

Peace park creators have done us all proud

Mayo
News
14/10/08

Dear Madam,

I refer to the letter from Mr Jack Lane, Aubane Society, Cork in your paper last week, October 8, which strangely found its way into print in the week the Mayo Peace Park was opened by our President.

He castigates the honouring of the fallen of Mayo recently commemorated by the opening of the Mayo Peace Park Garden of Remembrance, Castlebar. It is not only the young men who fell so bravely in various wars who are honoured, but also nurses, doctors etc who died alongside them.

Young Irishmen joined various armies, not just British, but US, Australian and others. Due to our history the majority enlisted in the British Army, some out of adventure, more out of necessity and more out of loyalty. In the First World War many joined because they saw it as their patriotic duty with Home Rule being on the agenda. However, after 1916, in the words of Yeats, 'all was changed, changed utterly'. They returned to a different Ireland, and many were treated disgracefully.

In the Second World War many Irish also enlisted and helped to fight the most evil regime that ever was seen on this earth. How much more honourable was this than many

in the IRA who frolicked with the Fuhrer, as was the case with Sean Russell who died in a Nazi submarine, and other IRA members who lit up parts of Belfast so that the Luftwaffe could carry out bombing raids. The freedom we enjoy, and Mr Lane enjoys, today is due to them in large measure.

He also condemns Cornelius Coughlan who served with the Connaught Rangers, and did his duty, as all soldiers do. But he strangely fails to mention those Connaught Ranger soldiers who mutinied at the treatment of Irish patriots back home and paid the supreme penalty for so doing.

Those who created this lovely peace park have done us all proud, and maybe Mr Lane might launch a similar one in Cork!

Yours,

Brendan Cafferty,
Ballina.