



Comhairle Contae Mhúnaigh
Monaghan County Council



Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

FOR
VALOUR

Seán
Seán Furell

This is a joint cross border project
between Monaghan County Museum,
Armagh County Museum and
Craigavon Museum Services
funded through the Department of Arts,
Heritage, Regional, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs.

FOR VALOUR

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[Triona Farrell]



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Borough Council



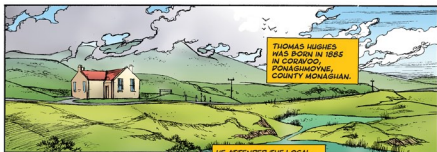
An Roinn Ealaíon, Dídhréachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

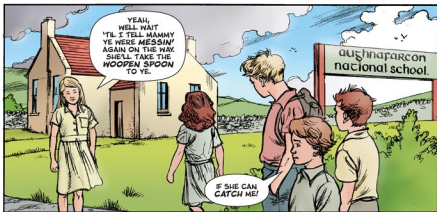
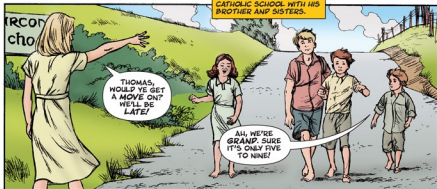
MONAGHAN
COUNTY
MUSEUM

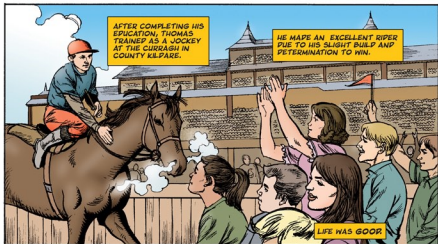
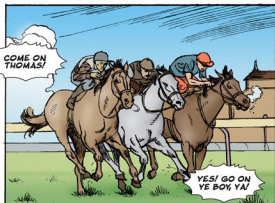


Contae Mhúscraige
Monaghan County Council



HE ATTENDED THE LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL WITH HIS BROTHER AND SISTERS.







-- ME PA FINPS OUT
I'M IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M
SITTING THIS ONE OUT.

YEAH. SAME HERE.
MAM SAYS I HAVEN'T
THOUGHT IT THROUGH AT
ALL, BUT SURE SHE'S NEVER
GONNA HEAR ME
OUT, LIKE.



NAME?
AGE?

THOMAS
HUGHES.
TWENTY-
NINE.



YE SURE
YER REAPY
FER THIS,
SON?



I'M REAPY.
I WANT
TO HELP

IN SEPTEMBER 1915 THOMAS AND HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS OF THE 5TH BATTALION OF THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS, 16TH IRISH DIVISION LEFT THEIR TRAINING CAMP IN FERMOY, COUNTY CORK, BOUND FOR FRANCE.



JULY 2ND.
THE MORNING AFTER
THE FIRST BIG PUSH.

LADS, PIP
YE HEAR ABOUT
THE CASUALTIES
AFTER THE ADVANCE
YESTERDAY? I MEAN,
HOW DO THEY EXPECT
US TO SURVIVE IN
THOSE KINDS OF
CONPITIONS?

MAYBE THEY *PON'T*.
MAYBE WE'RE JUST HERE
TO BE FOPPER, GIVE
THEM SOMETHING TO
SHOOT AT.



WOULD YE SHUSH.
THAT'S RUBBISH.
WE'RE HERE TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE, LADS.
AND WE WILL, WHEN
OUR TURN COMES.

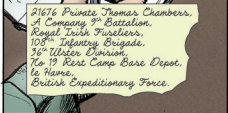
SPARE A
THOUGHT FOR
THOSE POOR SOULS
WHO PIPN'T MAKE IT
YESTERDAY. IT'S UP
TO US TO PICK UP
THE BATON NOW.



PTE TOMMY CHAMBERS FROM GLENANNE,
JUST OUTSIDE ARMAIGH CITY, KEPT A DIARY
OF HIS EXPERIENCES LEADING UP TO THE
BATTLE OF THE SOMME ON JULY 1ST.



21676 Private Thomas Chambers,
A Company 9th Battalion,
Royal Irish Fusiliers,
108th Infantry Brigade,
36th Ulster Division,
No 19 Rest Camp Base Depot,
le Havre,
British Expeditionary Force.



