

Galway Prison

Registry of Civilians Committed by  
Circular Memo 25th

[illegible]

Military Authorities awaiting trial by Court-Martial, etc.  
August 1917.

[illegible]

<b>File Reference</b>	MSP34REF52157
<b>Name</b>	Michael John Gallagher
<b>Gender</b>	male
<b>Address detail</b>	
Street	Bolinglana, Currane, Achill
County	Mayo
Country	Ireland
<b>Date of birth</b>	1871-07-16
<b>Date of death</b>	1956-07-24
<b>Associated files in MSPA</b>	34E9972; 1RB2437; DP330
<b>Civilian occupation</b>	Farmer;
<b>Easter rising service</b>	No
<b>Organisation</b>	Irish Volunteers
Rank	Volunteer
Company	Currane
<b>Organisation</b>	Irish Republican Army
Rank	Private
Company	Currane Company
Brigade	West Mayo Brigade
Commanding Officer(s)	John Gallagher
<b>Pension Claim</b>	Yes
<b>Award Pension</b>	Yes
<b>Army Pensions Act 1923/1953</b>	No
<b>Military Service Pensions Acts 1924</b>	No
<b>Military Service Pensions Acts 1934</b>	Yes
Grade	E
Notes	Awarded 2 and 17/36 years service for pension purposes from December 1949.
<b>Military Service Pensions Acts 1949</b>	No
<b>Digital file</b>	Scanned/digital copyMSP34REF52157 Michael Gallagher.pdf Scanned/digital copy34E9972 Michael Gallagher.pdf Scanned/digital copy1RB2437 Michael Gallagher.pdf Scanned/digital copyDP330 Michael Gallagher.pdf
<b>File dates</b>	20 January 1933 - 8 March 1934

## Subject Information

File relates to Michael John Gallagher's receipt of a military service pension in respect of his service with the IRA for part of the periods between 1 April 1920 and 31 March 1923. Applicant also claimed unsuccessfully for other periods. Claims that he joined the Irish Volunteers in 1917 and that he took part in the usual activities. States that his home/store was raided by British forces on several occasions. Says that he was arrested in November 1920 following a raid on his home. Claims that British forces stole his fowl and "slaughtered them along the road and let their blood spill along the route of the lorry in which I was a prisoner". Gallagher says that as a result his wife had a nervous breakdown and died on 29 June 1924. Claimant says that he was released in January 1921 and rearrested in February 1921 where he was interned in Galway Jail and Rath Camp, County Kildare. Gallagher was released in December 1921. States that following his release he acted as a boat transport officer, conveying men on the run between Clare Island, Roonagh Point, Islandmore, Cloughmore and Achill. File (DP330) relates to Gallagher's unsuccessful application for a wound pension or gratuity under the Army Pensions Acts in respect of injuries sustained by him while serving with the IRA. Disability deemed not attributable to military service. Claims that he was appointed as a Justice of the Peace following the establishment of the Republican Courts and that he was arrested and interned in November 1920 and that he was again arrested in February 1921 and interned until November 1921. File contains: Military Service Registration Board references from Bryan Corrigan; material concerning appeal; three page handwritten statement submitted by Gallagher in support of his petition under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1949; one page typed signed statement submitted by in support of his appeal; certified copy of death certificate.

To The Secretary  
Office of Refugee  
St Kevin's College,  
Glasnevin  
Dublin

Achara,

Bollinglanna Bunnane  
Achill Is. Mayo

1. 12. 41

PAID

1941

52157

I am in receipt of your letter Ref. No 52157/G.S.R.  
which I received a few days ago stating, the finding of the  
Refugee is that I am not a person to whom the Act applies and  
to supply additional evidence.

I wish to appeal against this decision on the grounds that I gave  
honest military and political service to my country when  
the service of Irish men were most needed. Along with  
giving every military assistance possible I spent from  
Nov. 1920 to Dec. 1921 in prison and with some of your  
present Ministers who can testify to same.

During my arrest my son John was on the run, my house  
was smashed by the black and Tans and as a result of this  
smashing my wife got confined to bed and died in 1924  
I got no compensation for the destruction and was left with a  
very weak family to rear on practically nothing.

Now this is the thanks I get after sacrificing all in the interest of  
of my Country. Mr. Mr. Kilroy, Mr. B. Corrigan + Mr. J. Lynch have  
already in statements verified to my case and I consider it sufficient  
evidence. I trust you will reconsider my case.

Yours a most  
Michael Gallagher



I Michael Gallagher, of Bollinglanna, Currane, Achill, Co. Mayo, do hereby declare that I joined the Irish Republican Army in January 1917 and was then a member of Currane Company, West Mayo Brigade, I.R.A. Mr. John Gallagher (D) was my Company Captain at the time. He is at present in London but I do not know his address.

