



THE DEFENCE FORCES MAGAZINE

# AN COSANTÓIR

[www.dfmagazine.ie](http://www.dfmagazine.ie)

(ESTABLISHED 1940)

Price: €3.00 (Stg £2.70)



MARCH 2016



IRISHMEN & IRISH WOMEN  
& of the dead generations for  
her old tradition of nation  
us, summons her children  
for her freedom: Having o  
her manhood through h  
organisation, the Irish R  
and through her open  
Irish Volunteers an  
patiently perfect  
ly waited for the  
now seizes the  
exiled children  
Europe, but re  
she strikes in  
clare the right  
ership of Ireland  
Irish destinie  
The long us  
ple & governm

1916  
2016

## COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

ISSN 0010-9460

55



9 770010 946001



# SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!

2 years subs for €50.00 and 4 years for €90.00

## Subscriber's Details (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name: .....

Address: .....

## I would like to subscribe for:

1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ 4 Years ☐

Starting with issue No: .....

I enclose Cheque/PO payable to: An Cosantóir

**Post to:** An Cosantóir, DFHQ, Block 5, Ceannt  
Bks, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

or contact us by phone: or email to pay by  
Debit/Credit Card

**Hotline:** +353 (0)45 44 5312

**Email:** Subs@military.ie

**Web:** www.dfmagazine.ie



# Contents

VOLUME 76  
Number 02  
March 2016



# CONTENTS

# Features

## 10 Countdown to Rebellion

By Paul O'Brien

## 12 ...Ireland's Opportunity

By Sgt Terry McLaughlin Retd

## 14 The Loss of the Aud

By Joseph E.A. Connell, Jnr

## 16 Battle Front 1916

By Paul O'Brien

## 18 Women in 1916

By Liz Gillis

## 20 Weapons of 1916

By Michael Barry

## 22 British Soldiers in 1916

By John McGuiggan

## 26 The Maritime Perspective in the 'Poets' Rebellion'

By Lt Cdr Caoimhín Mac Unfraidh

## 28 A Personal Recollection - Battle of Ashbourne 1916

By Lt Col Frank Lawless

## 30 Seán Forde, Irish Volunteer 1916

By Dermot Forde

## 32 The Fires of Easter 1916

By Las Fallon

## 34 Stonebreakers' Yard

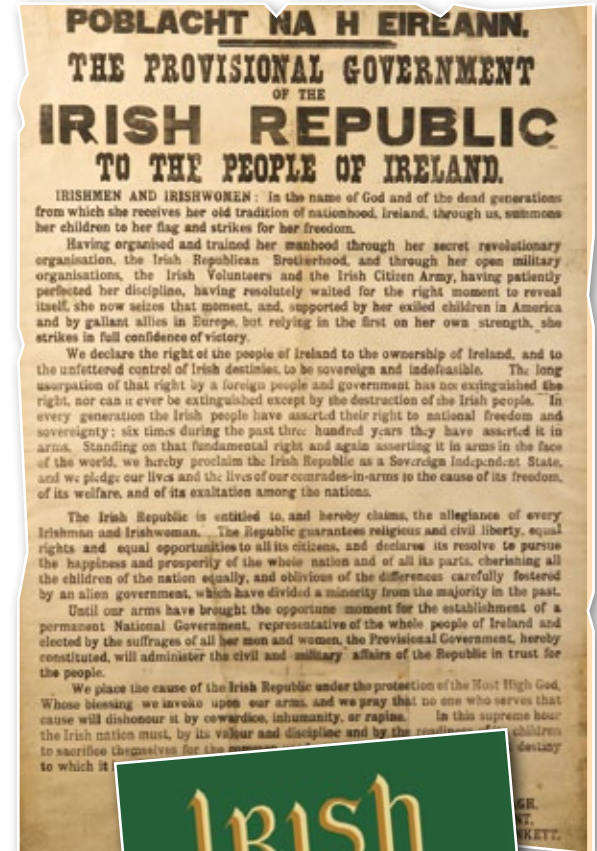
By Mícheál Ó Doibhilín

## 36 Preserving our Past

By Comdt Padraic Kennedy

## 38 On the March

By Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald



# Regulars

6 On Parade

08 In Focus

25 Tac Aide

38 Sport

42 Gear Up

43 Notice-Board

44 Reviews

46 What I do

# Druid Craft 1916 Easter Rising 2016 Centenary Collection



**Limited Edition  
Padraig Pearse  
€99.95**

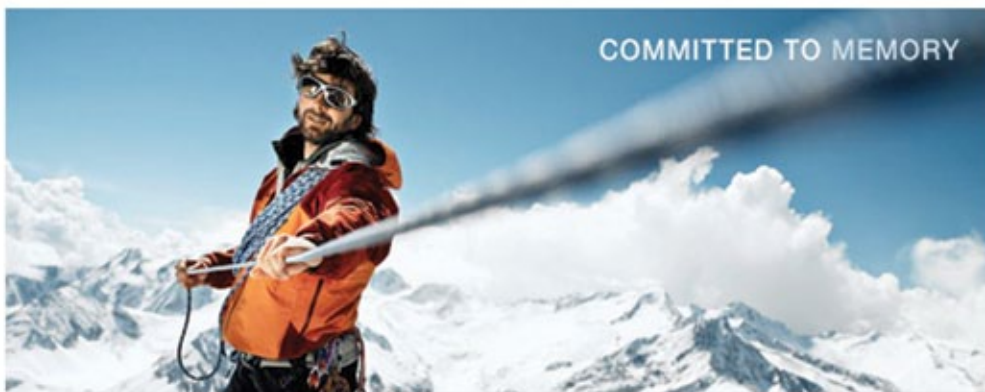
**1916  
Defence Forces  
Commemoration  
Plaque  
€29.95**



**For these and many more 1916 commemorative gifts please visit our website:**



**[www.druidcraft.com](http://www.druidcraft.com)**



Kingston Technology Company, Inc. is the world's independent memory leader.  
Kingston® now offers more than 2,000 memory products that support  
nearly every device that uses memory, from computers, servers and printers  
to MP3 players, digital cameras and mobile phones.

Blanchardstown Industrial Park  
Snugborough Road  
Dublin 15  
Tel: 01 812 8888  
[www.kingston.com](http://www.kingston.com)

**Best wishes to the Defence Forces**



**Manager**

Capt Declan Barrett  
info@military.ie  
+353 (0)45 44 5306

**Editor**

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald  
magazine@military.ie  
+353 (0)45 44 5307

**Connect**

Sgt Karl Byrne  
connect@military.ie

**Photo/Journalist:**

Cpl Lee Coyle  
journalist@military.ie

**Photographer**

Cpl Neville Coughlan  
photo@military.ie  
045 44 5307

**Subscriptions**

Cpl Kelly Gallagher  
+353 (0)45 44 5312  
subs@military.ie

**DF/PR Information:**

Cpl Lynn Ryan  
admin@military.ie  
+353 (0)45 44 5308

**DF Webmaster**

Sgt Mick Burke  
+353 (0)45 44 5309  
webmaster@military.ie

**Magazine Archivist**

Mr Sean Shinnors

**Designer/Advertising**

JM Publishing & Media,  
Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Ireland  
Tel: +353 15331911  
Tel: +353 871344135  
Web: www.jmpublishing.ie  
Email: info@jmpublishing.ie

**Printer**

Turner's Printing Co., Ltd  
Earl Street, Longford, Ireland  
Tel: +353 (0)43 3350500

*The fact that an article appears in this magazine does not indicate official approval of the views expressed by the author.*

© Published by Oic Public Relations Branch for the Defence Forces at DFHQ, Block 5, Ceant Bks, DFTC, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare, Ireland.  
Tel: +353 (0)45 445312

**Front Cover**

Cpl Lee Coyle pictured paying respects to the memory of 1916 at Arbour Hill Cemetery. Photo by Sgt Karl Byrne

For more Defence Forces photographs, checkout:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine](http://www.flickr.com/photos/dfmagazine)

# Editorial

5

Hello and welcome to our March 2016 issue that commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising with a 48 page collector's edition. *An Cosantóir* has covered this historical period in Irish history many times over its 75-years in publication, and I'm honoured to be able to edit this issue. We are delighted to have gathered a fine collection of authors and their articles to tell the story of the biggest event in Irish history - all in one issue.

