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SIR FREDERICK GALLAGHER GALLEGHAN K.B.E., D.S.O., I.S.O., E.D.  
1897 - 1971

Frederick Gallagher Galleghan was born at Jesmond, Newcastle, on 11 January 1897 the first child of 23 year old Alexander Dunlop Galleghan and 17 year old Martha Galleghan (nee James).

Alexander's grandmother, Eliza (no surname recorded) was a West Indian girl who, in 1821, had a child by a Scot named John Jennings, a resident of Barbados. The child, also Eliza, was sent to Scotland for education where, aged 18, she married William Grant, a 55 year old widower.

Eliza and William emigrated to Newcastle, N.S.W., where one of their daughters, Janet, married James Galleghan who also, by coincidence, came from Barbados. One of their children was Alexander who inherited the physique and colour of his Barbados ancestry.

Alex, who worked on the wharves at Newcastle, was a gifted bare knuckle fighter, played football and enjoyed a drink with his mates.

When he married Martha, a deeply religious girl and a strict Baptist, she persuaded him to mend his ways but on the day their son was born he decided to celebrate with some of his friends including the local policeman, who closed the police station. Alex knew exactly what he wanted to call his son and it was decided to register the name there and then. Alex, supported by half the group, and the policeman, supported by the other half, made their way to the locked police station. Having come to the conclusion that 8 people could not squeeze through the door at the same time they finally entered and seated the policeman, who was also the registrar, at his desk. With pen raised he asked for the child's name. Frederick Galleghan he was told. Anybody would agree not easy names to pronounce. Frederick Gallaher? Not Frederick Gallagher, Galleghan. At last it was right. The policeman, who was not at his best that day, dutifully entered it as such in the register.

After Galleghan was born the family moved to Little Dennison St. Carrington, NSW - a poor area of Newcastle at that time and the family was typical of the area. It was a time when work was not readily available and there was no dole, social services or assistance to the unemployed but the family survived on what work Alex could obtain plus his vegetable garden and Martha's good housekeeping.

Galleghan attend Wickham School and from there graduated to Cook's Hill High School. Conditions at both schools were not good as far as teacher/student ratios were concerned. At High School for instance there were 2 different classes, each of 40 pupils, in the one room divided only by a passageway. He was a good

