

J.B. MALONE

Walking Trails Pioneer

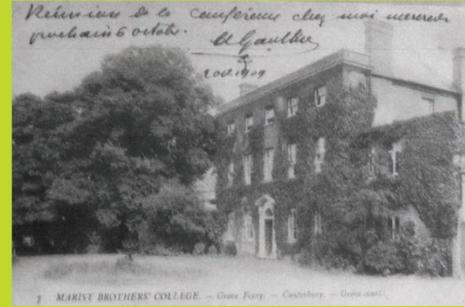
John James Bernard ('J.B.') Malone

Born in 1913 in Leeds in England, to Irish parents, J.B. Malone was the most influential force in the development of walking, particularly hillwalking, as a leisure activity in Ireland. He began to explore the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains on foot as a young man in 1932, and by 1938 he was writing a weekly column on walking for the Evening Herald which continued until 1975. These columns and his earlier books *The Open Road* (1950) and *Walking in Wicklow* (1964), inspired countless readers to exchange the city for the hills and to enjoy healthy exercise and the joys of the natural world. His informative writing was not confined to rural Ireland, however; he also produced over a thousand articles for the Evening Herald about places of note and the buildings of Dublin.

In the forties he had a vision of a long, way-marked walking trail in Wicklow, and in 1979, when he was appointed Field Officer to the Long Distance Walks Committee, he began putting the 132 kilometre-long Wicklow Way in place. Opened in 1982, it was Ireland's first Long Distance Walk, and the forerunner of the forty-four such trails that exist today. His book describing the route, *The Complete Wicklow Way*, was a best-seller.

A passionate conservationist, JB's contribution over a lifetime of writing to the conservation of countryside environment in Ireland and to the historic buildings of Dublin is unmeasurable.

Active up until the last, he died in October 1989 and is buried in Bohernabreena Cemetery.



Marist College at Grove Ferry



Arts Lough, May 1942



Glencree Valley c 1940



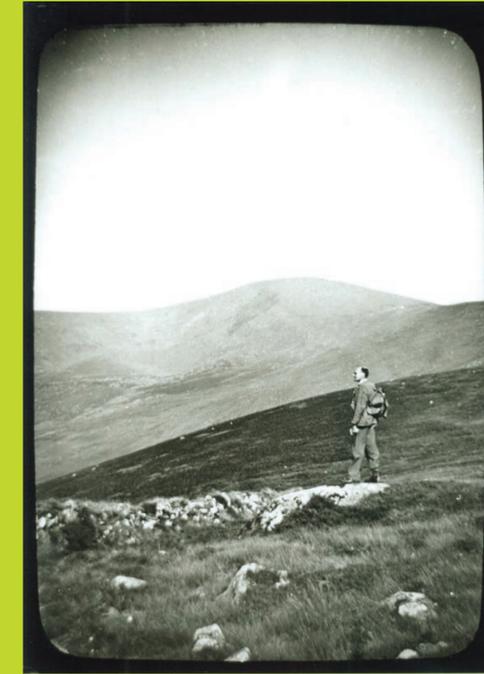
Arts Lough



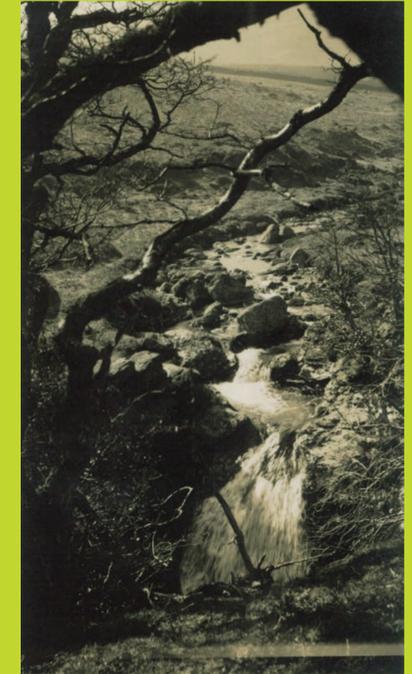
Walkers at the Coffin Stone, near Djouce, in the 1940s



J.B. Malone with a telescope at Lugnagun



J.B. in the mountains



The Dargle at Glensoulan

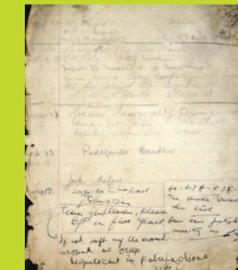
The Early Years

John James Bernard Malone ('J.B.'), pioneer of way-marked trails in Ireland, was born in 1913 to Irish parents in Leeds in England, and was educated by the Marist Brothers at St Mary's College, Grove Ferry, near Canterbury. After leaving school in 1931 he moved to Ireland, and living with his aunt Winnifred Barden at Rathgar Road, went to work for Glorneys, a firm of building providers. His late wife, Peg, used to say that he was first attracted to the mountains by the view he enjoyed of them from his bedroom window in Rathgar. It was a view that probably included the two nearest of the foothills to the city, Montpelier Hill, better known today as the Hellfire Club, and Kilmashogue, around which his later brainchild, the Wicklow Way walking route, passes today.

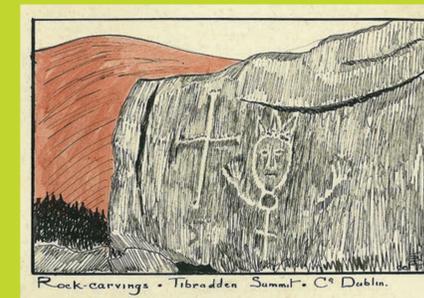
This vista of the Dublin mountains must have been seductive, because in January 1932, only a few months after he had arrived in Dublin, he set out to methodically explore them, starting with the foothills, much of which have since been swallowed up by Dublin's suburbs. His first walk, he later commented, left him 'crippled for a week', but it was the beginning of his 'gradh for the hills', and as such was memorable.



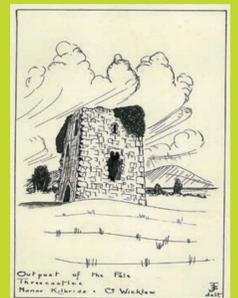
Glenmalure from Table Mountain



J.B. and his cousin Radegande Barden signed the visitors' book at McGuirk's Teahouse, Lough Bray, during a walk in April 1933



J.B.'s drawing of rock carvings at Tibbradden



J.B.'s drawing of Threecastles



Drawing: J.B.'s cartoon strip in Gaelic



Evening Herald April 14th 1939



Evening Herald August 25th 1949 page 3 extract

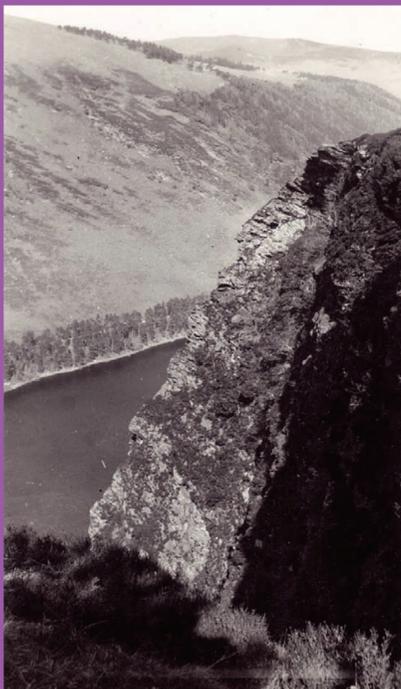
Evening Herald February 16th 1951 page 3 extract