Our *On Parade* pages feature some new and old photos from around the DF. *In Focus* has a short piece on the 50th anniversary of the *Aer Lingus pilots trained in the Air Corps in Gormanston in 1966*. In our first article military historian and regular contributor Paul O'Brien looks at the *Countdown to Rebellion*. Next past editor Sgt Terry McLoughlin ret'd reminds us of that period in *Ireland's Opportunity...* US author Joseph E.A. Connell, Jnr, briefs us on gun running in *The Loss of the Aud*. In *Battle Front 1916*, Paul O'Brien condenses the battles he has written about in six books into two pages. Author and historian Liz Gillis looks at the Rising from a female perspective in *Women in 1916*. British barrister John McGuiggan who for many years' has worked in Dublin's Four Courts covers the *British Soldiers in 1916*. Naval Service Press Officer Lt Cdr Caoimhin Mac Unfraidh looks at *The Maritime Perspective in the 'Poets' Rebellion*.

Reprinted from our April/May 2006 issue for the Easter Risings 90th anniversary is an article by Lt Col Frank Lawless (then Comdt) on his grandfather's involvement in the largest conflict outside of Dublin *A Personal Recollection - The Battle of Ashbourne*. Next Dermot Forde gives us the first publicised account on his father *Seán Forde, Irish Volunteer 1916*. In *The Fires of Easter 1916*, Dublin firefighter and author Las Fallon informs us about Captain Thomas Purcell's 1916 maps and estimates of the damage of the Easter Rebellion. Author and publicist of the *Kilmainham Tales* series Mícheál Ó Doibhilín reminds us of the harrowing executions of the Rebellions Leadership in the *Stonebreakers' Yard* in both English and Irish. In *Preserving our Past* Comdt Padraic Kennedy, OIC of Military Archives discusses our historical collections and of our imminent move to a new facility in Cathal Brugha Bks. Our *Sports* article *On the March*, looks at how the Irish Volunteers of 1916 would have drilled and marched to maintain their fitness. We also have our regular *Tac Aide*, *Reviews* and for our *What I Do* feature, I interviewed Lt Hugh Forde grandson of 1916 Irish Volunteer Seán Forde. **Check out our competitions and results on pages 9, 42 and 43.**

Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald - Editor

## THE SYMBOLS OF AN ARMY - AN T-ÓGLÁC (24 JUNE 1922)

*There is much beauty and significance in the symbols of an army: the salute, the presenting of arms, the Last Post, and the rest, common to all armies, have each a distinctive meaning.*

**A salute means:** *I recognise your authority, I honour the commission you bear, I realise we are all / bound together in fealty and service to the one Motherland. Arms presented, in which, as it were, the rifles are held not as ready to be fired, but, as ready to be given to someone else, means: My arms belong to you, and though I wield a weapon of offence, I do not wield it for myself, but for you and for my country.*

**The Colours - What They Signify.** *The colours are symbolic of the soul of the nation, if they be the national colours. If they are particular to a Brigade, they stand for the soul and traditions of the Brigade and for that reason must not appear without an escort. The colours fly not only for the living, but for all in Division or Brigade who have died for Ireland; not only as an augury of battles to be won, but as a token of every victory in the past which has brought honour to the flag.*



## THOMAS KENT TRICOLOUR ▲

The presentation of an encased Tricolour to the Thomas Kent family took place at a recent reception in the Officers Mess, Collins Bks, Cork. Brig Gen Philip Brennan (GOC 1 Bde) is seen here presenting the tricolour to Prudence Riordan of the Kent family. *Photo by: Sgt Barry McCarthy, HQ 1 Bde*

## FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES ▶

Pictured is RSM Eddie Porter, Mil Col presenting RSM Paddy Doyle, HQ DFTC with a statue on behalf of Mil Col NCOs Mess on his retirement from the DF after 40+ years. *Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



## 1 BDE RECRUITS DONATE TO SVDP ▲

A donation was made to Saint Vincent DePaul on behalf of the 135th & 136th recruit platoons at a reception at Collins Bks recently. The Recruits made a collection of over €900 on the night of their passing out parade reception at the Silvers Springs Hotel in Cork. Pictured L/R: Capt Brendan Kelleher (BTC 1 Bde), Anne McKernan (Fundraising Officer SVP South West Region), SS Oisín O'Higgins (1 Cn Cois) representing both recruit platoons, Mr Gerry Garvey (Regional Administrator SVP), and Coy Sgt John Thompson (BTC 1 Bde). *Photo by: Sgt Barry McCarthy, HQ 1 Bde*



## RETIREMENT LUNCH ▲

Pictured is Col Willie O'Dwyer, EO DFTC with serving and retired members of 51st Cadet Class at his retirement lunch on 4th February 2016, in the Curragh Camp. *Photo by: Sgt JJ Ryan, HQ DFTC*



## FLAGS TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE ▲

On Monday 25th January 2016 members of the Defence Forces visited Willow Park Junior School, Blackrock, Co. Dublin to present them with the national flag to commemorate the Easter Rising 1916. Principal Jim Casey said, "I would like to thank Sgt Larry Havers and Tpr Jessica Slevin for doing a 'wonderful job' last Monday in our school. They were excellent ambassadors for our Defence Forces." Pictured L/R: Sgt Havers (1 ACS), Paddy (K4), Zach (J6), Harry (K3), Ronin (P6), David (J5), Michael (K6) and Tpr Slevin (1 ACS). *Words/Photo: Jim Casey, Principle Willow Park*



### ◀ SALUTING THE FLAG EASTER 1966

This photograph shows Volunteer Seán O'Duffy and Cadet Frank Russell (39th Cadet Class) saluting the National Flag Easter 1966 at the Curragh Camp. Volunteer O'Duffy was wearing the uniform he wore on active service during the 1916 Easter Rising. (Photo: National Library of Ireland). Seán was a Lieutenant in the Irish Volunteers, and fought in the Four Courts, he was then interned, and subsequently became organiser of the Republican Court, 1919-1922 (BMH Statement refers). In 1932, Seán presented a silver cup to the nascent Irish Camogie Association, to be presented to the winners of the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final. To this day, the captain of the winning team is presented with... The O'Duffy Cup. *Words/Photo: Comdt Frank Russell, Retd.*



### ◀ PC COFFEY A NATION ONCE AGAIN

Can you help identify the image including a date and occasion? Pictured is a military parade down O'Connell Street and the GPO. This image is part of a private collection that is on loan in the Military Archives. Possible suggestions include 'centenary celebrations of Thomas Davis and the Young Irelanders in Sept 1945?' or 'a parade to celebrate the formation of the Republic of Ireland in 1949?' - because of the troops on the roof of the GPO who all look like members of the FCA (LDF). To help visit: <http://bit.ly/1KslyPI>

### IRISH VOLUNTEERS ▶

Pictured are officers of the 1st Battalion Irish Volunteers, seated left is Capt Tom Byrne, standing left is P Connaughton (possibly Patrick), standing right is Jack Shouldice and seated right is Mícheál O'Catháin (Michael O'Kane). *Photo: Courtesy of the Shouldice Family*



### ◀ INTRODUCTION TO THE MILITARY ARCHIVES

We have a limited number of A5 pamphlets on an Introduction to the Military Archives, available if anyone wants to research a project or wants to know more about the Military Archives. These are located in Cathal Brugha Bks, Dublin 6 - The official place of the deposit of records for the Defence Forces (Army, Naval Service & Air Corps), Dept of Defence and the Army Pensions Board since 1990. Email your name and address to [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie)



### DUBLIN BRIGADE CAP BADGE

A Dublin Brigade Officer's Cap Badge in white metal. Cap badge in white metal, being the officers' version, bearing the legend "Droing Ath Cliath" meaning "Dublin Brigade". Designed by Eoin MacNeill, founding member and chairman of the Irish Volunteers, in 1913. The design lives on today as the cap badge of the Irish Defence Forces with "Óglaigh Na hÉireann" replacing the Dublin Brigade inscription. *Photo: The Breslin family/South Dublin Libraries*

## Air Corps train Aer Lingus Pilots in 1966

BY MARK MINIHAN, NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD

**J**anuary 1966, the year of the 50th Anniversary as the Easter Rising I was part of a group who commenced pilot training at Gormanston Camp. We were Aer Lingus employees who were trained by the Air Corps. Of the 10 who started 3 were dropped during 1966, and the remaining 7 completed their flight training and went on to spend their full working lives with Aer Lingus. The former Aer Lingus/Air Corps trainees now range in age from 67 to 72, and have not met as a group since mid 1966.

