



NATIONAL
HERITAGE
WEEK 

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Danny Dunne

A Veteran of the Great War Remembered

By Michael Kelly



Born:

Daniel Dunne in **Brownstown Co. Kildare** on the **12th July 1897** . He was the youngest Son of proud parents Michael and Anne Dunne. As a young boy Daniel soon became affectionately known to one-and-all as “**Danny**” .

School:

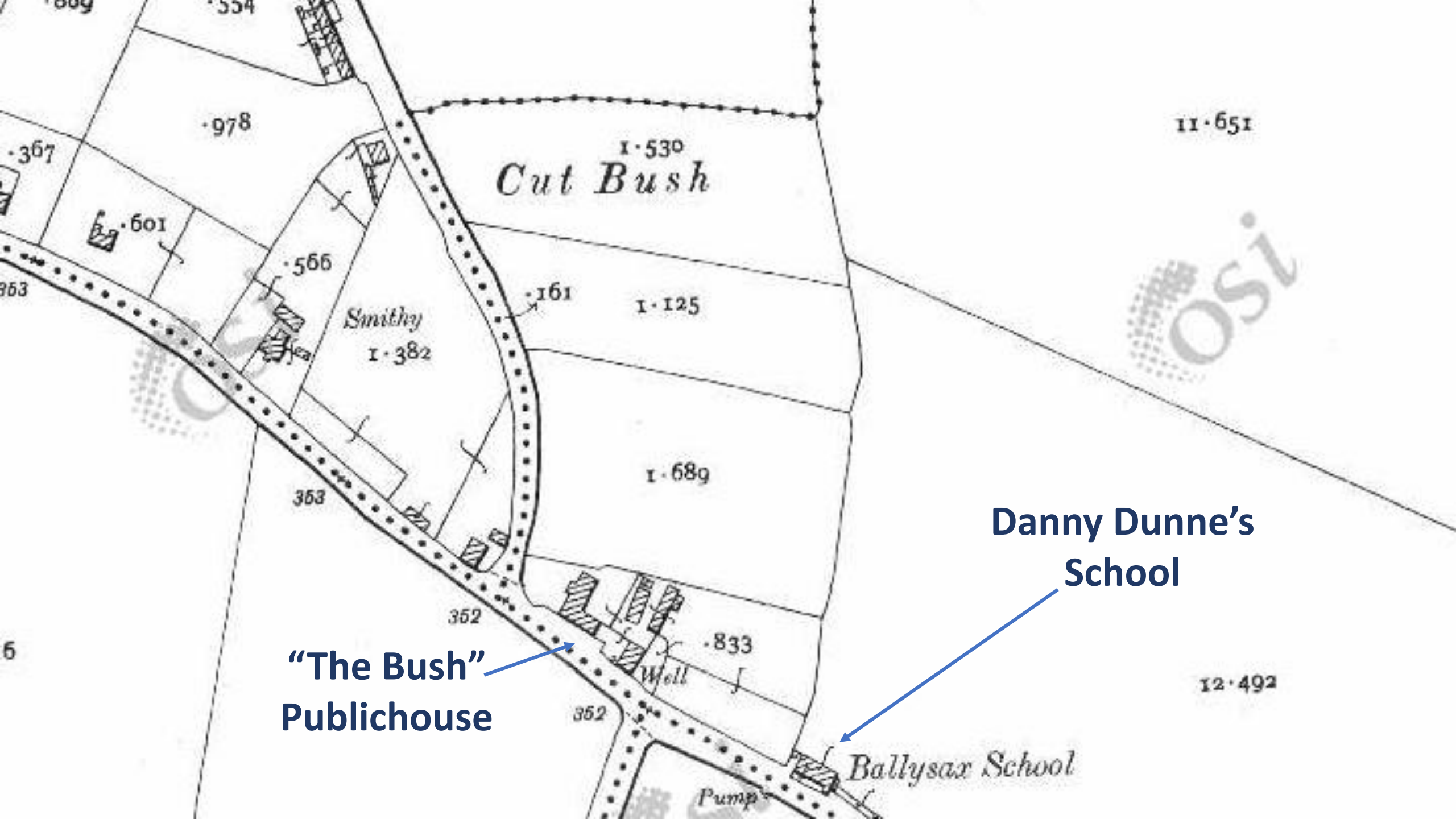
Danny went to the **Brownstown National School** at Cut Bush, Co. Kildare he showed himself to be a brilliant pupil. The Headmaster of the School at the time is quoted as saying in later years, that he was “**One of the brightest pupils that he had ever taught**” .



