**Text Summery Aglish**

* **Accommodation**

Form E of the survey provided for the listing of hotels, boarding houses, restaurants and cafes in the area. Details for hotel and boarding houses included number of bedrooms, number of bathrooms and whether licensed. An interesting feature is the addition of comments on the overall quality, food and cleanliness of some of the establishments.

* **Amenities**

A very valuable feature of the Irish Tourist Association is that it provides a snapshot of a place at a particular time in the 1940s. This is especially true of the information supplied in Form D of the survey, "Amenities and general information, towns and villages (other than seaside)"

These forms contain information under the following headings:

Location and brief description, Public services, Dancing, Cinemas and theatres, Libraries, Churches and services, Postal facilities, Banking, Sports and photo supplies, Swimming pools and baths, Social clubs, cultural societies, Industries and handcrafts, Public monuments, Important public buildings, Schools and colleges, Hospitals, Fairs and markets, Garages and petrol stations, Conveyances for hire, Camping sites.

Some extra information is supplied with the form for Castlebar. There is a detailed description of the Church of the Holy Rosary and briefer descritions of Christ Church, the Methodist Church, the Courthouse, and the hospital. There is a note referring to the cinema being destroyed by fire in 1948, a few years after the survey, so this note was obviously added subsequently.

All the streets of the town are described together with a hand-drawn sketch of the layout of the town.

* **Antiquities**

In the antiquities section for Aglish Parish there is a detailed description of Kanturk Castle, Ballyheane with notes on its association with Granuaile and the Staunton and McEvilly families. A sketch accompanies the description.

The ruins of Blackfort Castle beside Lough Lannagh in Castlebar are also described and again, a sketch is provided. This was said to be the residence of the Burke family, Viscounts Mayo.

There are notes on ruins of a church in Ballyheane graveyard, slight ruins of a church in Ballynew and ruins of a Protestant church in Ballyheane.

* **Curiosities, customs and patterns**

Under the headings for Curiosities, Customs and Patterns for Aglish Parish, mention is made of a gravestone inscription in Castlebar cemetery for someone who died aged 120, the one-sided bridge in Castlebar. Apart from this there are no remarkable customs apart from the usual ones associated with Hallow’een, Stephen’s Day etc.

* **Historic sites**

Page 3 of Form A in the survey contains headings for “Historic sites” and “Historic houses: Burial places” . In the Aglish survey, the section for historic sites contains the beginning of a multi-page account of the French invasion of 1798. The remainder can be read under the heading “Historical notes”

The section on “Historic houses: Burial places” contains notes on notable personalities who were either born in Castlebar or lived there at some stage. The following are included:

Thomasine or Olivia Knight; Louis Brennan inventor and his brother Michael, artist; Major General George O’Malley; Sir Martin Archer Shea; Charles O’Malley; Dr. Gilmartin, Archbishop of Tuam; Sir Malachy O’Kelly; William Brett, painter; Fr. J. O’Malley, associated with the coining of the term “Boycott” ; Archbishop John MacHale; George Robert Fitzgerald; James Daly; Margaret Burke-Sheridan; Ernie O’Malley; Michael Burke, artist; R.J. King, artist.

Two historic buildings mentioned are Humbert House and Blackfort House.

* **Historic Notes**

It was common in the survey for the surveyor to enclose extra pages dealing with certain topics if the prescribed form did not allow sufficient space. These topics were usually of a historical nature. In the Aglish survey, the additional pages covered two main subjects: a general history of Castlebar and an account of the French invasion.

The history of Castlebar traces the development of the town from the building of the castle by de Barry, which gave the town its name. The castle subsequently passed to the de Burgo family and eventually to the Bingham family, the Earls of Lucan. In addition, there are notes on bullet marks on various buildings in the town from the French invasion of 1798 and a description of the French Hill monument accompanied by a sketch. There is a brief mention of the founding of the Land League.

There are almost five pages dedicated to an account of the French invasion, also known as “The Year of the French” , which was the most momentous event in the history of Castlebar. The account begins with General Humbert’s approach to Castlebar, the ensuing battles, the “Races of Castlebar”, the proclamation of John Moore as first President of the Republic of Connaught fighting at French Hill and then on to the final defeat at Ballinamuck, County Longford.

* **Natural features**

Form A in the Survey covers the topography and geology of the area. Here there is a description of the landscape of Aglish Parish ranging from the rugged hills of the Burren area to the flat farmland of Breaghwy and Ballyheane with mention of the main physical features and brief outline of the geological make-up of the landscape.

* **Sports and games**

The section dealing with Sports and Games gives details of the angling facilities in each of the main rivers and lakes in the area and lists all the other sports clubs and activities. Included in the Aglish Parish survey are golf, G.A.A. including camogie and handball, horse racing at Ballyheane, hunting (South Mayo Harriers ), swimming, basketball, athletics and cycling.

The lakes and rivers covered in the angling section are as follows:

* Rivers: Clydagh, Ballyheane, Castlebar
* Lakes: Tuckers, Castlebar, Saleen,, Cooley, Buncam.