On 22nd January 2016 the 10 meet for dinner and a social evening in The Station House Hotel Kilmessan, Co Meath. I had arranged for a visit to Gormanston Camp the next day. It wasn't possible to assemble the 10 for the special visit, but 7 of us made it back to Gormanston Camp - some 50-years later. When we were training in Gormanston Camp in 1966 our Drill Sergeant warned us about thieves regularly -

I got the job of organising the visit not because I was one of the 3 who failed to qualify, but because I used to go to Camp in Gormanston with the FCÁ in the early 1960s. We were met and shown around

the Camp by Sgt Patrick Farrelly, 2 TIS. During the visit we got to see the hangers, control tower and even the water tanks. We returned to the NCOs 'mess' for some hot drinks and refreshments. It was a memorable journey for us all. I would like to express our thanks to OC Gormanston Camp for allowing us visit our former training ground. ■



Cadet Harry Gallagher beside Air Corps De Havilland Chipmunk '200'. Photo: Harry Gallagher



Cadets pictured in Gormanston Camp L/R: Gordon Pyper, David Cowan, Neil Johnston, Ken Kenny, Harry Gallagher, Ted Murphy, Wolfgang Kyck and Terry McComish. Photo: David Cowan

**"The water tanks are concreted into the ground so that they will not be stolen, so you mind all your own gear as carefully".**



The young group of 10 potential pilots in 1966. Photo: David Cowan



Pictured (not in order): Gordon Pyper, Terry McComish, Ken Kenny, Harry Gallagher, Mark Minihan, Dave Cowan and Wolfgang Kyck. Not in photo are: Neil Johnston, Ted Murphy and Pat Burke. Photo: Cpl Colin Deleany, 2 Bde HQ



### 50th Wedding Anniversary 1966-2016

Pictured on their wedding day 21st February 1966 is retired Veteran Danny Lawlor and his wife Sheila Lawlor from Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny who are celebrating an amazing 50 years of marriage – congratulations to you both from all your military colleagues, friends and family. Danny served in Cathal Bruagh Bks, the Curragh Camp and James Stephens Bks and he also served overseas. He is pictured front row 5th from the left arriving in Jordan with his overseas unit. Danny is a proud retired soldier and we wish him well. Words/Photos: Sarah Lawlor, daughter-in-law





**Win 7 signed**  
copies of Paul  
O'Brien's books on  
the 1916 Easter  
Rising and on the  
1914 Curragh  
Incident by answer-  
ing the following  
question:

**What year was the  
Curragh Incident?**

Send your answer  
along with your  
name, address &  
phone number to  
subs@military.ie  
by the 21st March.



For more information on Paul O'Brien and  
his books see: [www.paulobrienauthor.ie](http://www.paulobrienauthor.ie) or  
email him on [info@paulobrienauthor.ie](mailto:info@paulobrienauthor.ie)



### Kilmainham Tales Teo.

is a publishing venture dedicated  
to issuing 'pocket money' books  
(€5) on all aspects of the history of  
Kilmainham Gaol and associated  
places, people and events.

While 'popular' and 'non-academic',  
each Kilmainham Tale is a work  
of high scholarly standards with  
copiously illustrated with  
contemporary pictures.

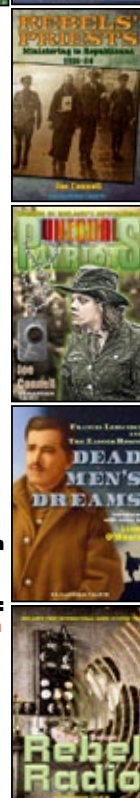


Kilmainham Tales have generously  
offered their 15 book collection worth  
€75 up for grabs!

Simply answer the following question:  
**Name 3 authors from the Kilmainham  
Tales collection?**

Send your answer along with your  
name, address & phone number to  
subs@military.ie by the 21st March.

Kilmainham Tales Teo.  
11 Weston Cres., Weston Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin.  
Tel: +353 86 8573782 - [www.kilmainhamtales.ie](http://www.kilmainhamtales.ie)



Making your money  
go further



### SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Savings • Loans • Budget Plan Service
- Home Heating Oil Scheme
- Petrol Card Scheme • Members Draw

75/76 Amiens Street, Dublin 1  
Tel: 01 8554489 Fax: 01 8558067  
Email: [info@ansaccu.ie](mailto:info@ansaccu.ie)  
Web: [www.ansaccu.ie](http://www.ansaccu.ie)



CAFNB is a Friendly Society  
Registered under the Friendly  
Societies Act (1896) and was  
established so as to lighten the  
burden on the soldier/soldiers family  
on death of a soldier or any member  
of his family (wife or child).

The first subscriptions were paid into  
the fund in Jan 1965. Membership is  
open to all other ranks in the Defence  
Forces. The society was based on the  
Officers Society CAOGA. Although NOT  
compulsory, the numbers who applied  
for membership in the initial period  
was very encouraging and at present  
membership of CAFNB is at 99.95%  
of other ranks strength.

In 1980 CAFNB Spouse was introduced.  
Membership of the spouse scheme is steadily  
increasing. As not all soldiers notify their HQ of  
their marriage it is difficult to determine  
what percentage of married personnel  
do NOT have their spouse in  
CAFNB Spouse.

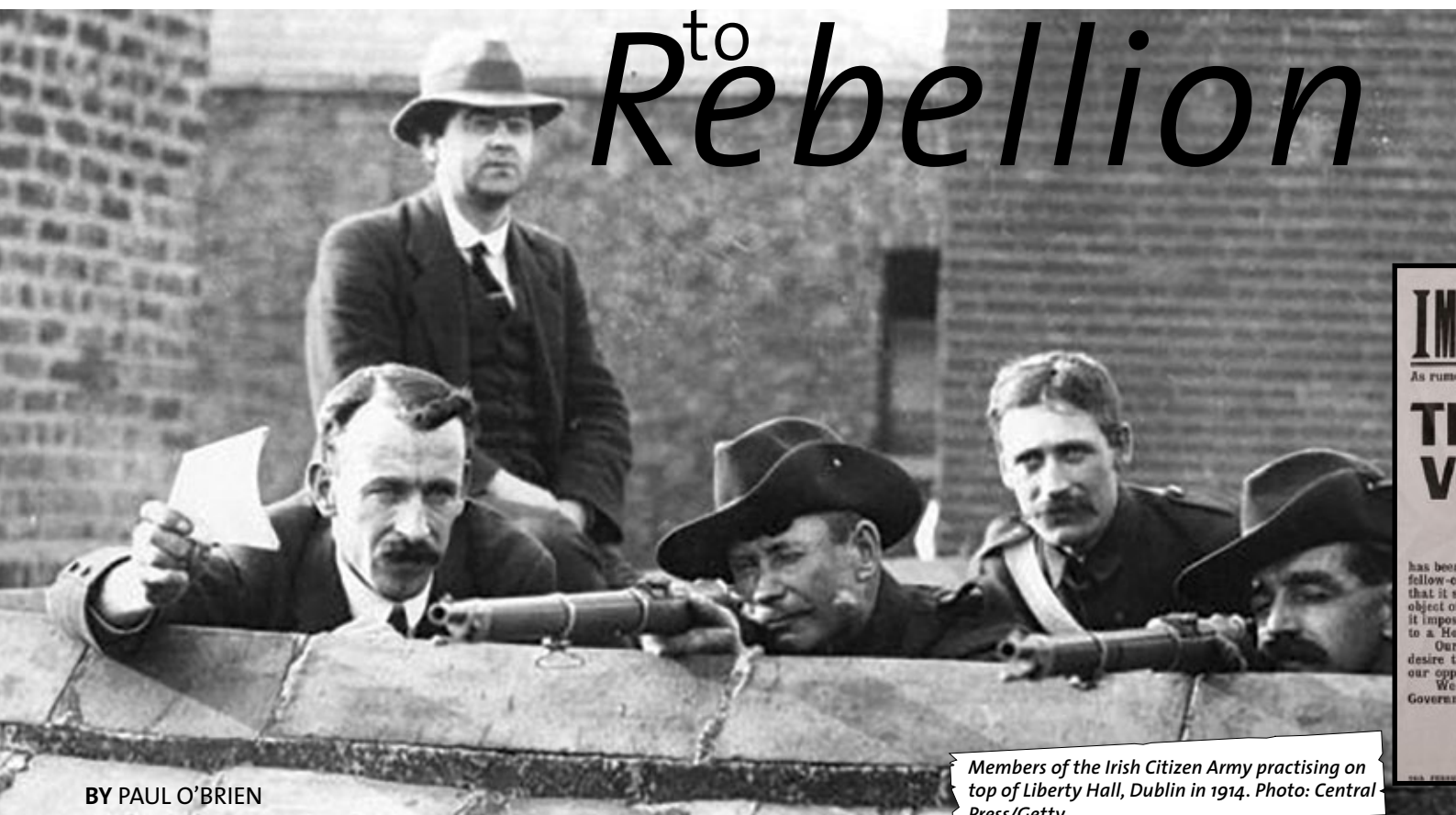


CAFNB House, 33 Infirmary Road, Dublin 7.  
Phone: 01-8042780/01-6711841 Fax: 01-6711841  
E-Mail: [info@cafnb.com](mailto:info@cafnb.com)

[www.cafnb.com](http://www.cafnb.com)

# COUNTDOWN

## *to Rebellion*



BY PAUL O'BRIEN

*Members of the Irish Citizen Army practising on top of Liberty Hall, Dublin in 1914. Photo: Central Press/Getty*

**T**he war had not ended by Christmas 1914 as many had expected. Millions of men were locked in mortal combat across Europe. On what was to become known as the Western Front, the 'race to the sea' had eliminated the age-old tactics of outflanking or out-maneuvring an opponent.