A One Penny Coin dated **1897**,
Victoria Regina, found on the
Curragh Camp, by
Matt McNamara 1970's

Church Baptism Record - 1897

Name:	Daniel Dunne	Date of Birth	12 July 1897
		Date of Baptism	25 July 1897
Address:	Brownstown	Parish/District	SUNCROFT
Gender:	Male	County	Co. Kildare
		Denomination:	Roman Catholic
Father:	Michael Dunne	Mother:	Anne Joyce
Sponsor 1	Martin Duggan	Sponsor 2	Marianne Dunne
Priest:	Fr. P. Loughlin C.C.		



1911 Census

Danny aged (13) appears in the 1911 Census and is registered as having the **Irish and English language**.

Residents of a house 50 in Brownstown, Lower (Ballysax East, Kildare)

☒ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
Dunne	Michael	69	Male	Head of Family	R Catholic	Queens	Labourer General	Read and write	-
Dunne	Anne	58	Female	Wife	R Catholic	Mayo	-	Read and write	-
Dunne	Michael	34	Male	Son	R Catholic	Kildare	Labourer General	Read and write	-
Dunne	Peter	25	Male	Son	R Catholic	Kildare	Postman	Read and write	-
Dunne	Margaretta	23	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Kildare	-	Read and write	-
Dunne	Bridget	20	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Kildare	-	Read and write	-
Dunne	Daniel	13	Male	Son	R Catholic	Kildare	Scholar	Read and write	Irish and English

