

## Memories of My Handsome Nephew Mark

**At 00.03hours on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1982 Rita & Terry Burgan became the proud parents of their one & only son, Mark Terence Burgan. Their gorgeous baby boy weighed in at just 41lb 4.0z with beautiful sparkling eyes and blonde hair. I remember it well !!!**

**For the first few months (close on a year) Mark lived with his parents at his Nin & Grandad 'Collos' House, known to us all as 'the Family seat at Number 19. Mark had a very special bond with his Nin & Grandad (Ronnie & Mary Collins). Mark took his first steps whilst living there with them & throughout his life he always visited them on a regular basis. He loved them dearly.**

**He happily played in their back garden along with his sisters & many cousins. He would pretend to be riding a horse with the sweeping brush between his legs & using twigs for a gun and a tea towel as a bandanna. He very soon became known as his Mum & Dads 'Little Soldier'.**

**I can recall one day when my dad ( Mark's Grandad Collo ) was singing a Ralph Harris Song called " two little boys. " Our Mark & David were one Army whilst our Vincent & Stephen were another. It was funny to watch as they made the gun sounds & slapped their thighs as if to make the horse go faster..until...whoops !! Mark's imitation twig gun ended up in his mouth & he ended up in Alder Hey hospital with a very large hole in the roof of his mouth...bless him...These were the good old days, happy days at Nin & Grandads.... Hmmm can't beat family childhood Memories eh !!**

**Mark's other Grandparents Jimmy & Lilly Burgan lived nearby but Mark never always made it around to visit them as he was terrified of a dog on the Corner. It was called 'Silver' & belonged to MrsMcKenna. He used to crouch behind the hedge of Mrs Griffith's garden to peep around to see if it was out. However I am sure when he did finally make it around the corner, he felt brave about himself for getting passed the dog without being bitten or chased!! Then on the way back he would knock at Mrs Heavy's to ask if she wanted any messages from 'the Van'...knowing she wouldn't but he would still get a handful of sweets or 5p off her and come away thinking he had done a good deed.**

**Mark attended St Joseph's infant school before transferring to Cherryfield then onto his senior school Brookfield. He was known by his teachers to be 'A Credit to teach.' He may not have been the cleverest pupil but he received many awards for his effort & achievements.**

**Mark really was a cute little boy although a little terror & torment at times. I remember going to watch him in one of his first nativity plays. He played a shepherd. As most people know, the shepherds were told to follow the star of David...Mark stood there all dressed up & holding a shepherds crook, he looked up at the Cardboard star, he pointed towards it then looked towards me & his mum saying " My cousins called David isn't he mum" ..the audience roared laughing which nearly made his sister Laura jump off my knee...oh the memories I could write a book of them!!**

**At the age of 16 he studied Mechanical Engineering at Huyton & Roby College. At the end of his course Mark received a trophy for being 'The Most Outstanding Student.' I can recall the extreme proud look on his mother's face as well as a very embarrassing look on Mark's face as I Shouted, That's My Boy ' a title I give to all my handsome nephews.**

**Mark swiftly moved on from playing 'man Hunt', footie, skate boarding In ' The Grove' where he lived, to a more avid interest in the female species, pubs & clubs breaking many hearts on the way !! Oh & paying his sisters to iron his shirts or clean his shoes.**

**Mark idolised his three sisters, Laura, Kate & Jayne & they were so very proud of their one & only brother. He was forever tormenting them from children to grown ups. He was forever protective of them & they respected him for this. He had nicknames for them all, 'Lugs' 'Kags' & 'Jabs'. Mark loved his sisters dearly and was forever watching out for them, he was their 'Big Brother' & they loved him so much, he could never do any wrong in their eyes or heart. That brotherly, sisterly love will be there forever. Mark could never have had three finer sisters or they a more handsome brother.**

**At 17 Mark Joined the army & was so to become an Irish Guard alongside his Cousin David Sheerin.**

**Mark loved to spend time with his family & friends. He also loved to spend time at his Aunty Sheilas. So much so people used to think he was a Sheerin as he was never away from there. He even called Mrs Sheerin 'Nanny sheerin.'**

**When he came home on weekend leave he made a bee line to meet up there to see all his cousins & friends in the grove. Some of his best friends being Mick Appo, Lee Gillmore, Anthony Locket, Roy Brown, Liam Ross, Nicky Clemence & Mick Rafferty. 'The Ben Sherman Gang' .**

**Mark had happy times as a child and young adult in 'the grove' & I'm sure many memories can be recalled by so many of his family & friends. He loved the Halloween parties they used to have, gave him chance to 'duck' his sister's head in the bowl of water 'Duck apple'..everytime he came home off leave, Rita would do a little party before the Ben Sherman gang would go clubbing, leaving his sisters to clear the mess. The girls used to love decorating the house up outside when they knew he was coming home.**

**Mark would go to his beloved Anfield with his Dad to watch his favourite football Team, Liverpool and for a couple of pints in the 12/5 club, bit of father and son time.**

**Years of memories went by, then one night in a club in Liverpool Called 'The Rubber Soul' Mark met Leanne, who very soon became his Wife. Together they had a beautiful Baby Boy, their one & only Son 'Archie.' Sadly they suffered such a heartbreaking time, when their beautiful Boy was born sleeping.**

**As a soldier Mark served in Spain, Germany, Poland, Belize, Oman, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.**

**On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 Mark was tragically killed in Afghanistan when the vehicle he was driving was blown up by an Improvised Explosive Device.**

**Mark Terence Burgan was a perfect Son, Husband, Daddy, Brother, Grandson, Nephew, Cousin, Son in Law & Brother In law. I know Mark was proud & honoured when he was asked by one of his best friends 'Eggy' to be Godfather to his son Leighton Byrne.**

**L/Sgt Burgan was a much respected soldier of The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Irish Guards & will be greatly missed by his all who knew him. Especially his childhood friends in the grove , his Irish Guard Family of 'brothers' to name but a few, Colour Sgts Eugene McGillicuddy, Jimmy Ashton, Paul Patterson, Tony Byrne, the list is endless.**

**Mark...You will be forever in Our Hearts,simply unforgettable' To me you will always be 'My Boy'**

**To your mum, dad, wife, sisters, nin, family & friends you will Always be our Hero & Forever A Legend...'You'll Never Walk Alone. ...**

**QUIS SEPARABIT**

**Aunty Colette xx**