Early contact between the opposing forces had revealed the terrifying, lethal power of modern weapons. The accuracy of rifles, the weight of heavy artillery fire and the volume of fire produced by machine guns meant that troops could no longer operate in the open without suffering heavy casualties.

Consequently, both sides dug in and from the North Sea coast of Belgium, an elaborate trench system snaked southward through France to the border with Switzerland.

The Dardanelles Campaign of 1915, which was supposed to result in a quick victory over the Turks, had, within a few months, degenerated into a protracted bloodbath and a humiliating defeat. The last Allied troops were evacuated from the Gallipoli peninsula in January 1916, bringing an end to the campaign.

In December 1915, General Sir Douglas Haig succeeded

Field Marshal Sir John French as Commander-in-Chief of the British armies in France. In the same month Allied leaders proposed a simultaneous attack in maximum force. Despite British military commanders' hesitancy, due to the logistical problems of organising such a force and their inadequate supply of manpower, equipment, guns and ammunition, the offensive was agreed and in April 1916 the army began preparations for the Somme offensive.

When war was declared in 1914, Ireland had been on the brink of civil war. Unionists and nationalists armed themselves, one side wanting to remain united with Britain, the other seeking Home Rule. The Curragh Mutiny of March 1914 was an embarrassment for the British army when several senior officers threatened to resign if ordered to act against loyalists. Their action further incensed nationalists, some of whom were already planning an insurrection.

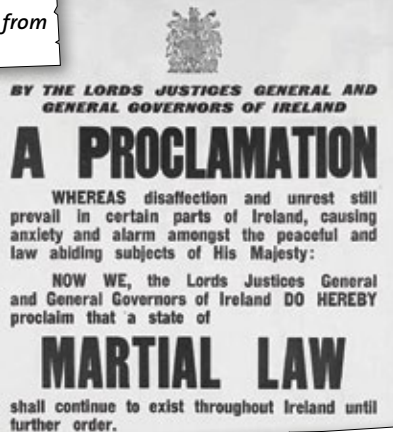
The outbreak of war caused a split in the largest nationalist organisation, the Irish Volunteers. The majority left with John Redmond to form the National Volunteers, lending their support to the war effort in order to obtain Home Rule, while those who remained in the Irish Volunteers pressed for independence.

Many Irish people supported the war effort from the outset; money was raised for munitions and food production for the army increased. Although Dublin didn't have any existing munitions industries, some factories would later alter their tooling in order to manufacture shells and other munitions.

Thousands of young Irishmen had answered the call and joined the ranks of the British Army. Barracks and recruiting offices throughout the country processed a continual stream of recruits. Some joined for the money, others for adventure, hoping the war would not be over before their deployment.

Major General Sir Lovick Bransby Friend commanded the British Army in Ireland in 1914. A former instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Friend was a veteran of the Battle of Omdurman in the Sudan, and also held a rank in the Egyptian Army.

Ulster Volunteer Force poster from 24th February 1914.



British Government proclamation announcing the declaration of Martial Law, 26th May 1916. Photo: Imperial War Museums/South Dublin Libraries

By 31st May 1915, the British Army had suffered 258,069 casualties, an average of 860 casualties a day, almost half of whom were listed as killed-in-action or missing-in-action and therefore not available to return to the frontline.

In response to these losses, Britain introduced conscription in January 1916, although it didn't extend to Ireland. However, this led to an increase in the ranks of nationalist organisations in Ireland, where the threat of conscription being implemented shrouded the country.

As the funeral of the revered old Fenian, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa was taking place in Dublin, troops of the 10th Irish Division were preparing to land in Gallipoli, where, a week later, soldiers of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers would face Turkish machine-gun, rifle and artillery fire as they stormed the beaches, suffering heavy casualties in the process.

In Ireland, the Irish Citizen Army and the Irish Volunteers paraded openly in the streets, uniformed and armed; a show of strength by those wanting independence from Britain. The leadership of both groups were to unite in the early months of 1916 as planning for an insurrection gathered pace among a group of committed republicans operating covertly within the Irish Volunteers. Police reports identified prominent republicans and the threat they posed

The 7th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers preparing to leave Royal Barracks Dublin for the 'front' in May 1915. Photo: National Museum of Ireland



'No Home Rule' Leeds unionists publicising their opposition to Home Rule in the lead up to the two by-elections 1914. Photo: Irish Life/National Museum of Ireland



to the stability of the country, but these reports went unchecked; the British administration in Ireland not realizing the threat posed to the country.

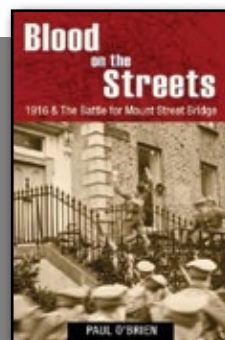
Stalemate on the Western Front, the failure of the Gallipoli campaign, the mounting casualties, and the threat of conscription, did not go unnoticed by those seeking Irish independence through armed insurrection. Well versed in the old Fenian dogma that 'England's difficulty was Ireland's opportunity', the group actively planning rebellion believed that the time was ripe for action and they targeted Easter 1916 for a military strike by the Irish Volunteers.

The fuse had been lit... ■



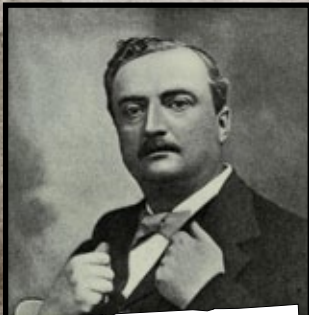
#### About the Author:

Paul O'Brien is an Irish historian and author. He has published six books on the battles of 1916 and one on the Curragh Mutiny of 1914. Some examples are: *Blood on the Streets*, 1916 and the Battle for Mount Street Bridge and *Uncommon Valour*, 1916 and the Battle for South Dublin Union. He is a regular contributor to *An Cosantóir*. Paul also holds an MA in History and you can contact him at [www.paulobrienauthor.ie](http://www.paulobrienauthor.ie)



# IRELAND'S OPPORTUNITY

BY SGT TERRY MCLOUGHLIN RETD AND FORMER EDITOR OF AN COSANTÓIR



*John Redmond MP for Waterford, circa 1904. Photo: The Booklovers Magazine, Vol IV, No 4, October 1904, P579.*



*Eoin MacNeill. Photo: National Library of Ireland*



*P.H. Pearse addressing a number of people. Photo: Mrs. Maeve Cavanagh McDowell/Military Archives/BMH P series*

**T**he driving force behind the Rising in 1916 was a special Military Council established by the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), a secret physical-force republican movement established by James Stephens in 1858. Having stagnated over a number of years, the IRB was revitalised and reorganised in the early years of the 20th Century by the efforts of a new generation of young republicans, particularly Belfast-born Bulmer Hobson, assisted by veteran Fenian, Tom Clarke, and Seán MacDiarmada, among others.

Home Rule had been the main issue for constitutional nationalists in Ireland for decades. The first attempt to introduce a Home Rule bill in 1886 had been defeated in Parliament. A second attempt, in 1893, was successful in Parliament but was vetoed by the House of Lords. Following the introduction of the Parliament Act of 1911, which limited the power of the House of Lords, a third Home Rule bill was brought to Parliament in 1912. This was passed and although it was again vetoed in the House of Lords, this veto could now only hold up the bill for two years. It was placed on the statute books in September 1914, but suspended for the duration of the Great War.