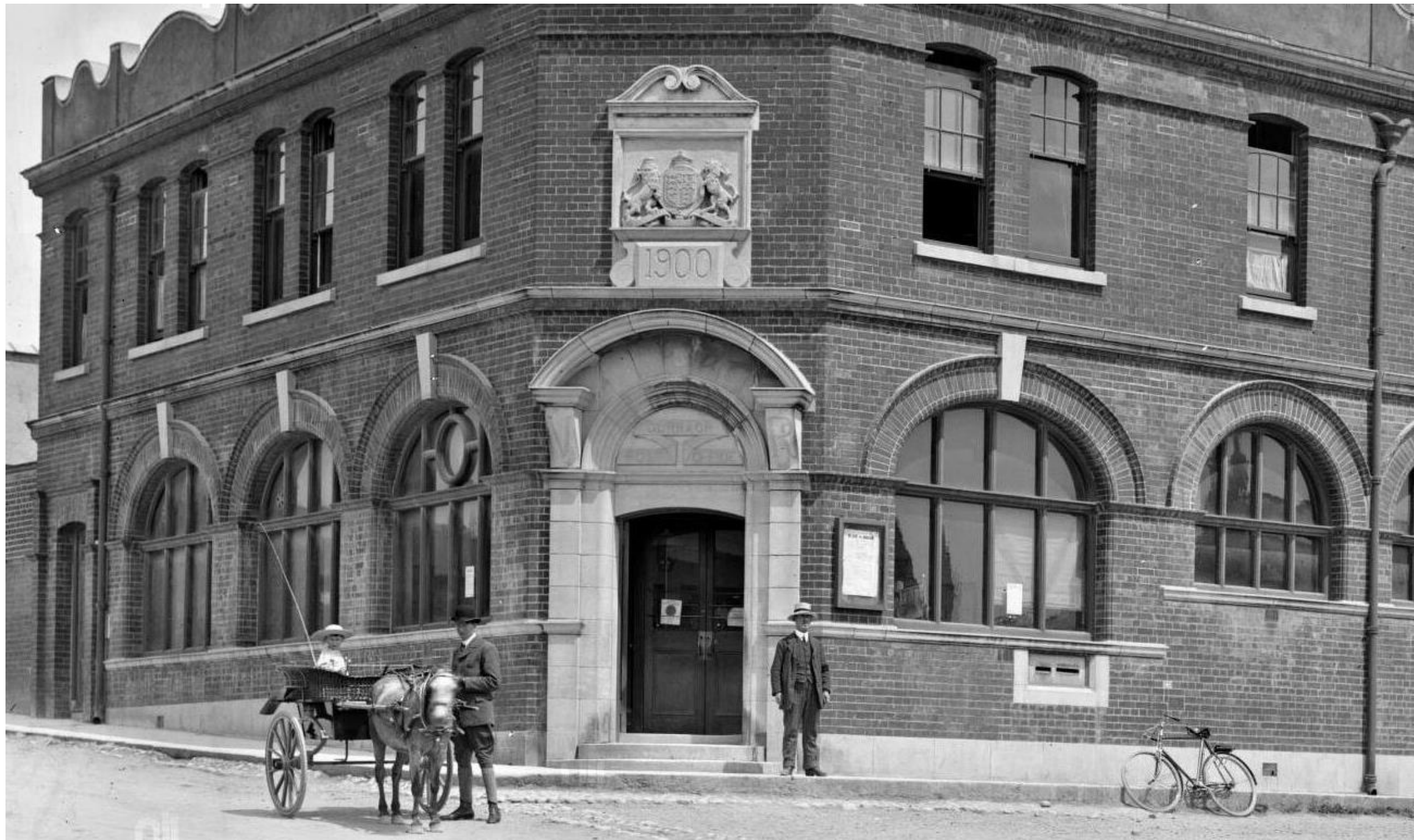
Curragh Camp Post Office

When he finished school, Danny joined the Post Office in the Curragh Camp as a Telegraph Boy, and eventually he became a Postman.

His older Brother Peter also worked as a Postman in the Curragh Camp Post Office.

Peter Dunne is Listed in the **London Gazette** of **4th July 1911** as a Postman in the Curragh Camp.

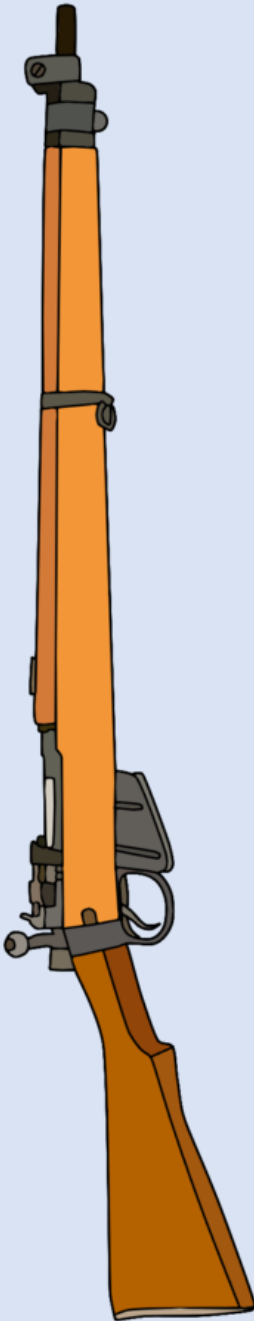




World War 1

28th July 1914 Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

Danny along with his Brother - **Peter** and lots of others “**Answered the Call**” and enlisted in the **British Army** in the **Curragh Camp**.