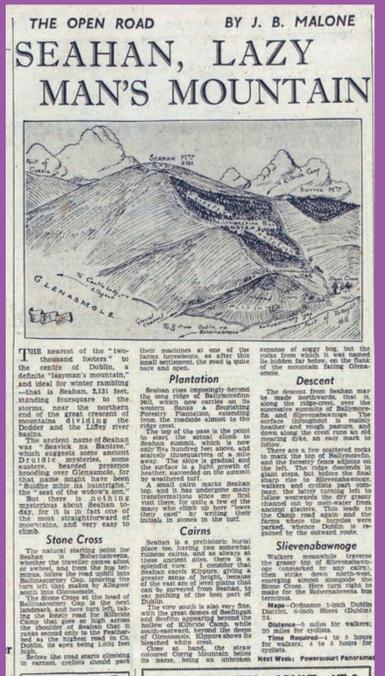
The Cloghoge Valley



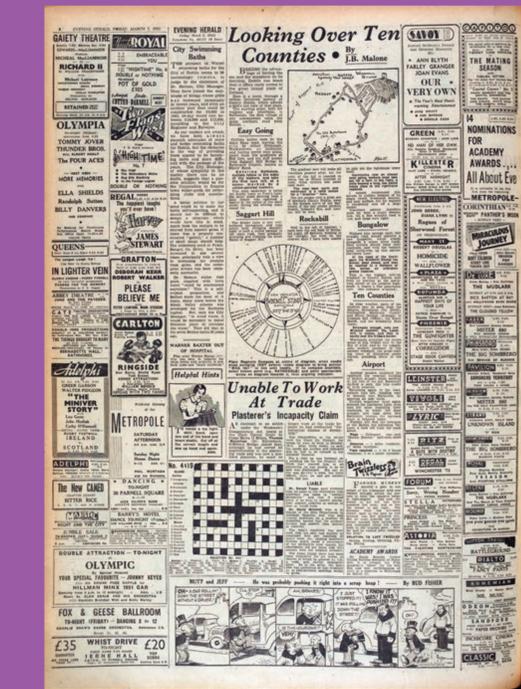
Lough Tay



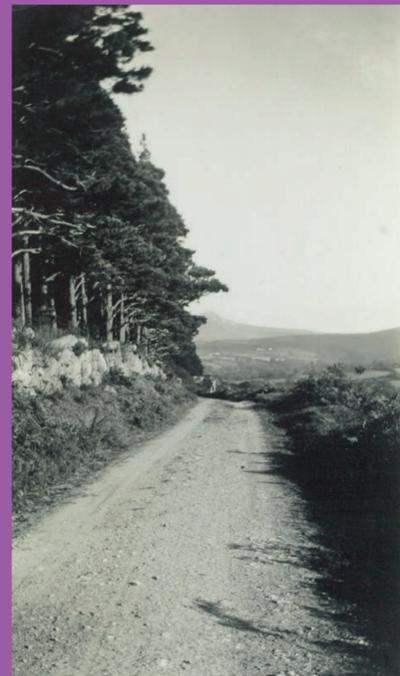
A view from the cliffs of the Spink, Glendalough, c 1939



Evening Herald July 25th 1938



Evening Herald March 2nd 1951



Knockree Boreen c 1940



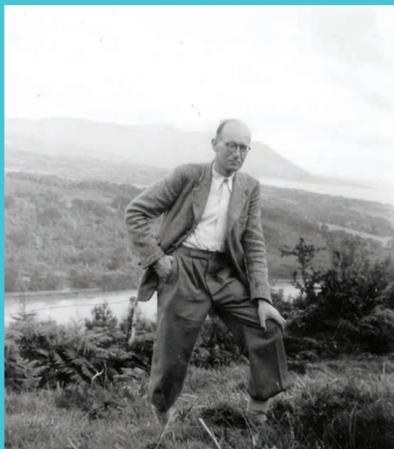
Evening Herald May 16th 1940

Family Life

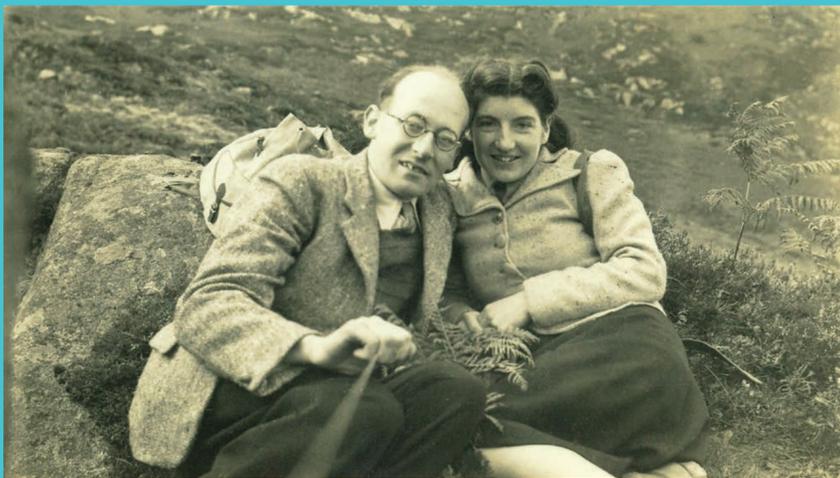
J.B. Malone's cousin Nuala Barden worked in Rathmines Library, and in 1942 she introduced him to her colleague Peg Garry, who also worked there. Peg enjoyed walking, and was invited by J.B. to join a group of like-minded young men and women on a hike in the mountains. Soon Peg was accompanying him on many of his 'marches' and she used to laugh when she related that she was often a guinea-pig for his routes. Often, to get as far into Wicklow as possible, they cycled out into the mountains and started walking, and other times they took the Blessington bus. In 1947 the couple married and honeymooned in Warrenpoint, County Down. They moved in to a new home in the appropriately-named Walkinstown, and had three children, Rose, Stephen and John, who, when they were old enough, joined them in their walks.



Peg at Narrowwater, Warrenpoint, County Down 1947



J.B. on Flagstaff Hill, 1947



Peg Garry and J.B. Malone, c 1945

32. Kells pr.
B.L. h.d.
D. Llin. 8.
12. 4. 67

Dear Sir, I wish to draw your attention to a recent article you had in your series "Know your Dublin" in which you state that the only half door in Dolly is in the Combs. I would like to state that there is also a half door at 79 Old Kildalton (P. of Dublin) is the name over the shop.

Yours faithfully,
Philomena Healy

Letter to J.B. re Know Your Dublin, April 1967

35, Walkinstown Road,
Dublin 12
28th July 1971

Sir,
I was very interested in J. B. Costello's self and than O. Clarke's sketch of "Seven Heavens" (P. of Dublin). When a child I lived very near it "Castle James". It was then owned and lived in by a Protestant family named Abraham who were friends of my father's neighbours also. They had at the end of the house a very large garden which went the whole length of "Ormsdale Avenue". It contained an orchard and beautiful flowers. At one end of it was built the old school house, built by the Rev. John O'Connell, Bishop of Down, who lived there in Ormsdale Avenue. It was bought afterwards by a Protestant butcher named Birmingham who converted it into flats and was a relative of the architect.

There was also a large house at the foot of Ormsdale Avenue "Dagles House". It was built in 1800. The large door was always open and we children would run in and had free access to the back of it running through what used to be the cellars. One family by the name of Berkeley lived in it for a long time. I am wondering now! could the architect find the origin of this house, a loved memory of my childhood.

Yours sincerely,
Doctor Brian O'Sullivan (Mrs)

P.S. One of the Abraham boys left for the U.S. before going he asked his chum to keep an eye on his sweetheart. He did that all right and married her. That.

Letter to J.B. re Know Your Dublin, July 1971

Dear Sir,
I was interested in your "Know your Dublin" article which got 14,187 views as I spent my childhood years there. Did you know Nicholas Place, was built on what was "Blanchet St. or Plunketum" as it was called. I got this from a man, who died on his eighties, about twenty years now, and he often spoke of this street as he knew it in his youth, as he was born and lived around this area. (Hardway Lane) It was full of Leasing tenements.

Light were common there, like you take your life in your hands, after dark there I never heard much of this street but it did suit of course, Bill Kelly's, was something mentioned in common with the Bull.

Regards,
Mrs Dorey
Alisa Deblay

Letter to J.B. re Know Your Dublin, Vanished Gates

JOHN COSTELLO & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS
26 UPPER FITZWILLIAM STREET DUBLIN 2 TELEPHONES 65736 & 64880

13th January, 1972.

Mr. J. B. Malone,
115 Walkinstown Road,
DUBLIN 12

Dear Mr. Malone,
Re: Portobello House

Can I pick your brains please? I have a job to restore (and convert to offices) the above house. Now I am trying to discover if there exists any original drawing or print of the building when it was constructed in 1805. I have come across one in a book on the canals based on a print which is in the National Library - it is not very helpful.