Within the IRB's Supreme Council, hopes of armed insurrection increased with the establishment of the armed, paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force in January 1913. This was seen as providing an opportunity to set up a similar force for nationalists, which the IRB hoped would provide the military vehicle for a rebellion. However, suspected IRB men could not be seen to be too closely involved in the setting up of such a force as that would surely lead to its suppression. Consequently, the IRB operated behind the scenes, promoting the idea to constitutional nationalists such as the academic Eoin MacNeill, who was well known for his moderate nationalist views.

From the constitutional nationalist point of view, the establish-

ment of a force to counter the UVF, which was opposed to the introduction of Home Rule in Ireland, was seen as a necessary action to ensure its eventual introduction.

After a series of closed meetings organised by the IRB, the Irish Volunteers were founded at a huge public meeting in the Rotunda in November 1913.

A large Provisional Committee was formed, which included a substantial amount of IRB men. The manifesto of the Volunteers, mainly drawn up by MacNeill, stated that the organisation's objectives were "to secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to the whole people of Ireland".

MacNeill himself was against futile rebellion and would only approve of armed resistance in the event of the British attempting to suppress the movement or, following the outbreak of war, to impose conscription on Ireland.

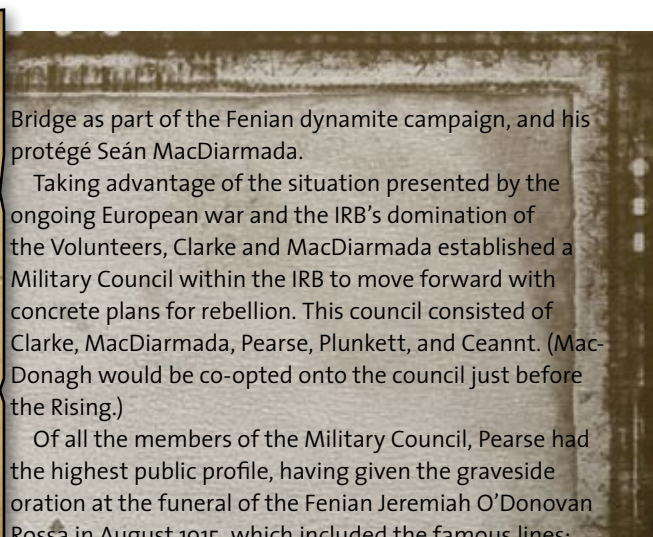
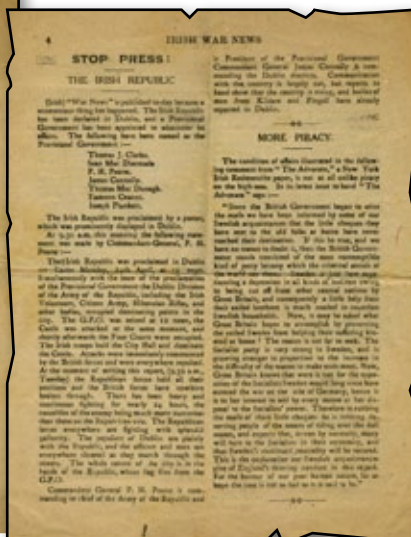
The IRB's influence within the Volunteers was drastically reduced when the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP), John Redmond, moved to gain control of the organisation, which he may have seen as a threat to his authority as the voice of constitutional nationalism. His demand in June 1914 that 25 IPP nominees should be co-opted onto the Provisional Committee was acceded to by the majority of the Volunteer's leadership, including Bulmer Hobson, who reluctantly supported the move to avoid a split, despite vehement opposition by other IRB men. (This led to the end of his long friendship with Clarke and the effective sidelining of Hobson within the IRB, although he remained on the Supreme Council.)

Despite his difficulties with other members of the Volunteer leadership, Hobson was heavily involved in organising the gun-running operations that saw over 1,000 rifles being smuggled in through Howth and Kilcoole in July and August 1914.

In September 1914, two days after Parliament passed the Home



*Irish War News, Volume 1, No. 1, Dublin, Tuesday 25th April 1916. When the GPO was occupied on Easter Monday, Patrick Pearse set about organising the printing of a newspaper announcing the rebellion to the people. Photos: Dublin Diocesan Archives/South Dublin Libraries*



Bridge as part of the Fenian dynamite campaign, and his protégé Seán MacDiarmada.

Taking advantage of the situation presented by the ongoing European war and the IRB's domination of the Volunteers, Clarke and MacDiarmada established a Military Council within the IRB to move forward with concrete plans for rebellion. This council consisted of Clarke, MacDiarmada, Pearse, Plunkett, and Ceannt. (MacDonagh would be co-opted onto the council just before the Rising.)

Of all the members of the Military Council, Pearse had the highest public profile, having given the graveside oration at the funeral of the Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa in August 1915, which included the famous lines: *"The fools, the fools, the fools! – They have left us our Feud, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall lie at peace."*

Pearse was chosen by Clarke to be the spokesman for the Rising (although the military plan was mainly Plunkett's) and it was Pearse who issued the orders to all Volunteer units throughout the country for three days of manoeuvres beginning on Easter Sunday, which was the signal for a general uprising.

When the Military Council found out in January 1916 that James Connolly was going to go ahead with an armed rebellion with his 300-strong Irish Citizen Army, they feared it would ruin their plans and so held a meeting with him at which he was co-opted onto the Military Council and agreed to join forces.

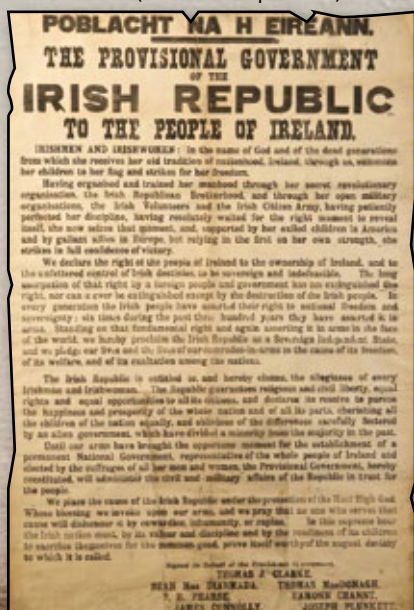
In April Thomas MacDonagh was co-opted onto the Military Council and it was the seven members of the Council who signed the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, which Pearse read on the steps of the GPO.

To get over MacNeill's opposition to armed rebellion he was presented with a letter, the Castle Document, which purported to show the authorities were preparing to move against the Volunteer leadership. (This was an actual plan but had been doctored by Plunkett to make it appear imminent.) When he was informed of the plans for rebellion and the arrival of a large shipment of guns on the *Aud*, he reluctantly agreed to go along with the insurrection.

However, when MacNeill found out about Casement's capture and the loss of the weapons, he moved to prevent the uprising by countermanding Pearse's mobilisation order for the Volunteers.

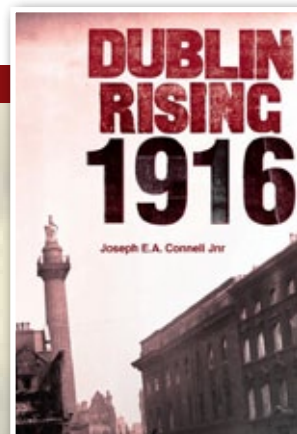
The members of the Military Council held an emergency meeting at which they decided to go ahead with the rising on the Easter Monday, and orders were sent out to remobilise the next morning. However, the confusion meant that many of the Volunteers had already returned home and the turnout the next day was far below what the rebel leaders had allowed for in their planning.

The reduced chances of success were unlikely to have influenced the men who had planned the rebellion as most of them believed it would only ever be the first step and that a sacrificial rising would be the catalyst that would lead to Ireland's eventual freedom. Although none of them lived to see it, history subsequently proved the accuracy of their foresight. ■



*A reproduced copy of the Proclamation of the new Irish Republic.*

Painting of the Aud



# The Loss of the Aud

BY JOSEPH E.A. CONNELL, JNR

**O**n Holy Saturday 1916, the Military Council knew their plans had been severely compromised by the loss of the *Aud*, which was loaded with weapons. Its arrival at Fenit and delivery of arms were foiled by failures in communications.

The merchant vessel was a typical coastal steamer of the day. Originally called the *SS Castro*, she was about 200 feet long, displaced 1,000 tons and had been captured at the start of the war by the Germans who renamed her the *SS Libau*.

In early 1916 the vessel was selected to carry weapons and ammunition to Ireland from Lübeck (Northern Germany). In an attempt to prevent the vessel's interception she was disguised as the *SS Aud*, an existing neutral Norwegian vessel.

