



**ROYAL HONOUR:** Patrick Brennan receives his Military Medal from King George VI. On the left are Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) and the then Princess Elizabeth.



**WAR of Independence veteran Peter Brennan in uniform.**

His British war medals included the Military Medal (George VI) for a non-commissioned soldier, equivalent to the Military Cross reserved for officers. The second medal was the 1939-1945 Star for overseas service greater than 160 days. The third was the France and Germany Star for service in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and/or Germany. Medal number four was the Defence Medal for protecting home bases in the UK and the final medal was the War Medal which is the World War II medal for service.

"Johnnie (John) who moved from Kilgevrin was the father of the British war hero Pat (Patrick) while my father, also Patrick, from Liskeavy was a brother of the Irish war hero Pete (Peter). They were first cousins of Johnnie.

"My uncle Pete, who later moved to live in Ironpool, Kilconly was an engineer with the IRA during the War of Independence and later during the Irish Civil War he was captured and sentenced to death twice.

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**'L/Cpl Brennan went forward alone of his own accord with a bren gun to eliminate this nest. He succeeded in silencing the enemy machine gun but was himself wounded in the leg in the process'**

"That was once in Caherlistrane and the second time when he was being held in Corrandrum. Straws were drawn to decide which six prisoners the Free Staters would shoot in Tuam Workhouse," says Peter.

"Having survived all that, my father went on to put his engineering skills to good use when he worked in Tuam Sugar Factory from the 1930s. Our home in Liskeavy was a 'safe house' during the Irish War of Independence and was shot up at one stage by the British troops here.

"My father, Patrick, was also beaten up by the Black and Tans close to the railway line near the Blue Pig Pub in Milltown – but he

never talked about it," says Peter.

Another aunt, Mary Ann, carried dispatches for the IRA.

"Gabrielle, wife of my cousin the late Gerry Brennan in Yorkshire, tells me that there is a page of information on Pat's deeds in World War II in the book A History of The Irish Guards. Meanwhile information about my uncle Pete's exploits in the Irish War of Independence is currently being put together for the Kilconly commemoration of the 1916 Rising on April 24," concluded Peter Brennan.



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**PETER Brennan formerly from Milltown and now Doughulsce, Galway displays the medals awarded to his cousin Pat by King George VI of England.**