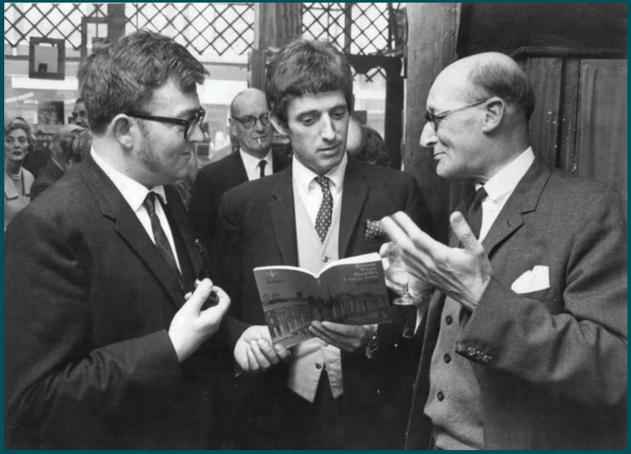
I am also rather keen to establish an outline history of the building. I know something about the hotel but I would like to get some information on the nursing home - there must have been some notable births and deaths.

I am very sorry to trouble you and would be more than pleased if you would telephone me some time.

Regards,
Yours sincerely,
John Costello.

John Costello B Arch MRIBA ARIBA

Letter to J.B. from John Costello, Architect, January 1972



Liam C. Martin and J.B. Malone at the launch of Know Your Dublin



Liam C. Martin's drawing of Trinity College entrance, presented in April 1970 to J.B. Malone on the occasion of the publication of their one thousandth collaboration on Know Your Dublin

159 Bannow Road,
Balm Wood,
Dublin, 7.
27th July 1968.

J. B. Malone, Esq.
Dear Sir,
I wonder if you could find time to answer the following question, please.
Just by Pine Forest, about 30 or 40 yards off the roadway in a field we saw a wooden cross hid onto a tree with ivy. The tree had overgrown the cross so it must have been there for quite some time. Some people said the tree had some association with the murder of "Thomas Bright" where that it was the scene of his death during the "troubles". So perhaps you could tell me.
There is a very old, small, disused grave yard on the road from Balm to Bunsink. There is a stagnant pool of water in it, and is a really gloomy place. Do you know it?
Locally are there any gas lamps still in use in Dublin or suburbs?
Sorry for having to trouble you.
Sincerely yours,
Paul James

Letter to J.B. from Bannow Road, July 1968

Dublin Tourism - Fáilte Dubhlinn

28 Upper O'Connell Street
Dublin 1, Ireland
Dublin Regional Tourism Organisation Limited

Telephone 4772
Telex 3225

31st December, 1968.

Mr. J. B. Malone,
115 Walkinstown Road,
DUBLIN 12.

Dear Mr. Malone,
It is obvious from your column, "Know your Dublin", that you have a great interest in, and knowledge of, Dublin city, people and buildings.
Our company intends erecting plaques on buildings and locations of historical and cultural interest. We would be extremely grateful if you could let us have a list of suggestions for suitable sites for these plaques.
As we hope to have the plaques in position in time for the next tourist season, I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Angela O'Donovan.

Letter to J.B. from Dublin Tourism re advice on commemorative plaques

LEABHARLÁN NAISÍONTA NA hÉIREANN
(National Library of Ireland)
SR. CHILLDARA
(Kildare Street)
ATH CLIAITH, 2
(Dublin, 2).

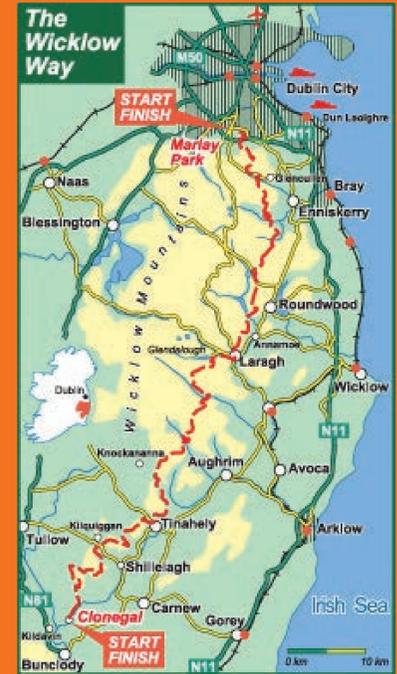
2nd November, 1971.

Mr. J. B. Malone,
115 Walkinstown Road,
DUBLIN 12.

Dear Mr. Malone,
I am grateful to you for your letter and for your gift to the Library of "Know your Dublin". At the moment I am in touch with L.C. Martin about the original drawings. It is very good of you to offer to allow us make xerox copies of your manuscript of the current "Know your Dublin" series. We would be delighted to do this, and would not keep the original longer than a day or two. Perhaps you would be good enough to deposit it with me at your convenience.
With regard to A Book of the Rent and Revenues ... of the City of Dublin ... 1671, I am afraid I had previously got the wrong date. Now that I have the correct reference I am writing to the Bodleian and ordering a microfilm copy of the manuscript. We will let you know when it arrives.
I appreciate your kind words about the staff and the Library. We are striving to expand the Library and set up proper departments that will enable us to give a proper service to the public - and we are not without hope.

Yours sincerely,
P. Henchy
Director,
(P. Henchy)

Letter to J.B. re Know Your Dublin, from Dr Henchy, November 1971



The Wicklow Way

The Wicklow Way and the Way-Marked Trails

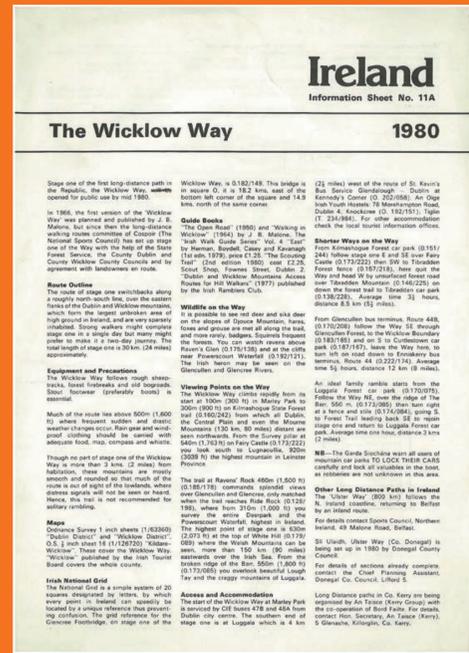
J. B. Malone's idea for a long-range walking route in Wicklow dates back at least as far as 1942. He was an avid reader, and after subsequently reading of similar routes in Europe and in Britain, he began to look closely at the possibilities. Originally he had envisaged a circular route, but after many treks though West Wicklow, he found that there were significantly more rights-of-way difficulties in the rural countryside there than there were in the east in the mountains, and so decided to confine the route to a simple north-south line.

J. B. gave a talk to An Oige in 1966 in which he set out the route he had chosen, but it remained simply as an aspiration until 1977, when an initiative of John Bruton, then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, changed everything. Bruton was instrumental in the setting up of a committee to look into the establishment of long and short distance walking routes in the Republic 'for the benefit of those who enjoy walking as a recreation, and in furtherance of his policy for the promotion of 'Sport For All' and the involvement of a greater number of the population in leisure exercise.'