Because of the war there was no direct communication between Germany and Ireland and communications regarding the arms shipment and plans for German aid had to be transmitted through the German embassy in New York to John Devoy, the exiled Fenian and head of *Clan na nGael* in America who was the vital link. Devoy communicated with the IRB leaders in Dublin via couriers, due to the likelihood that the British might intercept any electronic communication, and passed back messages for the German High Command.

Devoy asked the Germans for 100,000 rifles, artillery pieces, and German officers but the Germans instead offered 20,000 rifles and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition. The proposal to land the arms at Fenit Harbour in Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry came from the Germans, and was accepted by Devoy in a message dated 12th March. (Devoy gave this acceptance on behalf of the Military Council but did not have time to consult them about it.)

Devoy was instructed to advise Berlin that the *Aud* should arrive some time between Holy Thursday and Easter Saturday. While, from the German point of view this window to land the arms was a help, from the Volunteer position it was disastrous as in the plans of the Military Council it was vitally necessary to synchronise the landing with the start of the Rising, not within a three-day window. Devoy, himself, decided to ask that the arms be landed a single day ahead of the start of the Rising and gave the Germans the date of Holy Saturday, deeming a Holy Thursday delivery too early. However, the *Aud* was already underway at the time this change in schedule was made and as it was not fitted with a radio it continued under the belief that the original time-frame was still in place.



Accordingly, the *Aud* arrived on the Holy Thursday and its captain, Lt Karl Spindler, signalled the shore expecting two green lanterns to signal back, indicating that a pilot boat would arrive and guide them into the harbour where the cargo would be landed. Unknown to Spindler, the local Volunteers, according to the



*Sir Roger Casement is escorted to the gallows of Pentonville Prison, London. He was charged and found guilty of treason after trying to obtain German aid for Irish Independence. Photo: Hulton Archive/Getty Images*

revised schedule, had been told to look for the ship's signal from the evening of Holy Saturday.

On Good Friday night, Spindler weighed anchor to flee the Irish coast but was soon overtaken by the armed British sloop *HMS Zinnia*. For a while it looked as though Spindler would talk his way out of capture but in the end the British decided to escort the *Aud* to Queenstown (Cobh) Harbour to be searched. Spindler knew the game was up and scuttled his ship while on its way to Queenstown.

The importance of the arms on the *Aud* was underscored by the Inspector General of the RIC, Neville

Chamberlain, who later argued that if the *Aud*'s arms and ammunition had been landed, the Volunteers outside Dublin 'would not have held back'.

However, the Volunteers' plan does raise some questions beyond the lack of communication. Even if they had been able to get all the arms and ammunition ashore, could they have been distributed into the hands of Volunteers efficiently and in time to make a difference? According to his biographer, the Volunteer OC in Kerry, Austin Stack, had a 'detailed plan prepared for the landing of arms at Fenit and their distribution', but no plan was communicated to the Volunteers there, and no plan has been found. There is no other evidence of a specific plan to move the weapons from the quayside at Fenit; an amount of weapons and ammunition that would have required a well-coordinated effort to make them

available to Volunteer units. In contrast, when weapons and ammunition were landed by the Ulster Volunteers in Larne in 1914, members of the UVF manned pickets along the length of the coast road between Belfast and Larne.

...There was no rush or bustle in the doing of it. It was accomplished with celerity, yet without fuss or splutter, because it was done in pursuance of



*An exaggerated example of the route the *Aud* took from Lübeck, Germany to Tralee Bay, Co. Kerry in 1916.*

a well-formed plan, executed as perfectly as it had been preconceived...So exactly had this mobilisation been arranged that these hundreds of motors reached the assembly point at an identical moment...

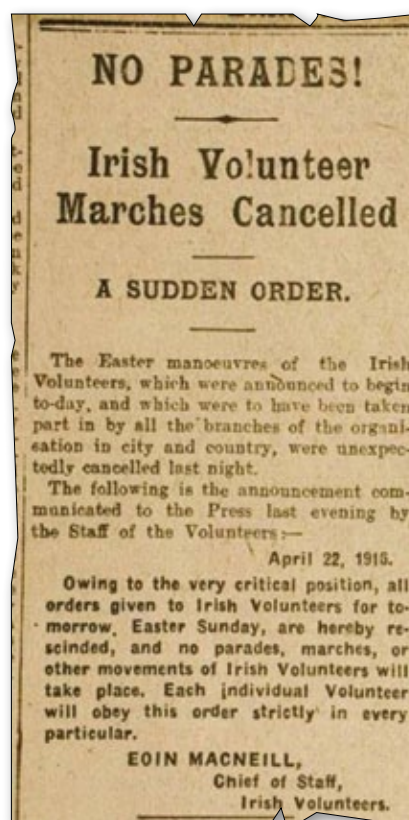
**Belfast Evening Telegraph, 25th April 1914.**

The Larne consignment was slightly larger than that on the *Aud* (25,000 weapons to 20,000), but no fleet of 'hundreds of motors' was laid on by the Irish Volunteers for this landing. Further, no comprehensive plans seem to have been made for distribution after offloading from the *Aud*.

Further, would the Volunteers have been able to expertly use weapons they had never seen? Fatal accidents involving carelessness, horseplay, and poor discipline were relatively common during the Rising and the War of Independence that followed.

At the time of the Rising, it was estimated the Volunteers and Citizen Army had only 3,700 weapons and no machine guns, so weapons were desperately needed. But to put 20,000 rifles into the hands of untrained men may have caused as many casualties among their own ranks as to the British.

When MacNeill found he had been deceived about the Rising, that the 'Castle Document' may have been a fake, that Casement had been captured in Tralee, and that the *Aud* had been lost, he cancelled the Volunteer manoeuvres scheduled for Easter that were to be used as a cover for the rebellion. His order on the Saturday night was published in the next day's *Sunday Independent*:



*Owing to the very critical position, all orders given to Irish Volunteers for tomorrow, Easter Sunday, are hereby rescinded, and no parades, marches, or other movements of Irish Volunteers will take place. Each individual Volunteer will obey this order strictly in every particular. - Sunday Independent, 23rd April 1916. ■*

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Joseph E.A. Connell, Jnr a native of the USA is the author of a number of books on Dublin and its revolutionary history and contributes a regular column to *History Ireland*. His latest books are *Dublin Rising 1916* (ISBN: 9781905569908) and *Who's Who In The Dublin Rising 1916* (ISBN: 9781905569946), both priced €19.00 and published by Wordwell Books (May 2015/October 2015) <http://wordwellbooks.com/>

# BATTLE FRONT 1916

BY PAUL O'BRIEN



**On April 24th 1916, Patrick Pearse declared an independent Irish republic from the steps of the General Post Office on Sackville Street, Dublin. As this event was taking place, rebel forces occupied a number of strategic positions throughout Dublin city. The rapid deployment of each Volunteer battalion in their designated area of operations ensured a strong defensive perimeter had been established before a British response. The 1st Battalion, under Comdt Edward Daly, occupied the law courts on Inns Quay and secured the adjacent streets. This defensive line north of the Liffey ran from the Four Courts to Cabra, where it was to link up with Comdt Thomas Ashe's 5th Battalion.**

Daly's position gave a commanding view of the quays and the south side of the river and was of great military significance as it controlled the main approach routes from the west of Dublin to the city centre. It would also provide a line of withdrawal towards north county Dublin.

Capt Seán Heuston was ordered to secure the Mendicity Institute situated along the quays at Ushers Island. Holding this position would give Daly's unit time to establish and fortify their posts in the surrounding area.

The 3rd Battalion, under Comdt Éamon de Valera, was assigned the defence of the southern approaches to the city centre. However, due to a lack of manpower the unit's area of operation had to be greatly reduced in size, running from Lansdowne Road to Ringsend Road, before moving northwards to an apex at Westland Row railway station. This area consisted of one square kilometre of dense urban terrain. The battalion HQ was established in Boland's Bakery.

The Grand Canal ran through the 3rd Battalion's area as it looped from west to east through the southern part of Dublin city. Of the eight bridges crossing the canal between Ringsend and Harold's

Cross, the bridges at Ringsend Road, Grand Canal Street and Lower Mount Street were covered by Volunteers. Because of the low turn out, it was not possible to cover the remaining bridges at Lower Baggott Street, Leeson Street, Charlemont Street, Portobello and Harold's Cross. The effect of this would be to allow British troops free movement into the centre of the city. To partially combat this threat, a number of outposts were established on Northumberland Road and at Mount Street.