REMEMBER BELGIUM



ENLIST

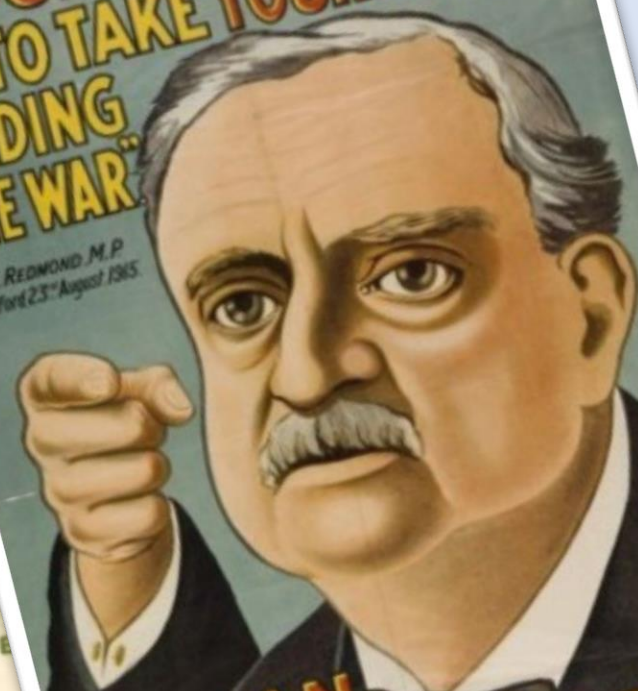
IRISHMEN
AVENGE THE LUSITANIA



JOIN AN IRISH REGIMENT
TO-DAY.

YOUR FIRST DUTY
IS TO TAKE YOUR PART IN
ENDING THE WAR.

M. J. REDMOND, M.P.
at Waterford 23rd August 1915




JOIN AN
IRISH REGIMENT
TO-DAY.

IRISH REGIMENT TO
as to become fit to accompany your
THE COUNTRYMEN IN BELGIUM

War Volunteers

In England, there was an initial call for 100,000 Volunteers, but this number was far , as almost 500,000 rushed to join up for “King and Country”.



G.  R.

THE
POST OFFICE RIFLES.
8TH BATTALION CITY OF LONDON REGIMENT

Are in Urgent Need of Recruits to complete Establishment of the 3rd Battalion,
and an earnest appeal is therefore made to all Officers of Military age who are
desirous of assisting their colleagues now fighting in Flanders.
The Object of the 3rd Battalion is to supply drafts, after having received the
necessary training.

1. HOW TO ENLIST.

- (1) See your Postmaster and obtain official permission.
- (2) Having obtained permission write to Officer Commanding POST OFFICE RIFLES, 130, Bunhill Row, London, E.C.
- (3) You should not be less than 5ft. 2in. in height with an expanded chest measurement of 34in.
- (4) **Age limits - 19 to 40. 19 to 45 ex Soldiers.**

2. TERMS OF SERVICE.

- (1) Four years or duration of the War.
- (2) Foreign Service Only.
- (3) Free Discharge on termination of War or engagement.

3. Civil Posts will be kept open until return from Military Service, and such service will count for Civil Pension and for Increment of Civil Salary.

4. THE PAY OF A RIFLEMAN is equal to full Civil Pay in the case of all Established Officers. plus Free Kit, Rations and Quarters.
N.C.O's receive Extra Pay of their Rank supplemental to Civil Pay.
Un-established Officers receive Full Army Pay and Allowances, Free Kit, Rations and Quarters.

APPROVED BY THE
POSTMASTER-GENERAL.
(Signed) A.M.O.
27/5/16.

(Signed) **J. HARVEY,**
Lieut.-Col. 1/8th Battalion City of London Regiment.
(British Expeditionary Force)

(Signed) **F. A. LABOUCHERE,**
Lieut.-Col. 2/8th City of London Regiment.