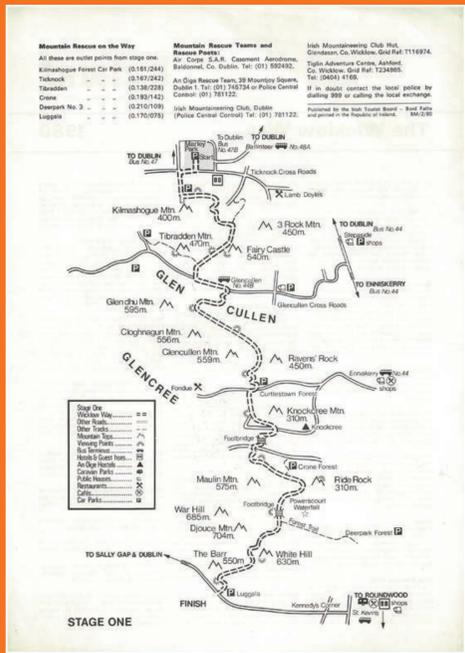


J.B. on the Wicklow Way, Glenmalur 1987

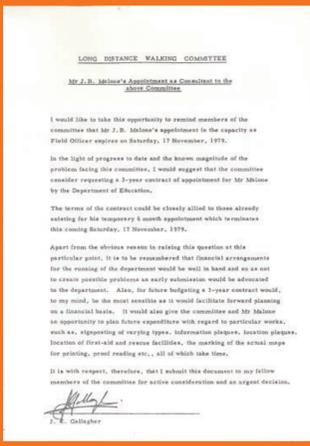
Besides the stated purpose of providing for health-giving walking amenities, there was another objective alluded to. The Northern Ireland Sports Council had recently established the Ulster Way walking route in Northern Ireland, and had offered to link it up with a similar route that might be developed in the Republic. Bruton's new committee was set up under the auspices of the National Sports Council and named the Long Distance Walking Routes Committee, and was to give priority to the Donegal area with a view to establishing a route that would connect with the Ulster Way. There can have been very few offers of cross border co-operation of this sort in 1977, and it seems clear that the government's drive to establish our own walking routes may have had much to do with being seen to take up the Northern Council's offer. An Taisce, the heritage body, were asked for a representative to sit on the new committee. It seemed to them that J B Malone, who was a member of the Council of An Taisce, was the ideal man for this purpose. As it turned out, Malone knew more than most of the committee members about walking routes, and was in a position to push for the first Way-Marked Trail to be developed in Wicklow, where he had volunteered to carry out much of the preliminary ground work. The Committee saw that the project could be quickly realisable, and backed Malone's efforts. In 1979 J B Malone retired from his job in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. It had become clear to the voluntary committee that a full-time walks Officer would be needed to carry out the committee's policies, and Malone was asked if he would take on the job. It must have been a dream come true for J.B.: he used to chuckle that he was now getting well paid for his life-time hobby. In 1980 the first guide leaflet to the Wicklow Way route was published by Bord Failte, and by 1984 the complete route was laid down, Ireland's first Long Distance Walking Route.



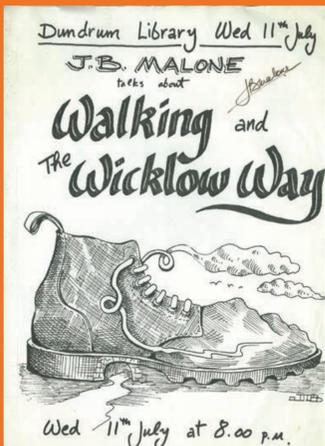
Early Wicklow Way information leaflet 1980



Early Wicklow Way information leaflet 1980



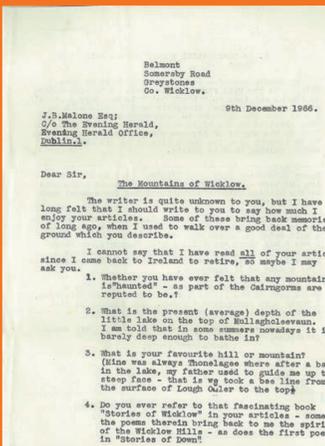
Long Distance Walking Committee notice of J.B. Malone's Appointment as Consultant November 1979



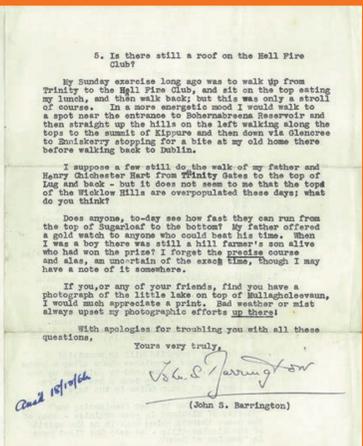
Notice of Talk on Wicklow Way at Dundrum Library



Letter to J.B. from Professor Patmore Hull University, February 1980



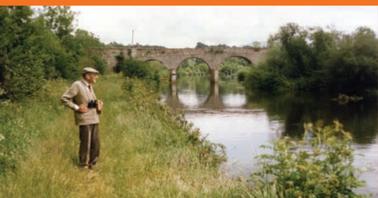
Letter to J.B. from Greystones, December 1966



Letter of appreciation to J.B. from Cospoir



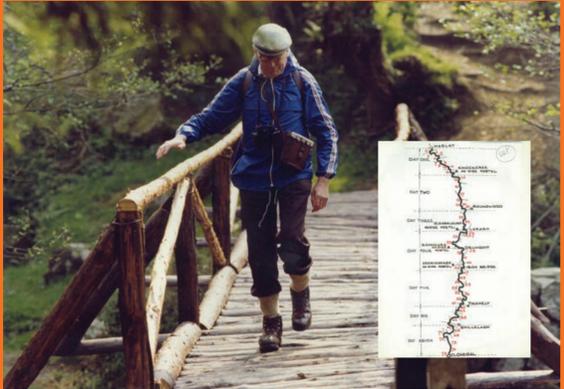
Letter of appreciation to J.B. from Cospoir



J.B. on the Barrow Way near Borris, County Carlow, June 1989



J.B. on the Wicklow Way in Glenmature



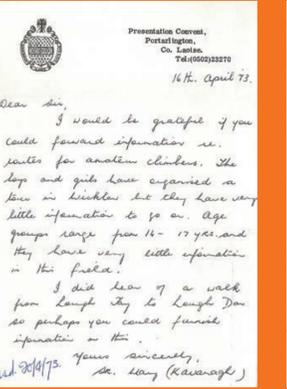
J.B. on a Wicklow Way Bridge, Glenmature



Letter of thanks to J.B. from Donal Barrington of the High Court, September 1985



J.B. and others at the launch of The Complete Wicklow Way in 1988



Letter to J.B. from Sister Mary, Presentation Portllington, April 1973



J.B.'s map of Wicklow Way

Following on the tail of the Wicklow Way J.B. oversaw the establishment of more routes, including the Leinster Way, the Kerry Way and the Dingle Way. It was not until 23 years later, in 2000, that the first official trail was established in Donegal: whether earlier co-operation on a possible cross-border venture would have helped during that sad time is anyone's guess.



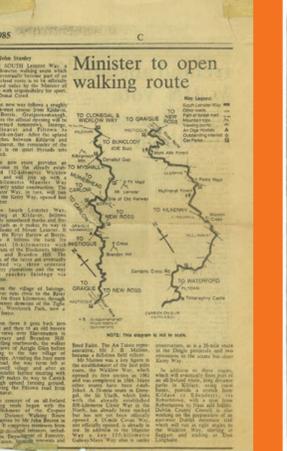
South Leinster Way information sheet 1986



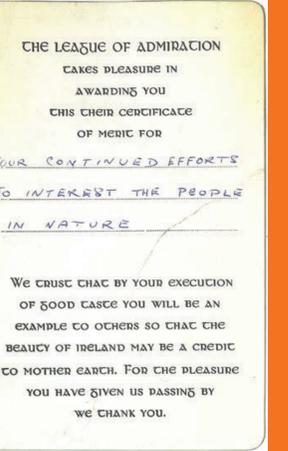
South Leinster Way information sheet 1986



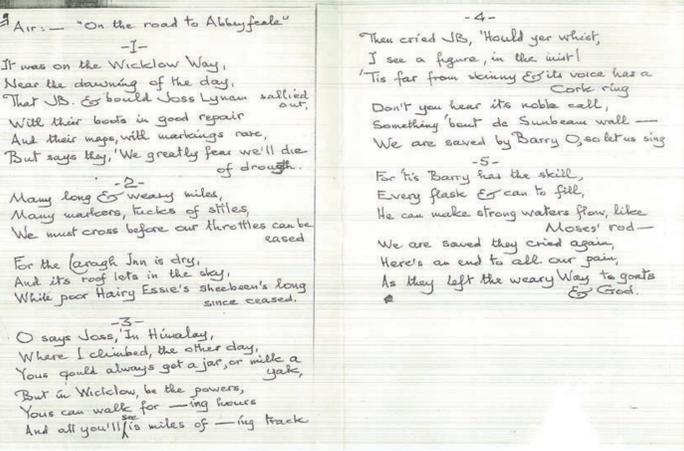
South Leinster Way information sheet 1986



Newspaper report of Minister opening the South Leinster Way, 1985



League of Admiration certificate for J.B.

