

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



John C. Ryan

by Michael O'Dwyer

John C. Ryan was born on 12 February 1913 at Clashoquirke, Bansha, County Tipperary. He was the second son of John Ryan, a farmer, native of Clashoquirke, and Sarah Ryan (née Wilkinson), native of Knockane, Ballylooby, County Tipperary. His parents got married in Our Lady's and St Kieran's Church, Ballylooby, on 20 June 1906. John C.'s middle name 'Carthage' came from his grandfather, Carthage Wilkinson. John C. Ryan was educated at Ballough National School. He perhaps first came into prominence as a walker in 1936 when he competed in the 2 miles walk at the Irish athletics championships held at Clonmel. He was then with Tipperary Athletic Club and in the following years he competed for Aherlow-based Glen Rovers Athletic Club, Bansha Athletic Club (of which he was secretary) and Galteemore Harriers. He did not medal in the 2 miles walk championship in 1936 or the following year and had to wait eight years for the next national walking championship to be held. John C. Ryan won his first Irish title on 15 July 1945 when he won the mile walk at Dundalk. Runner-up was his teammate John Joe Daly of Bansha Athletic Club. John C. Ryan won the mile walk at Dundalk again the following year, and finished third at the same venue in 1947. At provincial level he won the Munster 2 miles walk event at the Bansha sports in 1945, and the Munster mile walk title in 1945, 1946 and 1947, with Eddie Kennedy, Shanballyduff, Drombane, the winner in 1948 and 1949. In the Tipperary walk championships the winners from 1944 to 1951 were, John C. Ryan, mile walk winner in 1944 (held at Bansha sports), 1945, 1946 and 1950; Eddie Kennedy, half-mile walk winner in 1948 and 1949, mile walk winner in 1947, 1948 and 1949, and 2 miles walk winner in 1949; Johnny Ryan Cagney, Sergeant's Lot, Golden, 2 miles walk winner in 1948; and John Joe Daly, mile walk winner in 1951. In the early 1960s John C. Ryan moved to England and settled in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. He died on 12 September 1969 in Hitchin Hospital, Hertfordshire, aged fifty-six, and is interred in Bansha cemetery.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1945	Mile Walk	7:50
1946	Mile Walk	7:25