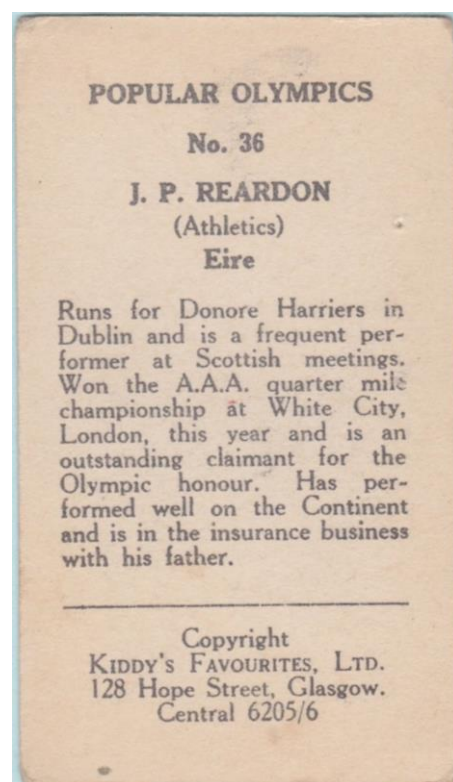
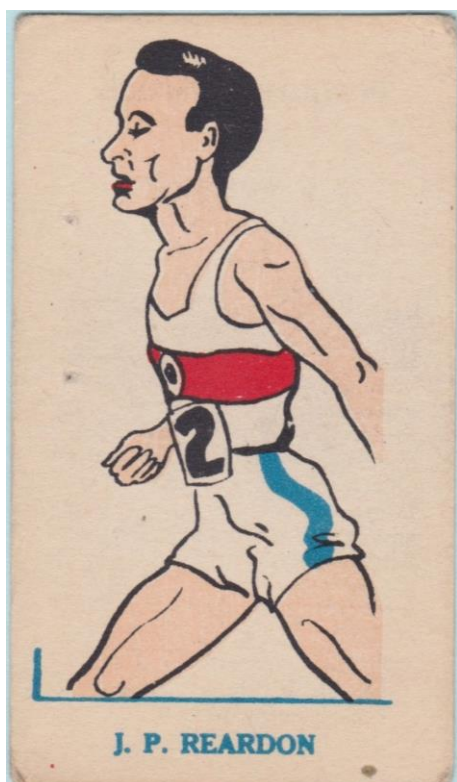


TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Jimmy Reardon

by Michael O'Dwyer

Jimmy Reardon was born on 18 October 1925 at Parteen Villa, Birdhill, County Tipperary – on the banks of the River Shannon, next to Parteen Villa weir. He was a son of William J. Reardon and Deborah Reardon (née O'Rourke). His father was native of Dublin, and his mother was native of Gortboy, Kilmallock, and they got married in St Ethelburga's Church, Barking, London, on 29 June 1921. At around the age of four Jimmy Reardon and his family moved to Pepperstown, County Louth, and he went to the De La Salle school in Ardee, and a few years later they moved to Dublin. There he attended Synge Street CBS, and St Mary's College, Rathmines, where he set Leinster school records at 220 yards and was wing on the St Mary's side beaten by Blackrock College in a Leinster senior schools rugby final in 1943. Attached to Donore Harriers, in Dublin, he raced and won many races in Ireland, Great Britain and on the continent with perhaps his best win being the 1947 English 440 yd title in 48.3 seconds. The following year Jimmy Reardon headed back to London for the 1948 Olympics where in the first round he won his 400 m heat in 48.4, and was second in the quarter-final in 48.3. He was unlucky to be drawn in by far the toughest semi-final where he ran 47.8 but narrowly failed to make the final. He also competed in the 4 x 400 m relay at the London Olympics with Charles Denroche, Reggie Myles and Paul Dolan. The Irish team was disqualified in the heats for an illegal baton changeover. On Good Friday, 15 April 1949, when Jimmy Reardon left Cobh, County Cork, on the *SS America* for the United States to attend Villanova University, Philadelphia, he went on to become the first foreign athlete on a track and field scholarship anywhere in the United States. He received a bachelor of science degree in economics from Villanova in 1954. Affectionately known as 'The Captain', he was the recipient of the Knocknagow hall of fame award at the 1997 Cidona Sports Awards. Jimmy Reardon died on 20 June 2019 at Leopardstown Park Hospital, Foxrock, Dublin, aged ninety-three, and is interred in Dean's Grange cemetery.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

Amateur Athletic Union Championships

1946	220 yd	23.2
1947	440 yd	51.6

All-Ireland AAU/NIAAA Championships

1946	220 yd	23.5
1947	440 yd	51.0

Amateur Athletic Association of England Championships

1947	440 yd	48.3
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