Comdt Éamon Ceannt, commanding the 4th Battalion, occupied the South Dublin Union and a number of outposts in the surrounding area. Ensconced in a labyrinth of streets, alleyways and hospital buildings, these Volunteers created a killing ground that would witness some of the fiercest fighting of the 1916 Rising.

The Headquarters Battalion that occupied the GPO was drawn from the four Dublin City battalions, the Irish Citizen Army, and the Kimmage Volunteers. Men and women from these units also occupied a number of outer posts in the immediate area.

Elements of the Irish Citizen Army also occupied City Hall and St Stephen's Green and it is perhaps these two positions that raise most questions. Comdt Michael Mallin and his unit were detailed to occupy the Green, as it was to serve as a depot for supplies and munitions, while City Hall was to be used to prevent enemy forces in Dublin Castle from moving out into the city.

Throughout the rest of the city, small units of Volunteers mustered to hold outer posts like those in



Photo: National Library of Ireland



Postcard of a rebel prisoner being marched over O'Connell Bridge, 1916. Photo: National Library of Ireland/ South Dublin Libraries





Fairview and Phibsborough.

Although the plan to detonate the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park to signal the beginning of the insurrection failed, a large amount of weapons and ammunition was secured and distributed amongst the Volunteer units.

While the British were initially taken by surprise, they rallied rapidly and set about securing a number of positions throughout the city. With reinforcements arriving from the Curragh camp, artillery from Athlone, and other troops being shipped in from England, they began engaging rebel posts throughout the city. Fierce gun-battles erupted at the South Dublin Union, the Four Courts and Dublin Castle.

At the South Dublin Union, Commandant Ceannt's unit fought the Royal Irish Regiment from Richmond Barracks in Inchicore. Having breached an entry into the complex, British soldiers fought running battles with Volunteers through the grounds and hospital buildings. After hours of fighting the Volunteers took up a position within the Nurses Home where they held off further attacks launched by the RIR, who were then ordered to pull out, leaving the Volunteers to consolidate their position. On Tuesday, the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment ('Sherwood Foresters') engaged Ceannt's men in the Nurses Home, where Vice-Comdt Cathal Brugha was very badly wounded while the Volunteers held off repeated attacks. The small garrison held out until the surrender on Saturday.

Capt Séan Heuston fought valiantly with his force at the Mendicity Institute, buying time for the Four Courts garrison to consolidate their positions, before soldiers of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers stormed the building, taking the Volunteers prisoner.

At Mount Street Bridge a force of Volunteers under the command of Michael Malone held three strategically located buildings on a major route into the city centre. Here they engaged two battalions of the Sherwood Foresters, inflicting heavy casualties. Although Malone was killed in action and others were captured, a number of the force managed to escape. Elements of de Valera's 3rd Battalion also managed to delay British forces from entering the city and skirmishing continued in the area until the surrender.

At the Four Courts Daly's force engaged British troops and captured numerous police officers and heavy fighting in North King Street resulted in numerous casualties among the Staffordshire Regiment. Armoured personnel carriers were used to enter the street and deploy troops into houses in order for them to mouse-hole from building to building to approach their quarry. An awful incident took place during this battle when British soldiers summarily executed 15 innocent civilians that they accused of fighting with or aiding the rebels. The perpetrators of this war crime were never apprehended.

At the GHQ in the GPO, rebel commanders monitored each battalion's actions through a



series of dispatches and communiqués. Due to the number of fortified positions protecting the rebel HQ, the commander of the British forces in Dublin, Maj Gen WH Lowe, realised a direct assault was likely to fail and would result in many casualties. Instead, he decided to destroy the posts with artillery fire and within hours Sackville Street and its surroundings were ablaze.

Pearse, the wounded Connolly, and the other commanders withdrew from the GPO and moved out into buildings on Moore Street where the defiant garrison made their last stand. Witnessing the devastation around them, and the deaths of civilians in the crossfire, Pearse and Connolly decided to surrender, and each issued a communiqué ordering their forces to surrender. The news was relayed by courier to each Volunteer garrison and so the Rising in Dublin came to an end.

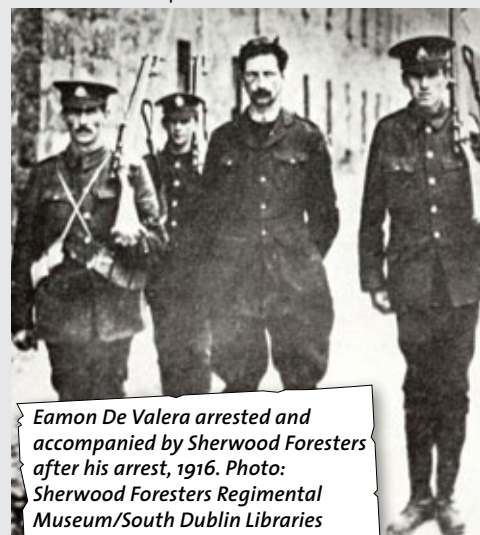
Around the rest of the country the confusion caused by conflicting orders and countermanding orders from the Volunteers leadership meant that relatively few participated in the Rising outside of Dublin. The only large-scale engagement outside of the city occurred at Ashbourne, County Meath. The 5th Battalion, under the command of Thomas Ashe and his 2/ic Richard Mulcahy, had wreaked havoc in north County Dublin, raiding police stations, damaging telegraph and railway lines. They also attacked the RIC barracks at Ashbourne. While this was taking place, a police rapid response unit arrived from Slane. In the ensuing five-hour gun battle, eight constables were killed and 15 wounded, while two Volunteers were killed before the police surrendered. The Volunteers continued their guerrilla campaign in the area until they received the surrender order from Pearse.

In Galway, 600 to 700 Volunteers, under the command of Liam Mellows, attacked a number of police stations in the county. Poorly armed and equipped, his unit took up positions in the countryside around Athenry. A large force of British troops were despatched to deal with the group, while the British cruiser, HMS Gloucester, sailed into Galway Bay and shelled the Athenry area. Realising the situation was hopeless Mellows dispersed his group. In the weeks following their insurrection, many Volunteers were arrested and imprisoned while others were forced to go on the run.

In County Wexford, Enniscorthy was occupied and held by a large force of Volunteers, who established their HQ in the Atheneum theatre, where the tricolour was raised over the building while armed Volunteers paraded through the streets. A unit set off for Dublin but returned, having received information that a large force of British troops had been entrained for Wexford. They also surrendered on receiving Pearse's order.

In Cork, the RIC were detailed to arrest those suspected of involvement in the rebellion and when they arrived at the residence of the Kent family a gun battle ensued, which resulted in the death of an RIC officer and the fatal wounding of Richard Kent. Thomas Kent was tried by court martial and subsequently executed, the only person other than Roger Casement to be executed outside of Dublin.

After seven bloody days, the Rising came to an end. Dublin lay in ruins and after the surrender those who had participated in the insurrection awaited their fate. ■



*Eamon De Valera arrested and accompanied by Sherwood Foresters after his arrest, 1916. Photo: Sherwood Foresters Regimental Museum/South Dublin Libraries*

# The 1916 Women

BY LIZ GILLIS

Anna Fahy. Photo: Capuchin Archives



The Easter Rising was no doubt the most important event to happen in our recent history, not just in relation to our sense of nationhood but also in relation to the role of women in our society. It has been said time and again that the women involved in the Rising only played supportive roles; that they didn't 'fight'. But what exactly does it mean to 'fight' in a war. An army is made up of many different elements. There are those who 'fight' in the traditional sense of wielding weapons and there are those who feed, nurse, gather intelligence, etc. Today, regardless of gender, all members of an army are deemed soldiers and are vital in ensuring a cohesive, efficient force. The same can certainly be said of the women who fought in 1916.

At the time of the Rising there were four Cumann na mBan branches in Dublin. The Árd Craobh (Central), Fairview and Colmcille branches were attached to the 1st and 2nd battalions of the Irish Volunteers and operated on the north side of the city. The Inghinidhe Branch, the only one on the south side, was attached to the 3rd and 4th battalions. There was also a women's section within the Irish Citizen Army (who would fight alongside the Inghinidhe Branch as a unit).