F. OWEN,
Major 3/8th City of London Regiment.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Home by Christmas

Many of those who Enlisted believed that the War would be short and that they would be Home by Christmas of that Year.

Sadly, this was not to be the case, as the War did not end until the **11th November 1918** . It is estimated that upwards of **10 Million Military Personnel** and **7 Million Civilians** were **killed** in the Conflict



Post Office Rifles

Danny's Brother **Peter** was a Member of the **1/8th Battalion London Regiment (Post Office Rifles)**.

The Post Office Rifles served with distinction in the Great War. They arrived in France on **18 March 1915**. By the end of the war, **1,800** men from the Post Office Rifles would be **dead** and **4,500** more would be **wounded**.



1/8th Battalion London Regiment (Post Office Rifles).





Sadly Peter Dunne was
Killed-in-Action during
the Battle of the Somme.

In Memory of
3657 Rifleman Peter Dunne (30)
8th Bn, London Regiment
(Post Office Rifles)
Killed 7th October 1916

Remembered With Honour
Warlencourt British Cemetery

In Memory of
Rifleman

P Dunne

3657, 8th Bn., London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) who died on 07 October 1916

Remembered with Honour
Warlencourt British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Warlencourt British Cemetery
France
1916 - 1918

The handwritten Will of Rifleman Peter Dunne – 21st June 1916

INFORMAL WILL.

W.O. No. 1 E1357841/1 DOMICILE, *Irish*

Record No. *300/582362 1/6*

The enclosed document dated *June 21st 1916* and signed *P. Dunne*

Name *Peter Dunne*

Sgtl. No. and Rank *371448 Pte*

Regt. *1/8th Bn London*

Died at *France*

Date of Death *7.10.16*

appears to have been written or executed by the person named in the margin while he was "in actual military service" within the meaning of the Wills Act, 1837, and has been recognised by the War Department as constituting a valid will.

J. E. Atkinson
for the Assistant Financial Secretary.

WAR OFFICE.