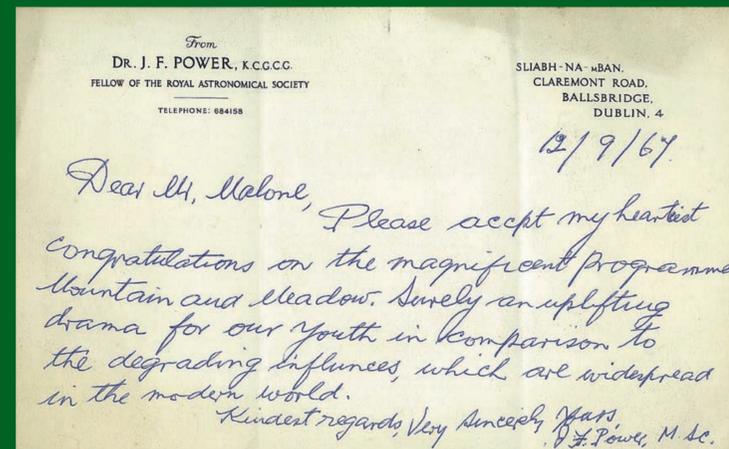


Song in J.B.'s hand - 'On the Road to Abbeyfeale'

Television Work

Mountain and Meadow

In the early days of RTE, J.B. Malone's friend James Plunkett asked him to script, narrate, and appear in a series of fifteen minute television nature programmes called Mountain and Meadow, dealing with the countryside and small towns of Ireland. The first episode of the series, directed by Plunkett, was broadcast in July 1962. Telefis Eireann only began broadcasting at the end of 1961, and these programmes were widely regarded as excellent examples of early home-produced material.



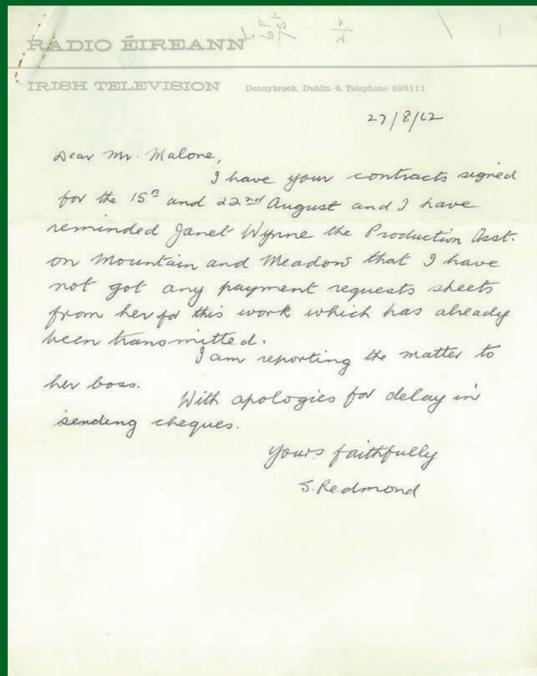
Letter to J.B. from Dr J F Power re Mountain & Meadow, September 1967

Faces of Ireland

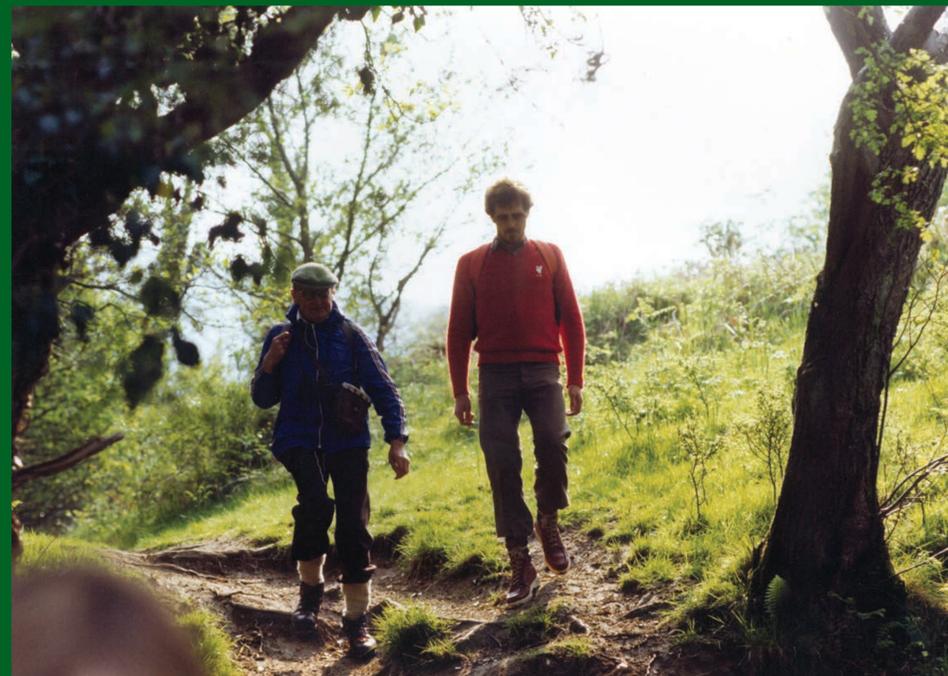
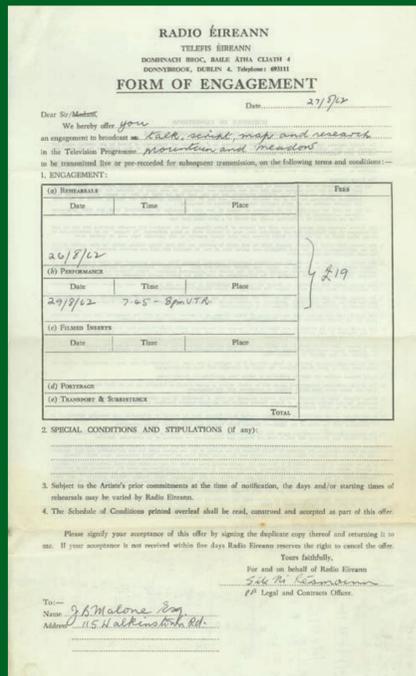
In collaboration with Liam C.Martin, J.B. Malone wrote the script for this programme for RTE in 1965.

The Wicklow Way

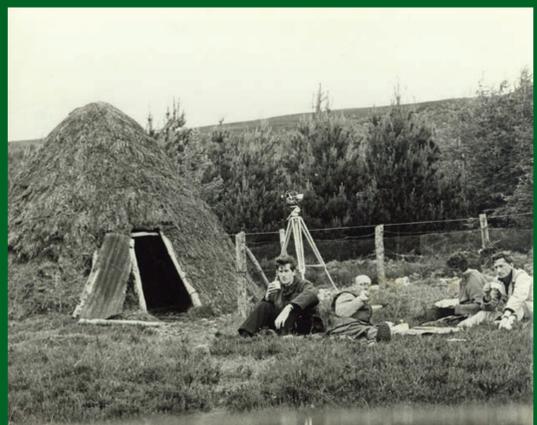
J.B. Malone was a natural for television and RTE again made use of his amiable character and deep knowledge of the Irish countryside when, in 1980, they made a one-hour programme about the Wicklow Way. In the programme, which was directed by his old friend, James Plunkett (author of Strumpet City), he walks the route in the company of Aengus McAnally, pointing out the attractions of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains.



Letter from Radio Eireann to J.B. Malone re payment for Mountain & Meadow



J.B. and Aengus McAnally on TV shoot for Wicklow Way



J.B. and James Plunkett on TV shoot for Mountain and Meadow



J.B. and Aengus McAnally on TV shoot for Wicklow Way

The Day Job

Apart from the many miles of trekking over the mountains and walking through Dublin City researching his regular columns in the Evening Herald, J.B. Malone carried out a prodigious amount of research in the National Library, where he became very friendly with the Director, Dr Henchy. One would be excused, seeing his literary output, for believing that writing was his profession. Malone, however, worked all his life in a 'day job', and was aged 66 before he retired and was appointed the Field Officer for the Long Distance Walking Routes and could address all his energies to his work on leisure walking. He said at the time he was the luckiest man in the world, to be paid for doing what he loved. He was employed by a builder's providers company and an insurance company before joining the Army in 1940. During the Emergency he was stationed in Dublin, Athlone and Letterkenny before he was posted to GHQ in Parkgate Street where he was trained in mapping techniques. He was promoted first to corporal and then to sergeant, and worked under Colonel Dan Bryan in G2, the Irish Army's Intelligence Section. After the Emergency and a brief employment with Maguire and Gatchell, marble merchants, J.B. Malone was appointed as an engineering draughtsman for Posts and Telegraphs, surveying the main cable routes throughout the country. He retired from Posts and Telegraphs in 1979.



Cartoon drawn by J.B. of Headquarters staff in the G2 office titled 'The Watching Eye on Europe'

TELEPHONE: 4329/4332. TELEGRAMS: 'GLORNEY', DUBLIN.

