South Tipperary principally. Even those who fought against him in that unfortunate and so tragic conflict were willing to pay respect to his soldierly qualities and to his honesty of purpose. After hostilities died down most of his time in the army was spent in the Curragh.

Away from the grim reality of the storm filled years, and in the homely social circle, "Larry," as he was known to his friends, was a rollicking character with a ring and a chuckle in his voice that told of the laughter at heart. He could be rather strong-willed at times but all in all he was a lovable character and when the country needed him he was certainly there. Peace to his noble soul.

To his wife, Mrs Lena Clancy (nee Smyth, an active member of the Cumann na mBan in the old days) and to her family of four sons and two daughters, the sympathy of a wide countryside goes out in their sorrow and loss.

Deceased was a brother of Mr Edward Clancy, Glengoolie.

Following Requiem Office and High Mass at Drangan, the funeral left for Magowry. His old comrades of the I.R.A. formed a guard of honour and a firing party sent three volleys over the grave of one of Tipperary's best. As might be expected, there was an immense gathering of the people to pay their tribute of respect.

Among the very large attendance were included the Mayor of Clonmel, Alderman Senator Denis E. Burke; Col. and Mrs Jerry Ryan; Major Sean Cooney; Comdt. "Bill" Tobin and Councillors Ahessy, Brett, Duggan, Murphy, O'Sullivan.

Chief mourners — Mrs Ellen Clancy (widow); Rev. Bro. Leo Clancy, Drumcar, Co. Louth, Denis, Patrick and Lolo (sons); Mrs Eileen Colette and Mary (daughters); Anne and Denise (grandchildren); Allen (son-in-law); June (daughter-in-law); James, John, Michael, Thomas and Edward (brothers); Mrs Josie Kiely (sister).

LATE MR. LARRY CLANCY (AN APPRECIATION).

The unexpected death, which occurred recently, of Capt. Laurence Clancy, removed from our midst one of the most colourful personalities yielded up by the fight for freedom.

Joining the Volunteers towards the end of 1918, and arrested near Drangan by the Black and Tans in November, 1920, with several of his comrades, he was brutally assaulted when he asked for a priest for his ailing brother, Lieut. Patrick Clancy, whom they had foully murdered on the roadside. He was at the head of the company of Tans as a guarantee of safe conduct to Mullinabhone whence, he was sent to Kilworth Detention Camp, from which he was released in February, 1921.

After the shooting of his second brother, Adjutant Martin Clancy, at Knockroe in March, 1921, and the subsequent shooting of three British officers at Fethard, he immediately became suspect and was henceforward, 'til the Truce, continually "on the run."

He maintained his association with the I.R.A. for some time, 'til disagreement over policy caused him to join the National Army in 1922, and from that 'til the end of the Civil War he took part in several engagements, most notable of which was the capture of Gen. Liam Lynch, C.I.C. of the Republican Army—by a company under his command, on the slopes of the Knockmealdown Mountains and who, when dying of wounds received, gave him his last message and offered him, in recognition of his extreme kindness and solicitude, his fountain pen, as a memento.

He retired from the National Army to the Reserve in 1922 with the rank of Captain, and then to his recall on the outbreak of World War II, became actively associated with the political life of the county and was, for a period, County Organiser for Fine Gael.

During this latter period of service with the Defence Forces he was Officer-in-Charge of the Detention Camp at the Curragh and was intimately acquainted with the leading figures of the Republican movement interned there, and to them, and the German prisoners also in his charge, he displayed a spirit of friendship and understanding which has earned for him a special place in their hearts.

To him, and to all true Republicans, who have died for Ireland, we say "At dheis Iamh De a nam."

JERRY RYAN (COL.)