The support from the people of County Armagh did not wane during the period that the battalion trained at Newtownards.

The newspapers were full of their activities and many people found many ways to contribute to the effort.



Sir James Stronges heartfelt speech reiterated how proud the people of Armagh were of their battalion. Our Ninth as they knew it.

20th April. Left at 8 o'clock for the trenches. On our way we had to fall flat on the ground owing to the machine gun being on us.


My duty was on sentry with T3, SM, HI and two corporals on the Communication trench, two hours on and four off.



The machine gun fire and shells were whistling past my ears so I was a bit nervous at first.

Saturday 22nd April. Duard. At 9 o'clock at night our artillery started to bombard the Dermar front line and it was just like hell let loose. Shells bursting round me and machinegun fire as it fell my luck for being on sentry duty when they started. I was nervous for a while but I came around.





23rd April 1916, Easter Sunday.
Went to a service conducted by
Rev Hallyhar and took holy
communion under shellfire.

Sunday 7th May.
Firing line when at 10.30 the Hun
commenced a very heavy bombardment
which lasted to 4 in the morning.
250 rounds. We all had to man the
trench and commence rapid fire. The
shells were flying every way. It was
that heavy that you could not have
heard yourself speak. We had our
CS (Company Sergeant) killed and
a few wounded.

Saturday 3rd June.
Practising the big
advance the whole
battalion taking part.

Monday 26th June.
Had to retire twice under
heavy shell fire. All having
very narrow escapes.





Dear Father,

Also (I hope) Jimmy and all our chaps are quite well. The weather here this last few days was very wet but it is looking fair now.



I now get the chance of writing you these few lines hoping they find you and all at home in good health as this leaves me in very fair form.



I suppose there is not much strange news around home now. I suppose you will likely have a few oils about the 12th.





I may say I have not got Mother's parcel yet, got Bobbie's letter the other day and wrote to him and mother.



Tell Joe Porter and John Rowan I was asking for them.



So now there is not much more I can say this time.



Give my love to all at home. So I will say goodbye.

Write soon again.

I remain your loving son.

Tommy.

LATE AUGUST 1916.
THOMAS HUGHES'
BASE CAMP



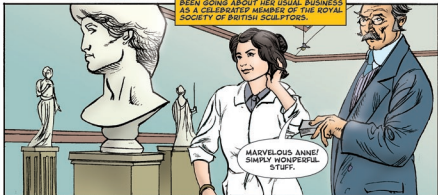


ELINOR HALLÉ FIRST USEP PAPIER-MÂCHÉ AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR WOODEN ARM CRAPLES PURING WW1, BUT IT WAS ANNE ACHESON FROM PORTAPOWN WHO DEVELOPEP THEM INTO SPLINTS.



I THINK WE'VE CRACKEP IT, ANNE.

EARLIER THAT YEAR, ANNE ACHESON HAD BEEN GOING ABOUT HER USUAL BUSINESS AS A CELEBRATED MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH SCULPTORS.



MARVELOUS ANNE! SIMPLY WONPERFUL STUFF.

A CONSCIENTIOUS ANP PELIGENT PORTAPOWN WOMAN, ANNE WAS NOT CONTENT TO MERELY SIT ON THE SIFELINES AS THE GREAT WAR SHATTEREP THE BONES OF HER COUNTRYMEN ANP COUNTLESS OTHERS.



I MEAN, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO TO ASSIST THE EFFORT - THOSE POOR MEN ARE SUFFERING MORE THAN THEY NEED TO.

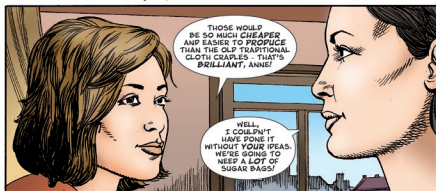
I THINK WE CAN HELP.



THINK, ANNE.