My duties consisted of drilling, running dispatches and procuring arms and ammunitions where ever possible. From the time of my joining the I.R.A. to my arrest I was an active member during the whole period up to the time of my arrest and for my activity in the I.R.A. I was arrested in November 1920 and imprisoned in Galway Jail. I was released on the 1st. January 1921 and re-arrested the first week in February 1921 and sent back to Galway Jail and from there to Rath Camp Co. Kildare, where I ~~remained~~ remained a prisoner until the General release on the 9th. December 1921.

If need be I will furnish the names of several T.Ds. in the present Dail who were imprisoned with me during the above period who can verify to my statement.

After my release on 9/12/21, I reported back to my local I.R.A. Company, then under Capt. John Gallagher (O), Currane, Achill, and continued my activity in the I.R.A. as Boat Transport Officer, conveying men on the run to and from Clare Island, to and from Roanagh Point, to and from Islandmore, Westport and to and from Cloughmore, Achill. I continued as such until all the costal boats were seized by the Free State Army in December 1922. My activities then ceased due to the condition of my wife's health.

~~xxxxxxx~~

I wish to add the following facts which the Parish of Achill as a whole can verify:- Early in 1918 I was ordered by the I.R.A. to accept the post of Sinn Fein Justice of Peace which I did and continued until I had to go on the run. My son John Gallagher, now in U.S.A., and myself were on the run together, and it was during a brief visit at home I happened to be captured. The night of my arrest the Black and Tans smashed my home. We had a Shop at the time and doing pretty good. The Tans loaded in bulk all they could lay hands on into their lorries, tea, tobacco Etc. and that finished our business as a shop. They stole all our fowl and slaughtered them along the road and let their blood spill along the route of the lorry in which I was a prisoner; Then they sent back word to my wife that something terrible had happened and she was informed of the blood along the road, with the result she got a nervous break down that day and went to bed, ~~and never left the bed after until~~ She never left the bed after until she died on 29th June 1924.

During 1919, 1920 and up to 11/7/1921 my home was raided weekly by R.I.C. and Black and Tans and destruction was caused to my home on several occasions.

Signed Michael Gallagher (John)

Date 14th June 1954

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

*Mr Michael Gallagher (John)*  
Military Service Pensions Acts, 1924 to 1949.

PETITION UNDER SECTION 6 (1) OR UNDER SECTION 11 (1) OF THE  
MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS ACT, 1949.

*34/8891 34/SP/54677.*

Minister for Defence,  
Coláiste Caoimhín,  
Glasnevin,  
Dublin.

*F37, 4/6/57*

I made application for a Certificate under the Military Service Pensions Acts but my application was refused.

My application was made from the following address :—

*Bolinglana*  
*Curran Achill Co Mayo*

I now request that you will forward this, my petition, to the Board of Assessors or to the Referee, as the case may be, for a re-investigation of my application, on the ground that I am in a position to prove facts sufficient to establish that I am a person to whom the Acts apply.

The following is a statement of the said facts :—

*I joined the Irish Republican Army  
Early in 1917 and was very active in  
advising young boys what to do and how  
to do it I kept on the move attending & organ-  
ising meetings in public & private. I was  
returned a District Councillor on the Sean Fin  
Ticked and I was a watched man by the  
R.I.C & their spies  
He was bringing in voters to the Polling Booth  
at Achill Sound in 1918 the whole day with  
my car and that brought there attention on  
me more I had to go on the run afterwards  
but I was doing my best for the Cause*

I was arrested early in November 1920 & sent to Galway Jail I was Released the Last Day of December 1920. & Cautioned

I was Taken again in January 1921 & sent to Galway Town Hall I was there until early in March when we were Brought to Rath Camp in Kildare and kept There until the general Release in December

I Took no sides when Treasy split came as I was heart Broken to see Comrades up against one another that was Like Brothers I hadent the heart to go against my own Country men

I am now nearly fit for the County home I have nothing But the old age Pension and its not Keeping me Going nor half going so I am telling the Truth here & if I Dont Get anything I must Try and do without it

Its for my Country ~~for~~ I was working and I would do the same again if I was able. But I am old now

& useless

# Military Archives

S. I hope your Board will Consider  
my Case & we will see what the  
are like

is mesha Le Meas  
Michael Gallagher

Signature

Michael Gallagher John,

Present Address

Bolinglans  
Gurranes Achill  
Co Mayo

Date

NOTE:— Should the space allotted in this form be insufficient for the purpose, the statement of facts may be continued on a separate sheet which should, however, be attached to this form.