

(May 1951)

ITA/3/7(1)

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FORM A.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Gallen

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bohola PARISH Bohola COUNTY Mayo

### TOPOGRAPHY

*Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.*

The parish runs from a point about 1 1/2 miles south of Ballylahan bridge on the main Toxford/Lattlebar road, to within three miles of Kiltinagh. At its widest it is almost 6 miles in a south-west to north-east direction, i.e. from Shroghness to Ballymiles bridge.

In scenic beauty the parish has little of an attractive nature within its confines. It is principally an agricultural area and the vista is one of low hills, long sloped or hump-backed, except the south-western

### GEOLOGY

*Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.*

Except in the south-west corners where the limestone formation ascends to some height and is peat covered, the parish is of drift-covered carboniferous limestone. Typical of the area are long hills which are sometimes drumlin-like in character. This drift area offers little of a good type and is good pasture land. Thus the parish is completely agricultural.

### MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

*Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?  
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?*

None

Parish of Belah. Bannoy of Jollen. Co. Mayo.

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parish corners where the slopes of Slieve Hoven (about one-third of which is in the area) rise to their highest point at this end, of 843 ft. Slieve Hoven dominates the parish and its brown heights afford a pleasant contrast to the all-green of the lowlands beneath.

Lakes there are none. To the north the River Moy touches one lowland. To the east and north-east the Quinlan River winds its course to the bay.

Belah village, on the main road from Ballylahan Bridge to Miltinagh, is tiny but pleasant with its houses flanked by tall trees, and its miniature gothic cathedral fronted by smooth shaven lawns, shrubbery and flowers. Belah is not in its own lowland but in Rosghannan.

As if to make-up for its own comparative lack of scenic beauty, the parish offers, from the northern slopes of Slieve Hoven, a truly magnificent view. From the road at Altinea (550') or better still from the peak above this (843') a wonderful panorama unfolds. Slieve Hoven is an island mountain in the midst of a wide plain; to the north Lough Cullin comes sparkling into view with beyond it the faintest glint of Conn, its sister lake. Neplins stands out, dominating the Penton hills below it. A little to the north-west, Neplins Beg and the neighbouring peaks. Nevers and to north-west is Cosaghmagh and the Yulough mountains whose slopes are speckled with the white dots of hundreds of homesteads. Intervening between these mountains and Slieve Hoven the lowlands beneath stretch away for miles - directly west they reach to the horizon. Slightly south-west, Croagh Patrick, the Holy Mountain, rears up its cone-shaped head in a mighty hat completely dominates all other peaks. South-west, the Pantery mountains come well into view - in between, the country spreads itself out in a wide lowland expanse enriched by wooded patches... Returning the gaze to Lough Cullin's east shore line, Burren Hill (202'), green-topped and conical, jumps into near view. Beyond it the Garford Hills, and further north-east the Slieve Gannagh range as far as the eye can see; the foothills of Mellacorkey, with Sreen Camp, a well-known landmark, predominant. Between these mountains and the right-seer's vantage point, the lowlands stretch away for miles; in the near view meet the Round Towers and a little further on, the church of Swinford.

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add much to the scene. So also do the bends of the way, like tiny lakes.

Directly west ~~the~~ lowlands lead into the horizon. To get the south-west aspect of seemingly limitless plain the sight-seer must move to the western slope of Slieve Areen. The houses of Kiltinagh ~~are~~ so near that every roof-top can be picked out from its neighbour.

Cycle rides or hikes. Only one to be recommended - that which affords the view above. A round trip of two parishes, Bohola and Strade, can be made by starting from Bohola, following main road towards Kiltinagh for about 2 miles, then turning to the right at Shenaghy and ascending to Altinea ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  M); then the descent commences on the west slope of Slieve Areen and continues for a few miles through Carrawand and through Carragowan to the main Ballyvaugh/Bohola road (towed). Here ~~the~~ may turn right to Bohola ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  M), or turn left for perhaps a mile; then to the right again for a few miles through Strade parish and coming out on the main Foxford/Castlebar road at Strade Church and the old Abbey. Turning right the main road goes for a mile to Ballylahan bridge where the right-hand turn is taken past the castle ruins - then into Bohola ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  M) past the note and church ruins near the village.