Date *18/10/17*

H. 16/1304

Will

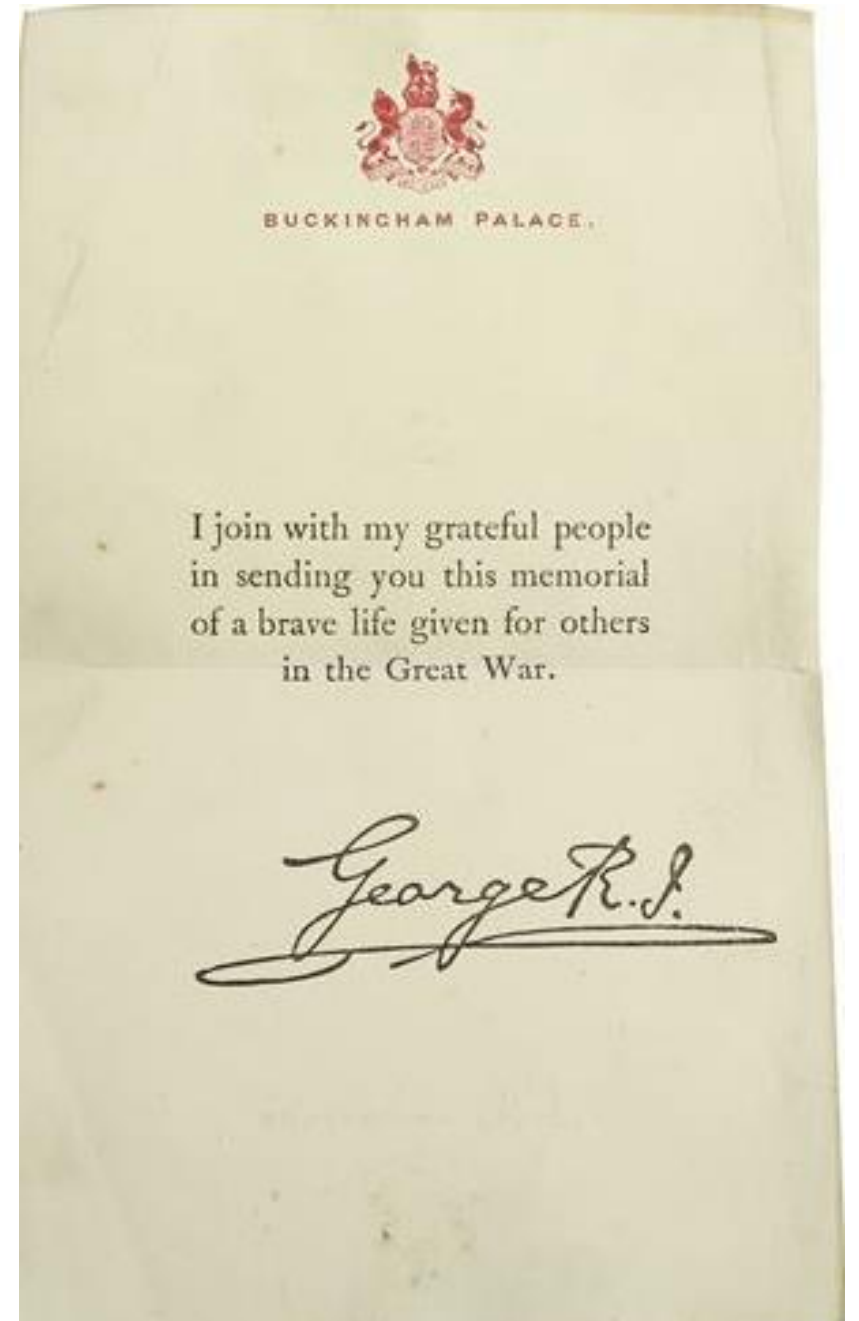
In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to my mother Mrs Anne Dunne Brownstown R. Barragh Camp Co Kildare Ireland.

Signature Rfn P Dunne 3654
Rank & Regiment 1/8 Post Office Rifles
Date June 21st 1916.

The foregoing has been compared with and is a true copy of the original will.
Dated 28 January 1919
Henry Warren
Regr.

Memorial Plaque (medallion)

Issued next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war.





3rd July 1916
'Troops going forward into the trenches'
Battle of the Somme



19th July 1916

A German prisoner helps British wounded
make their way to a dressing station –
Battle of the Somme



38cm
Blind-
gänger
aus
England
307.16.
Batt. 236.

12.
cm

Fusilier Danny Dunne

Catalogue description

Medal card of Dunne, Daniel Corps: Royal Irish Fusiliers Regiment No:

Reference:	WO 372/6/123659		
Description:	Medal card of Dunne, Daniel		
	Corps	Regiment No	Rank
	Royal Irish Fusiliers	G/28219	Private
Date:	1914-1920		
Held by:	The National Archives, Kew		

Date of attestation: Danny signed up for service in the army on **12-July-1916**, it was his was his nineteenth birthday. The legal age for service in the army in 1916 was **19**.

Corps	Regiment No	Rank
Royal Irish Fusiliers	G/28219	Private



Regimental Cap Badge
and Colours of the
**Royal
Irish Fusiliers**

Record Details for Daniel Dunne (Royal Irish Fusiliers)

First Name:	Daniel
Surname:	Dunne
Age:	20
Incident Details:	Wounds
Information:	Particulars furnished: Dublin, 14/11/1917. Badge and certificate issued: 22/11/1917
Rank:	Private
Service Number:	G/28219
Service From Date:	12/07/1916
Service To Date:	29/11/1917
Silver War Badge Number:	276,186
War Office Ref. Number:	B.522



Reason for Discharge: Army Order 265 paragraph 2b - those who, having served as soldiers and being still of military age, have been discharged under the conditions set forth at (i) and (ii) in (a): (i) after service overseas in the armed Forces of the Crown, on account of disablement or ill-health caused otherwise than by misconduct or (ii) after service at Home, and have been medically examined and finally discharged from liability to further military service under sub-section (5) of section 1 of the Military Service (Review of Exceptions) Act 1917, as permanently and totally disabled, otherwise than from misconduct. 10/08/1917.