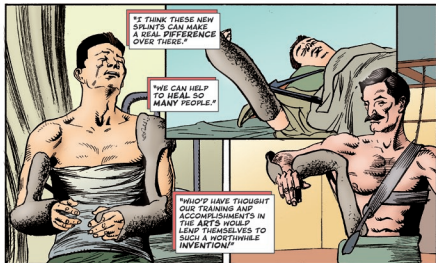


SO TAKING THE PAPER MÂCHÉ THEORIES THAT YOU CAME UP WITH, I'VE DESIGNED A NEW KIND OF SPLINT THAT CAN BE APPLIED ONSITE!



THOSE WOULD BE SO MUCH CHEAPER AND EASIER TO PRODUCE THAN THE OLD TRADITIONAL CLOTH CRAPLES - THAT'S BRILLIANT, ANNE!

WELL, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR IDEAS. WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT OF SUGAR BAGS!

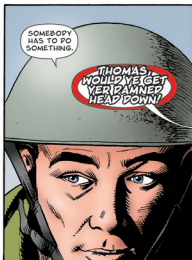


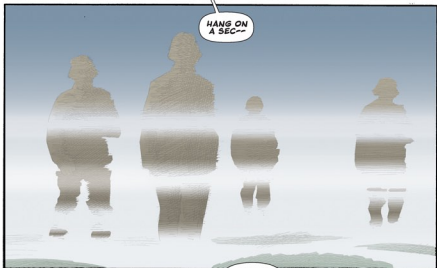
"I THINK THESE NEW SPLINTS CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE OVER THERE."

"WE CAN HELP TO HEAL SO MANY PEOPLE."

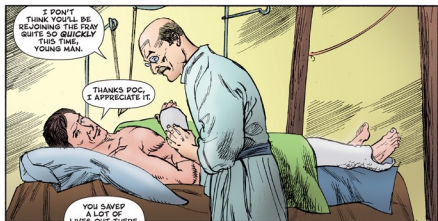
"WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT OUR TRAINING AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ARTS WOULD LEND THEMSELVES TO SUCH A WORTHWHILE INVENTION?"



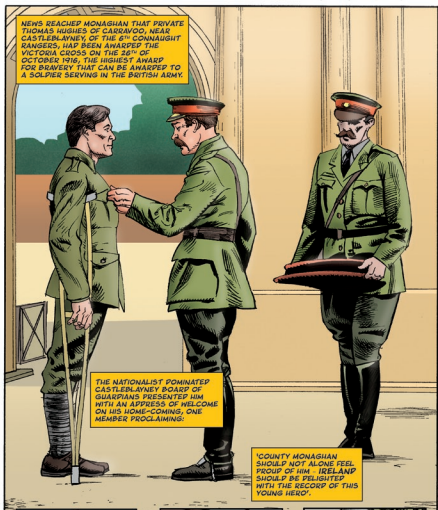








NEWS REACHED MONAGHAN THAT PRIVATE THOMAS HUGHES OF CARRAVOO, NEAR CASTLEBLAYNEY, OF THE 8TH CONNAUGHT RANGERS, HAD BEEN AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS ON THE 26TH OF OCTOBER 1916, THE HIGHEST AWARD FOR BRAVERY THAT CAN BE AWARDED TO A SOLDIER SERVING IN THE BRITISH ARMY.



THE NATIONALIST DOMINATED CASTLEBLAYNEY BOARD OF GUARDIANS PRESENTED HIM WITH AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME ON HIS HOME-COMING, ONE MEMBER PROCLAIMING:

'COUNTY MONAGHAN SHOULD NOT ALONE FEEL PROUD OF HIM - IRELAND SHOULD BE DELIGHTED WITH THE RECORD OF THIS YOUNG HERO'.



THOMAS HUGHES DIED IN JANUARY 1942 AND IS BURIED IN BROOMFIELD, MONAGHAN. HIS VICTORIA CROSS IS ON DISPLAY IN THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM IN LONDON.



IN 1919, ANNE ACHESON WAS AWARDED A CBE FOR HER REVOLUTIONARY MEDICAL WORK. SHE DIED IN 1962 AND IS BURIED IN PORTADOWN, IN SEAGOE CEMETRY.



TOMMY CHAMBERS DIED ON THE 15TH JULY 1916, DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME. HE WAS 17 YEARS OLD.

FOR VALOUR

ÉIRE
IRELAND

19
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2016

Clár Comórtha
Céad Bliain
*Centenary
Programme*



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs