

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Henry Power

by Michael O'Dwyer

Henry Power was born on 1 August 1893 at Ballydavid House, Littleton, County Tipperary. He was the second son of James M. Power, a farmer, and Maria Power (née Houghton). His parents got married at St James's Church, Paddington, London and their marriage notice in the *Nenagh Guardian* of 11 February 1888 reads, 'February 4, James Michael, eldest son of Richard Power, J.P., Ballydavid House, Thurles, to Maria Louise, daughter of Henry George Houghton, of Glashare, County Kilkenny.' Henry Power was educated at Pocklington School, Yorkshire, from which he entered Trinity College in Dublin. In 1912 at the Ulster Cricket Club grounds in the Irish universities athletics championships he won the high jump with 5 ft 7 in. (1.70 m) which was a new championship record at that time. Just a few days earlier at Ballsbridge, Dublin in the Irish AAA championships he came second in the high jump with 5 ft 7½ in. (1.71 m). While watching him at the championships the great Limerick-born athlete Denis Carey remarked, 'In a couple of years that boy will beat any jumper in the world; his style is almost perfect, and all he needs is time to mature!' Henry Power had cleared 6 ft 1 in. (1.85 m) while practising at home. He also took a keen interest in falconry and always kept a few falcons at Ballydavid. He joined the Royal Irish Rifles shortly after the declaration of the First World War and on completing his training he went out to France. He remained with his regiment until January 1917 when he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an observer gunner. Second Lieutenant Henry Power was shot and killed while in aerial combat over the Belgian coast on 22 August 1917. He was aged twenty-four, and is interred in Zuydcoote Military Cemetery, Nord, France, about 10 km north-east of Dunkirk.