Horrors witnessed By Danny Dunne

The Battle of Messines

(7–14 June 1917) was conducted by the British Second Army (General Sir Herbert Plumer), on the Western Front near the village of Messines in West Flanders, Belgium, during the First World War



Battle of Messines
Date: 7–14 June 1917



The Island of Ireland Peace Park, also called the Irish Peace Park or Irish Peace Tower in Messines, near Ypres in Flanders, Belgium.
Remembers all the Irish Killed, Wounded or Missing during WW I

Horrors witnessed By Danny Dunne

The Battle of Passchendaele

also known as the Third Battle of Ypres, was a campaign of the First World War, fought by the Allies against the German Empire.

The battle took place on the Western Front, from July to November 1917



Battle of Passchendaele
31 July – 10 November 1917



British troops eating their Christmas dinner in a shell hole, Beaumont Hamel, 25th December 1916



Recovering a fallen comrade from the mud.
The Battle of Passchendaele – November 1917.

The Third Battle of Ypres (31st July - 10th November 1917), also known as the Battle of Passchendaele was one of the major battles fought in World War I



Danny's War Medals

Victory Medal

Fusilier Daniel Dunne was entitled to the Victory medal, also called the Inter Allied Victory Medal. This medal was awarded to all those who received the British War Medal. It was never awarded alone.

Eligibility for this award consisted of having been mobilised, fighting, having served in any of the theatres of operations, or at sea, between midnight 4th/5th August, 1914, and midnight, 11th/12th November, 1918.



**The WW1
Victory Medal**
Awarded: 6,334,522+

Danny's War Medals

British War Medal

The British War Medal was a campaign medal of the British Empire, for service in World War One. It commemorates some of the most terrible battles the world has ever known.

The medal was approved in 1919, for issue to officers and men of British and Imperial forces who had rendered service between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918.

The medal was automatically awarded in the event of death on active service before the completion of this period.



**The WW1
British War Medal**
Awarded: 6,390,000

Danny's War Medals

Silver War Badge

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness during World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the Discharge Badge, Wound Badge or Services Rendered Badge, was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

The sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn in civilian clothes. It had been the practice of some women to present white feathers to apparently able-bodied young men who were not wearing the King's uniform. The badge was to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, it was forbidden to wear on a military uniform. **Danny's Badge No: 276,186**



**The WW1
Silver War Badge**
Awarded: 1,150,000

Danny's War

Danny survived the War, but his Life thereafter as a normal person ended as he became “**Shell Shocked**” . The symptoms of which are Fatigue, Tremor, Confusion, Nightmares, Impaired Sight and Hearing , similar to what is defined today as **Post-Traumatic Stress** .

Sadly, Danny along with lots of others never recovered fully from this experience.

Danny for the rest of his life would be tormented by the sights and sounds from the trenches of World War 1



Danny's War



After The War

Danny was a harmless man, and I understand that he lived in very poor circumstances , but that his Neighbours and friends were always very kind and Benevolent to him .

And I also understand that he was entitled to a Pension in respect of his Service in the British Army. However, I was informed that he never availed of this Pension for fear of being Hospitalised .



After The War

Those of us who were reared in the **Curragh Camp** during the **1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960's**, will have very fond memories of Danny. He was a familiar figure, wearing his long Coat, Cap and walking stick, and smoking his Clay pipe.

