

Irish Independent

Monday, 1st June 1953

FUNERAL OF S.Q.M.S. PAUL DOYLE

The funeral, with military honours, took place to Carna, Suncroft, Curragh, of S.Q.M.S. Paul Doyle. Curragh Camp and former Kildare footballer. Rev. J. Boylan. C.F., Curragh Camp, officiated at the graveside.

Chief mourners were Mr. Thomas Doyle (brother); Mr. Paul Doyle (nephew); Miss Laurie Doyle (niece) Lieut. Sheehy, Cavalry Corps, was in charge of the Escort; Comdt C Hueston was Parade Marshal.

The attendance included Col. A. T Lawlor, O.C., Curragh; Lt.-Col. J O'Hanlon, Chief Executive Officer Curragh; Lt.-Col. P. J. Hassett, O.C. Cavalry Corps; Comdt. C. Hegarty Cavalry Corps; Messrs. T. Lawler and D. Bourke, Kildare G.A.A. Board; Paul Russell (Kerry and Meath G.A.A.); Messrs. Devine and Kavanagh (Dublin G.A.A. Board). Former teammates acted as pall bearers, including Messrs. G. Fitzpatrick, J. Higgins, F. Malone, W Gannon. P. Goff, T. Keogh. J. Hayes, W. Hynan, W. Mangan, A. O'Neill. G. Higgins and P. Ryan.



Kildare Team - 1928 All-Ireland Senior Football Champions



S.Q.M.S. Paul Doyle

It's a roll of honour that only a modern-day footballer could dream of: three All Ireland medals, seven Leinster titles, one Ulster crown, three successive Railway Cups with Leinster and a Tailteann Games with Ireland.

Born in 1899, the young Doyle lived with his father, a carpenter, mother and brothers Tom and Johnnie, at Knox's Corner on the road between Brownstown Cross and Jockey Hall. He went to school in Cut Bush where his love for football developed.

Doyle first came to prominence playing for Maddenstown when at the age of 19 he helped them overcome Leixlip to claim senior status. He came into the Kildare side at the age of 20 in 1919, making his debut in the Leinster semi-final against Westmeath in Edenderry.

Doyle joined the newly formed Irish Army in 1922. He reached the rank of Company Quartermaster Sergeant and continued in service until his untimely death in 1953.

Paul moved around the country, serving in many barracks, including Dublin, Athlone, Cavan, and the Curragh, and he played his club football mainly with Army teams although he also served St. Brigid's of Kildare town, Virginia Blues in Cavan with whom he won a county championship, and in later days his home parish team of Suncroft. While in Cavan he managed to add an Ulster title to his many Leinster ones.

Doyle didn't play for Kildare in 1923 and 1924 but his return in the winter of 1925/26 helped to bring about an upturn in the Lilywhites' fortunes. They would go on to dominate Leinster for the next six years, reaching the All Ireland final five times, winning twice. Doyle as an ever-present scorer in chief throughout those glory years.

Doyle, whose picture seems to adorn every match report of the era, was “never seen to greater effect” according to the Irish Independent, scoring five points in Kildare’s 2-6 to 2-5 win to claim the **Sam Maguire Cup**, despite a heroic effort from the underdogs from Ulster. He was involved in both Kildare’s goals and was playing at the “top of his form” according to the Nationalist. It was his finest hour.



Original 1928 Sam Maguire Cup on display in the GAA Museum at Croke Park

The Sam Maguire Cup (Irish: Chorn Sam Mhic Uidhir), often referred to as Sam or The Sam , is a trophy awarded annually by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) to the team that wins the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship, the main competition in the sport of Gaelic football. The Sam Maguire Cup was first presented to Kildare, winners of the 1928 All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Final. The original 1920s trophy was retired in the 1980s, with a new identical trophy awarded annually since 1988.

S.Q.M.S. Paul Doyle

Service No: 13551

Rank: Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant

Name: Paul Doyle

Corps: Cavalry

Unit: Depot Cavalry, Plunkett Barracks

Service: 1922 – 1953

Address on Enlistment: Knox’s Corner,
Curragh, Co. Kildare.



An Cór Marcra

Óglaigh na hÉireann

SQMS Paul Doyle known as the “White Streak” on account of his speed on the field, played for his native County Kildare 1917-31. All Ireland Medals: 1919, 27 ,28. Member of the first All Army team who defeated All Ireland Champions Dublin in 1924.

Paul died in Plunkett Bks on 29/05/1953 aged 54 years. Interned Carna Graveyard, Suncroft, Co. Kildare.