C. P. GLORNEY LTD.,
BUILDING MATERIAL MERCHANTS,
OFFICE & SHOWROOM
5 & 6, GEORGES QUAY,
DUBLIN.
12th January, 1935.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Mr. John J. Malone has been with us for about seven months as assistant in our office. Mr. Malone is a steady, serious worker and carried out all the duties entrusted to him satisfactorily. He was punctual in attendance and his conduct was in every way satisfactory. He now leaves us to take up another appointment in the Midlands and we wish him every success.

For: C. P. GLORNEY Limited

Messrs Glorney's reference for J.B. Malone, January 1935

Irish Employers' Mutual Insurance Association, Limited
HEAD OFFICE, WESTLAND HOUSE, 13 PEARSE STREET, DUBLIN, O.S.

3rd. September, 1936.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Mr. J. B. Malone was employed by this Association from 14th January 1935 until the Association decided to go into Liquidation on 10th June, 1936.

He was originally engaged as a Clerk in the Accounts Department and passed from this position to the New Business Department where he was promoted to the position of Chief Clerk. He was later transferred to the Claims Department and was eventually appointed Chief Clerk of this Department.

Mr. Malone is a young man of good education, and is conscientious, intelligent and reliable. He has a knowledge of Book-keeping and is a good correspondent.

I have no hesitation in recommending Mr. Malone for any position similar to that which he held with this Association.

J. J. Keary
Secretary.

Irish Employers Mutual Insurance Association Ltd reference for J.B. Malone, September 1936

IRISH EMPLOYERS' MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION).
13 PEARSE STREET, DUBLIN, O.S.

10th October, 1936. Official Liquidator.

When I was appointed Official Liquidator of the above Company on the 4th July, 1936, I retained the services of Mr. J. B. Malone, who had been a member of the old staff, to assist me in the liquidation.

As the liquidation progressed the need for Mr. Malone's services gradually diminished, until, finally on the 8th October I was obliged to let him go.

The opinion I formed of Mr. J. B. Malone during the short period for which he worked for me, was that he was conscientious, hard-working and he appeared to have a considerable knowledge of the claims end of the business.

Circumstances over which Mr. Malone had no control, were responsible for his losing his position, and I trust he will obtain some suitable employment with the minimum of delay.

L. J. Shill
Official Liquidator.

Official Liquidator's reference for J.B. Malone, October 1936

GUTHRIE 71881 (Telephone)
UMHUR THAGARTHA (Reference No.)

ROINN COSANTA, GEATA NA PAIRCE, BAILE ATHA CLIATH, (DUBLIN).
4th April, 1946.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

No. E/433669 Sergeant Malone, John B., Department of Defence Administrative Company.

This is to certify that Sergeant Malone who joined the Forces as a Private in 1940 after satisfactory service principally as a Clerk in other establishments first came under my control in August, 1941 and was promoted Sergeant in April, 1942. Prior to his promotion he had satisfactorily completed a course at the Ordnance Survey in drawing and topographical work. Apart from his capacity for drawing and topographical work, I have found Sergeant Malone at all times a Non-Commissioned Officer of considerable intelligence, diligence and reliability. He was not in fact employed on ordinary clerical or administrative duties but devoted a good deal of his time to preparing summaries or certain activities for publication and circulation. His intelligence and educational ability is far above that of the average Non-Commissioned Officer. He is sober and honest, and I have no hesitation in recommending him to any employer requiring his services.

Dan Byran
(Dan Bryan) COLONEL.
C.S.O. G.2 BRANCH.

Dept. of Defence reference for J.B. Malone, signed by Colonel Dan Byran, April 1946

PAGE 1

FOIRM IARRTHA SAOIRE BLIANTULA AGUS SAOIRE CUTIMH.

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J.B.'s Posts and Telegraphs timesheets 1957- 1958

ÓGLAIGH NA hÉIREANN.
CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE.

A. This is to Certify that John B. Malone enlisted in the Defence Forces for the duration of the emergency on the 15th day of September 1939 and was discharged on the 15th day of May 1946 in consequence of his discharge from the Defence Forces.

His service comprised 5 yrs. and 112 days Army Service and an aggregate period of 5 yrs. and 112 days Army Service and Indefinite Leave.

Discharge effected at McKee Barracks Dublin this 15th day of May 1946.

CHARACTER: Very Good

Oglaigh Na hEireann Certificate of Discharge, May 1946

D. DESCRIPTION

Height 5' 10"
Colour of Hair Brown
Colour of Eyes Blue
Scars or Marks None
Complexion Fresh
Address on date of Discharge No. 10 Rathgar Ave. Dublin

E. Trade or other Specialist Qualifications

Check - Class 1

Officer Commanding D. O'D.

A.F. 118. PASS FOR PEDAL CYCLE. Pass No. 190831

CATH. D.O.D. COY. LATHAIR McKee aka. (UNIT) (STATION)

Tá Cead ag Uimh. Air (Army No.) 433669 Céim (Rank) cpl. Malone J.

Seóladh had a bitair as lathair (Address while Absent) Own property.

Pass for pedal cycle, McKee Barracks, March 1942

ÓRGANAS SUIBHREACHTA ODRÓNÁIS (Ordnance Survey Office). PAIRC AN FHOINN-ÁIRGE (Phoenix Park). ÁTH CLIATH (Dublin). 12th. November, 1945.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:-

I CERTIFY that during the period 23rd. September to 10th. October, 1941, No. 433669 Sergeant J. B. Malone received instruction at the Ordnance Survey in the following:-

- (1). Enlargement of maps and preparation of Wall Charts.
- (2). Tracing from small scale maps and preparation of overlays.
- (3). Grid System. Identification and plotting of points by Co-ordinates and the use of the romer.
- (4). Construction of Scales.
- (5). Drawing and use of Conventional Signs.

Sergeant Malone, who had previous knowledge of drawing and topography, took a keen interest in his work and showed outstanding ability during the course.

N. MacNeill
(N. MacNeill) Colonel.
Assistant Director of Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey reference for J.B. Malone, November 1945



The Office Staff, Posts and Telegraphs

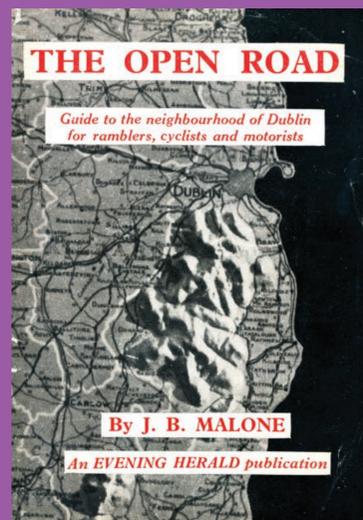
J.B. gives a speech on the occasion of his retirement from Posts and Telegraphs

J.B. Malone's Books

J.B. Malone's main writing output was published in the form of newspaper articles, such as his *Open Road* and *Know Your Dublin* columns in the Evening Herald. During his lifetime he produced in excess of 4,000 such articles, a prodigious amount of work for someone working part-time, and this number does not include the many chapters he contributed to books such as *Victorian Dublin*, edited by Tom Kennedy and published in 1980. Between 1950 and 1988, however, Malone produced four books, although during the earlier part of this period relatively few books were published in Ireland.

The Open Road

In 1950 Independent Newspapers Ltd published J B Malone's first book, *The Open Road*, the product of twenty years rambling in the neighbourhood of Dublin. It included some of his own photographs of the hills, and for many years it was the only book dealing with hillwalking that was available in Ireland.



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Rathgar Avenue
Dublin.
Wed. 25. 10. 144.

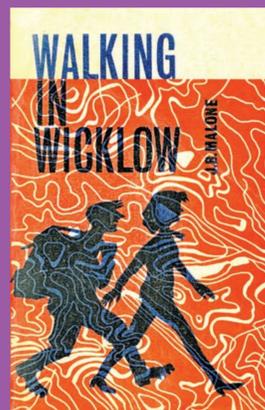
J. Murphy Esq.
Editor,
"Evening Herald"
Dublin (re. "Walking In Wicklow")

Dear Sir,
Reference our conversation of even date, I would like to thank you sincerely for the fine layout you gave to my articles during 1944, despite the constant pressure on your space.

I have now contributed a total of about 116,750 words to the "Herald" since 1938, and

Yours truly,
J.B. Malone

Letter from J.B. to Evening Herald re Walking In Wicklow



Walking In Wicklow

Some twelve years after his first book had appeared, J.B. Malone wrote a much more ambitious guide, dealing mainly with Wicklow. Although there were still more than a dozen publishers in Ireland at the time, it was a difficult period to get a book published, particularly a guide book that dealt with a specialist interest. He tried a number of publishers before his manuscript was accepted by Helicon

Press, which mainly produced books of religious interest. It was advertised as 'the first detailed description of the topography of the Wicklow Mountains that has appeared in a century and a half'. Unfortunately Helicon were not prepared to publish the complete original manuscript, and after a number of chapters were omitted they published, in 1964, a book that represented about half of the original.