He would come into the **Curragh Camp** frequently, and buy his Groceries in **O'Donnell's** . He was also a great Cinema goer, and he would go to either the **Curragh Picture House** or the **Cinema in Sandes** on a regular basis .



Danny Dunne
1897 - 1960

Danny and the Cinema

One thing that stands-out in my mind about Danny, is that if he was attending the Curragh Picture House, he would take his place in the Queue for tickets, and offer to Pay, but either Mrs. Owens R.I.P. or Josie Brogan would always let him in for free.



But he never took this for granted , and he would always still join the Queue each time he attended the Cinema. He would then sit up in the “Hard Seats” at the front and Smoke his pipe. He always enjoyed the Films .

Danny's Passing

John Dwyer (a native of the Curragh Camp) informed me that both his mother and the following ladies were involved in the preparation and laying-out of Danny's body for burial. **Mrs Purcell** from Brownstown (as she was informed of all local deaths) and she suggested that the following curragh ladies should be asked to help out - **Mrs Christina Mullery**, **Mrs Bridgie Cronin**, the wife of **Paddy O'Brien** (the postman) in the Curragh, **Mrs Mary Tobin** and **Mrs Shelia O'Connor** who were neighbours of John's when they lived in Ceannt at the time. **Mrs Mary Troy** who lived in Pearse and a **Miss Carolan** from Brownstown, they did the necessary preparations for the laying-out of Danny and they also organised the rosary to be recited.



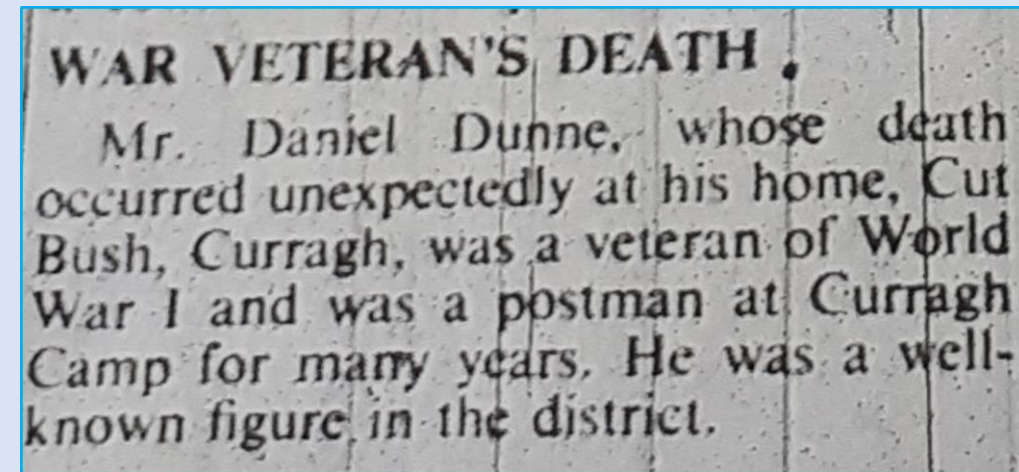
**8th March
1960**

A Veteran of the Great War Remembered

“**Danny Dunne**” was a very decent but sad and very inoffensive, shy Man, who never offended anyone, and led a very lonely life .

He is always spoken of very fondly by all, and he is indeed a true “**Curragh Legend**”. He sadly passed-away a number of years ago on the **8th March 1960** , at the Age of **62**.

His Home Address is listed as **Harrisons Yard, Ballysax, Co. Kildare** . His Death Notice was Published in the **Leinster Leader** ,on **March 19th 1960**



Leinster Leader
Saturday 19th March 1960

Danny's Final Resting Place

Danny is Interred in **Carna Cemetery** in an Un-marked Grave. He is gone from us, but he will never be forgotten by those of us who have had the pleasure of knowing him .



Carna Cemetery, Suncroft, Co. Kildare



Daniel "Danny" Dunne

1897 – 1960

You are Remembered

"Ar Dheis De go Raibh a Anam"



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