



Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

Seamus Furlong
Seamus Furlong

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

Script and Cover Art
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Letters
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Cover Colours
[Triona Farrell]



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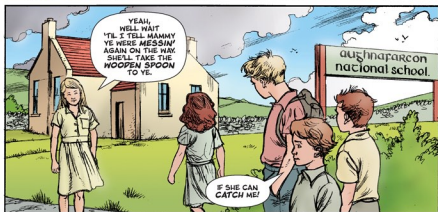
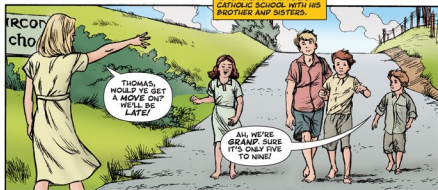
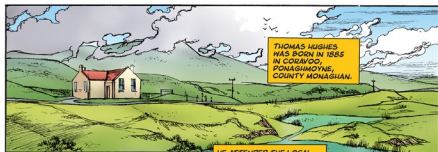


An Roinn Ealaíon, Dídhréachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

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

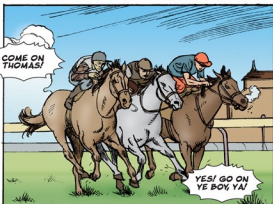
MONAGHAN
COUNTY
MUSEUM



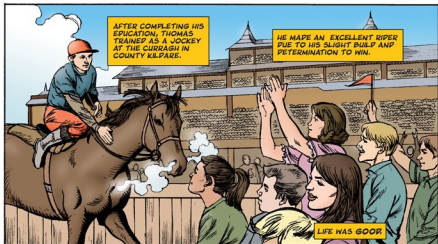




COME ON
THOMAS!



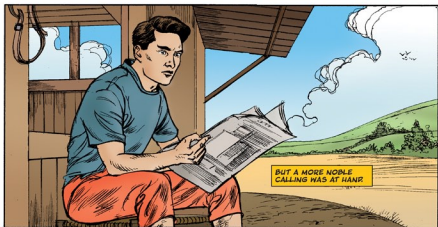
YES! GO ON
YE BOY, YA!



AFTER COMPLETING HIS
EDUCATION, THOMAS
TRAINED AS A JOCKEY
AT THE CURRAGH IN
COUNTY KILPARE.

HE MADE AN EXCELLENT ROPER
DUE TO HIS SLIGHT BUILD AND
PETERMINATION TO WIN.

LIFE WAS GOOD



BUT A MORE NOBLE
CALLING WAS AT HAND



-- 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 READY
FER THIS,
SON?



I'M READY.
I WANT
TO HELP

IN SEPTEMBER 1915 THOMAS AND HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS OF THE 6TH BATTALION OF THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS, 16TH IRISH DIVISION LEFT THEIR TRAINING CAMP IN FERMOY, COUNTY CORK, BOUND FOR FRANCE.



THEY WERE ALL READY.

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

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

MAYBE THEY DON'T.
MAYBE WE'RE JUST HERE
TO BE FODDER, GIVE
THEM SOMETHING TO
SHOOT AT.

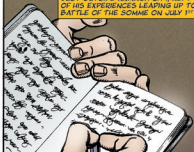


WOULD YE SHUSH.
THAT'S RUBBISH.
WE'RE HERE TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE, LADS.
AND WE WILL, WHEN
OUR TURN COMES.

SPARE A
THOUGHT FOR
THOSE POOR SOULS
WHO DIDN'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 BM 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.

Duward. At 9 o'clock at night our artillery started to bombard the Derham 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 Hallyhan 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.





LATE AUGUST 1916.
THOMAS HUGHES'
BASE CAMP



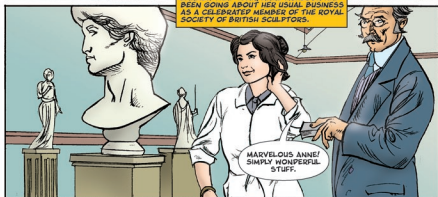


ELINOR HALLÉ FIRST USED PAPIER-MÂCHÉ AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR WOOFEN ARM CRAPLES, PURING WWI. BUT IT WAS ANNE ACHESON FROM PORTAPOWN WHO DEVELOPED THEM INTO SPLINTS.



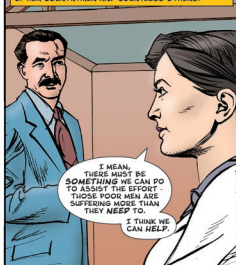
I THINK WE'VE CRACKED IT, ANNE.

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 WONDERFUL STUFF.

A CONSCIENTIOUS AND DILIGENT PORTAPOWN WOMAN, ANNE WAS NOT CONTENT TO MERELY SIT ON THE SIDELINES AS THE GREAT WAR SHATTERED THE BONES OF HER COUNTRYMEN AND COUNTLESS OTHERS.

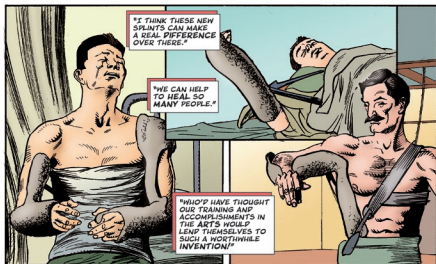
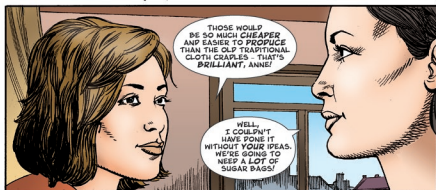


I MEAN, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO TO ASSIST THE EFFORT - THOSE POOR MEN ARE SUFFERING MORE THAN THEY NEED TO.

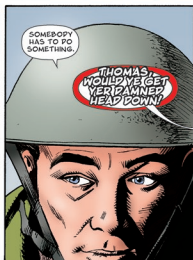
I THINK WE CAN HELP.



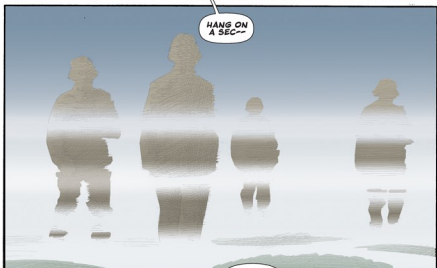
THINK, ANNE.



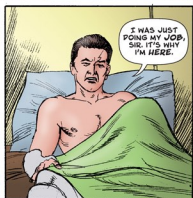












NEWS REACHED MONAGHAN THAT PRIVATE THOMAS HUGHES OF CARRAVOO, NEAR CASTLEBLAYNEY, OF THE 8TH CONNAUGHT RANGERS, HAD BEEN AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS ON THE 26TH OF OCTOBER 1916, THE HIGHEST AWARD FOR BRAVERY THAT CAN BE AWARDED TO A SOLDIER SERVING IN THE BRITISH ARMY.



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

1916
.....
20

Clár Comórtha
Céad Bliain
*Centenary
Programme*



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

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