In the publication, illustrated with his own clear maps and du Noyer's nineteenth century views, he catered for motorists and cyclists as well as walkers.

I have planned the following scheme for publication in book form.

Title "Walking In Wicklow"

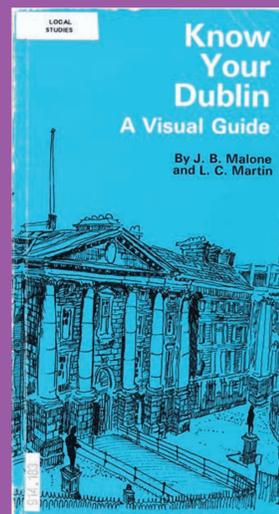
Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Chap. I "Ways & Means" (Introductory) | 20,000 words |
| Chap. II 'The Northern Fringe' | 20,000 words |
| " III Slanece. | 20,000 " |
| " IV Heather Deserts | 20,000 " |
| " V Western Quarters. | 20,000 " |
| " VI The South. | 20,000 " |
| Grand Total | 120,000 words |

Illustrations
Frontispice + 9 = 10 plates.
Folding Panoramas, 3.
Total pages, 400. (and Index).

It would be my intention to make the book appeal to a wider public than ramblers or cyclists, by adding material of general interest, for motorists, anglers, botanists, nature-lovers and antiquarians — in short to bring the book from the guide book to the better 'travel book' class, if possible.

I fully appreciate that supply difficulties would prevent any immediate publication, but I would be very grateful if you would first obtain a quotation from Independent Newspapers Ltd, as I would naturally like to see our long and happy association continued.

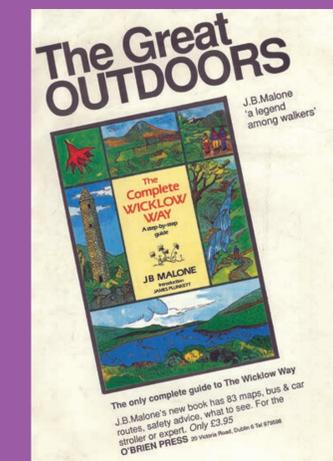
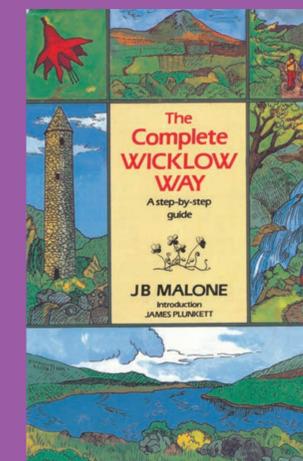


Know Your Dublin

After the production of more than 700 articles for the Evening Herald, J.B. Malone and Liam C. Martin was decided to select the best of the series and publish them in a book. The result was *Know Your Dublin: a Visual Guide*, covering 85 sites and buildings throughout the city, and it was published in 1969.

The Complete Wicklow Way

When the Wicklow Way had been established for a few years, J B Malone wrote his own guide to the long distance walk, *The Complete Wicklow Way: A Step by Step Guide*, which was published by O'Brien Press in 1988. Illustrated by his own maps, it had an introduction by his friend, James Plunkett. Dedicated to his wife Peg, it was a very successful publication, and it continued to sell long after his death.



Evening Herald
Dublin 19

7 March, 1950.

Dear Jack,
As stated in my private conversation on Saturday last, the suggested terms for the book are £25 for the first 1000 copies, £15 for the second thousand, and arrangements to be made for royalties above 2000 copies.

I enclose your draft of the introduction with

Letter from the Evening Herald re book, March 1950

Evening Herald
Dublin 19

(2)

the suggested cuts
Regards to Peg & Rosemary
Yours sincerely
J.B. Malone

BOOK PRINTERS IN
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BOOK PUBLISHERS
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Phone: Dundalk 13.

W. TEMPEST
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ALL GUMMED LABELS:
ADMISSION TICKETS IN
ROLLS; SHOW AND
SPORTS SPECIALISTS
POSTER DESIGNERS
Gills: Tempest, Dundalk.

Sept.
11th,
1945.

Mr. J. B. Malone,
18, Rathgar Avenue,
Rathgar,
DUBLIN.

Dear Sir,

I am returning your album. I congratulate you on the very beautiful large photographs in it. They could not be better — except in Dufay colour or Kodachrome.

There is no hope at all of being able to issue your book now in three parts at 5/- each retail. It has to be borne in mind that on all the sales through booksellers 33 1/3% has to be allowed, though it might be possible to make this 25% provided the demand from the public was imperative. When you allow for this discount, for the expenses of packing, postage, book-keeping, and for a percentage to the author and publisher, the cost of a book to sell at 5/- cannot exceed 2/3 or thereabouts. When I tell you that the binding alone — a simple stiff one — of "An Irish Flora" cost me over 9d a copy, it will be plain that even if that could be reduced by omitting cloth entirely from the spine, the 5/- retail price is out of the question in present conditions.

The most satisfactory way to treat this would be to print the complete book in as good a style as conditions allow — sell it at a price to cover costs and at the same time to print extra copies on thinner paper which could be divided up and sold as separate books of a pocket size at a smaller price.

But this could not be done — by me — at present. Perhaps in a year's time conditions might allow it. There are also complications in such a method of working.

I should like to publish your book.
I believe it good.

Yours truly,
W. Tempest

Letter to J.B. from Dundalgan Press, September 1945

Mountain Companions

During sixty years of mountain walking, many companions benefited from J.B. Malone's knowledge of the hills and every aspect of the countryside. He was always prepared to freely share the fruits of his studies and is remembered by those who knew him as a genial comrade in the mountains.

During the Emergency he met Patrick Healy, an enthusiastic historian and field archaeologist. As they went walking together J.B.'s interest in topographical history grew and historical sites and installations began to feature more in his writings. His curiosity was great, and he had lengthy exchanges of letters with experts such as the antiquarian Liam Price and the Director of the National Library, Dr Patrick Henchy on the location and description of historical sites he had found, which were mutually beneficial.

Walking clubs also gained by their association with J.B.: he was a founder member of The Ramblers, and was made a life member of An Oige in 1980. He also walked regularly with Ireland's oldest walking group, The Brotherhood of the Lug, and because of his great knowledge of the topography of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains, was elected Grand Master in the Field by the brotherhood, and planned the group's fortnightly mountain walks each year.



Peg, Mrs Cronin and J.B. at the Sally Gap, c 1946



Paddy Healy at Dalkey Quarry c 1945



Broken Cross, Ballintubber, near Vallemount, County Wicklow



J.B. Malone and the Harp Stone at Knickeen, Glen of Imall



Collapsed dolmen

The current Grand Master of the Brotherhood, Dermot Quinn, penned these words of his memories of J.B. Malone:

The Open Road was my introduction to the Wicklow Hills. When a neighbour mentioned he belonged to a group called 'The Brothers of the Lug' and that J.B. Malone was leader, I thought this is the group for me. For the next 10 years or so I followed in J.B.'s footsteps every fortnight and got to know him well.

His fund of knowledge on all aspects of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains was impressive. One had only to ask him about any hill, valley, ruin or stone monument and you got a detailed history, delivered with good humour. He always wore the same outfit of stout jacket and trousers (none of your high-tech Goretex !), binoculars around the neck and of course, a flat cap on his head. Indeed, I don't ever remember seeing him without that cap. On one memorable occasion we were struggling through forest above Baravore in Glenmalure on a hot summers day when we came into a clearing with a stream tumbling down into an inviting pool. We threw off our clothes and plunged in, including J.B. But the cap stayed on! Alas, none of us had a camera. J.B. didn't drive, so I would sometimes give him a lift home.

Once, after a walk, he invited me in to the holy of holys - his den in the attic of the house. He had a fine library of books and maps relating to hill walking, alas split up after his death. One treasure I remember was an old ordinance map of Wicklow used by H.C. Hart on his famous walk in 1886 from Terenure to Lugnaquilla with the margins covered with notes and descriptions of that marathon walk. J.B. showed me many delightful green roads and hidden corners of the Wicklow Hills and I will always be grateful to him for that.



J.B., Peg and Mrs Cronin with French aircraft on Djouce 1947



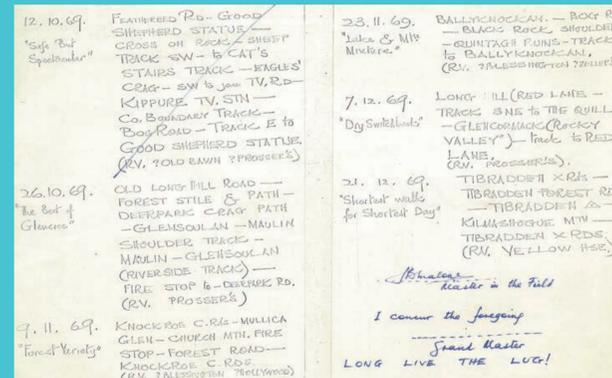
Group at crashed French aircraft, c 1947 with J.B. Malone is in the background.



Peg Garry in a mountain wood c1945



J.B. Malone's annotations on an ordnance survey map indicating traces of ancient buildings in the landscape near Luggala, County Wicklow



Lugs Programme 1969, in J.B.'s hand



J.B. and King William's pedestal, near Ballinacash, County Wicklow



Peg Garry at Ballinascorney Pond c1945



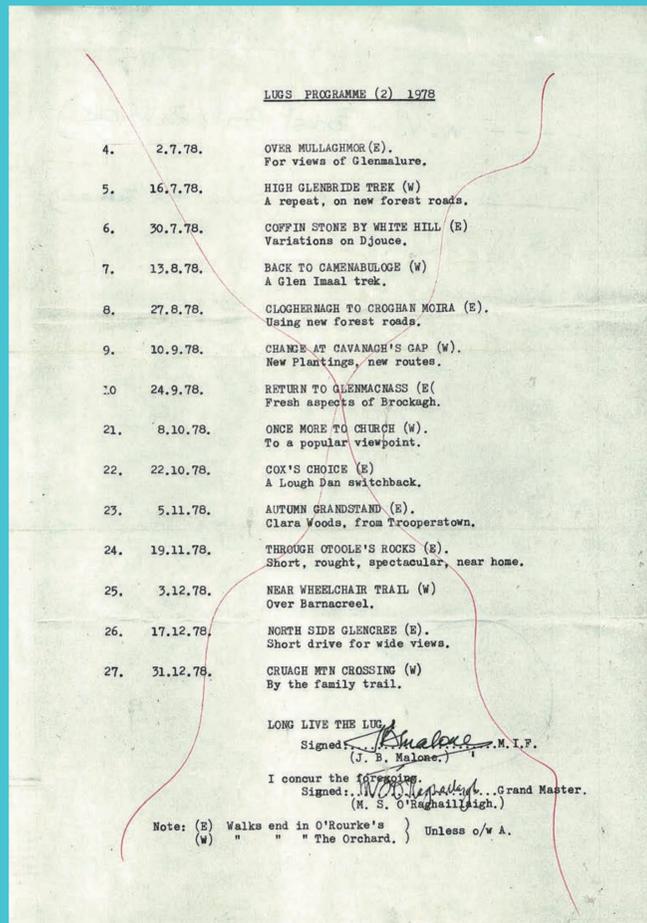
Watercolour of J.B. in Kiltteegan village by John O'Gorman



Kiltteegan County Wicklow today



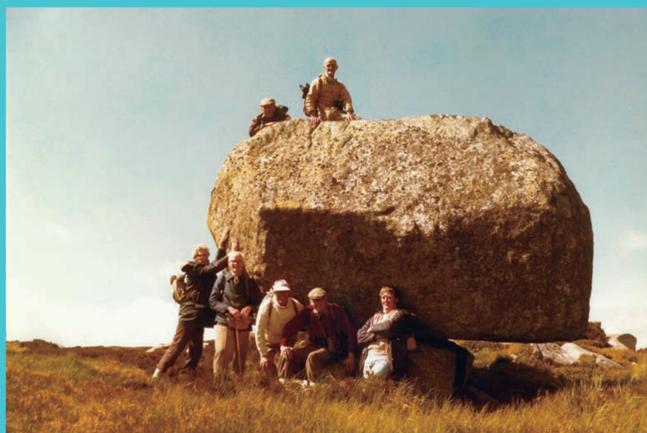
J.B. Malone with group having a mountain picnic



Lugs Programme 1978, signed by J.B.



The Lugs on Anvil Rock 1976



The Lugs at the Big Rock, Mall Hill, Wicklow, July 1979



J.B. climbing a gate as Brendan Mangan and the Brotherhood of the Lugs look on



The Lugs on the Spink May 1983



J.B. and group on Waymarked Trail



The Lugs in the mountains: Dermot Quinn, the present Grand Master, to J.B.'s left



The Lugs have a 'sos' above Glenasmole

Malone's Legacy

After his death, Billy Cannon, a Wicklow stone mason who did not know J.B. Malone personally, but who enjoyed a lifetime of reading his articles and walking his routes, carved a granite stone in his memory. It was unveiled above Luggala, J.B.'s favourite part of the Wicklow Way.

J.B. Malone's Wicklow Way is 131 kilometres long. Today, there are forty-four such walking routes spread throughout Ireland, and, if you add Loop Walks, Pilgrim Paths, Coillte Forest Trails, Independent Trails, Mountain access Routes, Sli na Slainte Trails and Greenways, the national network stretches for over 7,200 kilometres. J.B. Malone's main purpose in establishing the Wicklow Way and other routes was to attract people into the hills and mountains to enjoy the riches that he had enjoyed for so many years, and to do so safely and comfortably. Today 300,000 Irish people and 742,000 visitors use our walking trails every year, and the estimated revenue, so far, from overseas walking visitors, is 650,000,000 euro. The existence of Way-Marked Trails in agriculturally poor parts of Ireland have helped to keep young people, who otherwise would have had to emigrate, at home, offering them, in their homeplace, a wide range of employment and business opportunities related to Way-Marked Trails

There are no statistics that might measure the improvement in the general health of all the legions of Irish walkers who have been inspired to take to the hills by J.B. Malone, and the subsequent savings to our health services.

There is no information available on how the widening of interest in the Irish countryside, flora and fauna generated by hill-walking has ultimately assisted in the general appreciation of our landscapes and its inhabitants and efforts being made to ensure they are being protected.

It seems clear, however, that J.B. Malone, in encouraging people to get out and walk, and in passing along the knowledge he gleaned from his life-long work in the hills of Ireland, must be significantly responsible for all these riches we enjoy today.



Photo of Peg Malone greeting James Plunkett before the unveiling of the Malone monument above Luggala



Photo at unveiling of Malone monument above Luggala with Joss Lynam on the right, Patrick Healy and John Malone on the left



The late Billy Cannon, sculptor of the monument



Donegal vista [courtesy Michael Fewer]



Sheep's Head Way [courtesy Michael Fewer]



Walking on the Ballyhoura Way [courtesy Failte Ireland]



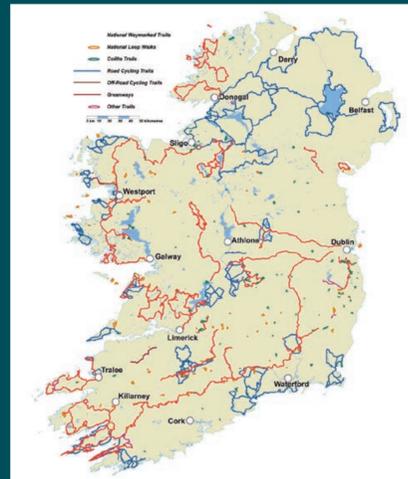
Walkers in Glendalough [courtesy Failte Ireland]



Walking in the Comeragh Mountains [courtesy Failte Ireland]



National Way-Marked Trails in 2014



Loop Walks, Coillte Trails, Greenways and other Trails in 2014



Barrow Way, Graiquenamanagh, [copyright Jason Baxter]



Fauna on the Way-Marked Trails [courtesy Michael Fewer]



Botany on the Way-Marked Trails [courtesy Michael Fewer]



Fauna on the Way-Marked Trails [courtesy Michael Fewer]



Fauna on the Way-Marked Trails [courtesy Michael Fewer]



Nire Valley Bog Trot [courtesy Eimear Whittle]



Mayo vista [courtesy Michael Fewer]