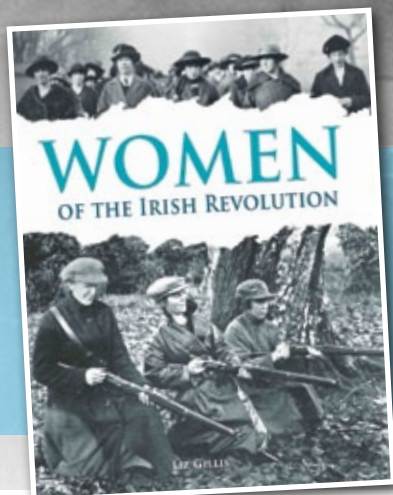
On Easter Sunday the women of Cumann na mBan mobilised at their designated locations around the city. (The women of the ICA were already at their headquarters in Liberty Hall from the previous week.) Like their male comrades, on receiving MacNeill's countermanding order they were dismissed, but the order soon came that they were to mobilise again the next day.

On Easter Monday morning they made their way to their various meeting points. The Inghinidhe branch was split in two as it was attached to the two south city Volunteer battalions. Twenty-five women, under the command of Rose McNamara, met at Weaver Hall near Cork Street and proceeded to Emerald Square where they fell in with Éamonn Ceannt's 4th Battalion; moving on to Marrowbone Lane Distillery, an outpost of Ceannt's South Dublin Union (SDU) headquarters.

Members of Central Branch mobilised at Broadstone Railway Station and the Black Church, St Mary's Place, and remained there for the day. Some,

including Máire (Meg) Carron and Ellen Ennis were sent to deliver dispatches around the city. MacNeill's countermanding order had caused terrible confusion and discovering that the Rising had begun many women took it upon themselves to take action and went to whatever outpost they could get in to.

When the Headquarters garrison marched off from Liberty Hall that morning they were accompanied by only one woman, Winifred Carney. A member of



**About the Author:** Liz Gillis, a historian and a Curatorial Assistant in RTÉ, has written four books on the Irish Revolution, including *Women of the Irish Revolution: A Photographic History* and has two further publications coming out this year, *We Were There: The Seventy-Seven Women Imprisoned in Richmond Barracks 1916* (co-written with Dr Mary McAuliffe in conjunction with Dublin City Council), and *The Hales Brothers and the Irish Revolution*, published by Mercier Press.

Countess Markievicz in Irish Citizen Army uniform (Photographer Keogh Bros. Ltd). Photo: Military Archives/BMH Photo series



Countess Markievicz sitting under guard in a Red Cross ambulance with a nurse, 1916. Photo: National Library of Ireland/South Dublin Libraries

both Cumann na mBan and the ICA, she marched to the GPO armed 'with a gun and a typewriter'. More women made their way to the building later, including Leslie Price, Lucy Agnes Smyth, Elizabeth O'Farrell and Julia Grenan, who had been delivering dispatches around the country that morning.

In the Four Courts area, members of Colmcille and Central branches presented themselves for duty. Pauline Morkan and her sister-in-law, Phyllis Morkan, made their way to Church Street and during the fighting they helped to care for the wounded in Father Mathew Hall, which Edward Daly had turned into a hospital.

The women of the ICA were also divided into two sections. One, under the command of Michael Mallin, went to Stephen's Green, while the other, with Captain Seán Connolly, went to City Hall.

Dr Kathleen Lynn, promoted to captain by James Connolly, served as the ICA Medical Officer with the City Hall garrison, which suffered its first casualty soon after entering the building when Seán Connolly was fatally wounded by a

British sniper. Helena Molony and Brigid Davis, who were with him, did all they could to save him but to no avail.

Outnumbered and outgunned, the garrison came under intense fire. Nine women fought in City Hall and as the senior officer remaining, Dr Lynn offered the surrender on Tuesday, after which the garrison were taken to Ship Street Barracks.

The other section of ICA women and some members of the Fairview Branch, Cumann na mBan, including Nora O'Daly, helped secure Stephen's Green, and, under the command of Madeleine ffrench Mullen, set up a first aid station in the summer house. Countess Markievicz, second-in-command to Michael Mallin, oversaw the digging of trenches.

As Mallin lacked enough men to take over the surrounding high buildings, British soldiers were able to take up positions in the Shelbourne Hotel and numerous other buildings on the Monday night and open fire. Realising their position was untenable, Mallin ordered the evacuation of the Green and took over the College of Surgeons. In her book, *Doing My Bit For Ireland*, Margaret Skinnider wrote that during the evacuation the women in particular came under fire from the soldiers, as they 'made excellent targets in their white dresses, with large red crosses on them'.

Skinnider, herself, was shot while attempting to set alight a building on Harcourt Street in a bid to remove British soldiers from their positions. Although she was hit three times, once in the spine, she miraculously survived.

The Marrowbone Lane garrison was also coming under heavy attack as the distillery was a vital outpost protecting the SDU and commanding a view

of all possible approaches. On Tuesday three girls left the distillery, leaving 21 women there. The military tried to gain entry but were driven back again and again. The Volunteers had snipers posted all over the complex, especially in the upper floors, and while the women's main tasks involved looking after the garrison, they also stepped up to the mark when required. Josie O'Keeffe was with Robert Holland in an upper floor overlooking the canal and remained by his side reloading his guns as he fired volley after volley into the advancing soldiers.

Many women were sent from the GPO to assist in various outposts throughout the week, including Leslie Price (Central Branch), who was sent to Reis's Jewellers where she served with four other women. Leslie was with Captain Thomas Weafer when he was killed on the Wednesday. (In her Bureau of Military History witness statement, Leslie stated: "I remember doing what I could for him and saying an Act of Contrition in his ear.")

Returning to the GPO, Leslie and Brid Dixon brought dispatches and ammunition to Daly in Church Street. (In her witness statement she recalled: "We had done our midnight job so well and got back so easily that Seán MacDermott said up in the dining-room that we were to be treated as officers. We were promoted in the field.")

On Thursday, Tom Clarke asked Leslie to fetch a priest. By now O'Connell Street was being shelled and Leslie made her way under heavy fire to the Pro-Cathedral, locating Fr Michael O'Flanagan and bringing him safely back to the GPO.

By Friday the building was becoming untenable and Pearse called the women into the main hall and asked them to leave. They protested but he would not relent. According to Julia Grenan he said: "It was a request, now it is an order."

Apart from three women chosen to stay, Elizabeth O'Farrell, Julia Grenan and Winifred Carney, the remainder left in two sections. Accompanied by a priest they took the wounded to Jervis Street Hospital, where British soldiers soon arrived and the women were taken into custody.

Among the women serving with Commandant Daly in Fr Mathew Hall and then the Four Courts were Brigid Lyons, Rose McGuinness, Anna Fahy, and Louisa and Mary O'Sullivan. Early on Wednesday, Lyons and Annie Derham were sent to assist Peadar Clancy at Church Street, where they treated the wounded and remained until they heard of Pearse's surrender.

When Pearse surrendered to General Lowe on Saturday 29th April, Elizabeth O'Farrell stood beside him. It fell to O'Farrell to deliver Pearse's surrender order to the remaining garrisons, which she successfully did, despite the dangers, after which she was arrested and taken to Kilmainham Gaol.

Seventy-seven women were imprisoned after the Rising. One, Countess Markievicz, was sentenced to death; later commuted to penal servitude for life. They were held in Richmond Barracks and later Kilmainham Gaol, during which time they heard the executions of their leaders. Most were released after ten days.

High among the terrible mistakes the British government made in the aftermath of the Rising was underestimating the women who had participated. For these women the Easter Rising was a test; training for what was to follow. They had proved they were more than mere support to their male comrades: they were equal. In the War of Independence and Civil War they showed just how vital they were in their roles as intelligence operatives, propagandists, nurses, doctors, comrades. Without them the revolution simply would not have succeeded. These women proved not only that they were soldiers, they were experts in the art of revolution. ■



MARGARET SKINNIDER (wearing boy's clothes)

# Weapons

## of 1916

BY MICHAEL BARRY

**O**n Easter Monday morning 1916, some 1,500 Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army members fanned out across Dublin, armed with an eclectic range of weapons.

Joseph Plunkett had visited Germany with Roger Casement to seek German military support. The Germans, not willing to risk dispatching troops, sent a disguised steamer, the *Aud*, laden with 20,000 Mosin-Nagant rifles (captured from the Russian army). Just before the planned rising the ship was intercepted off the southwest coast and scuttled by its crew. What would have happened had these excellent rifles been available to the Volunteers is one of the great 'what ifs' of Irish history.

Instead, in addition to a miscellany of rifles and shotguns, the main weapons available to the insurgents on that fateful Monday were the 1,500 Mauser 71s procured from a German arms dealer and landed in Howth and Kilcoole in 1914. These big, heavy, bolt-action rifles were revolutionary when first issued to the Prussian army in 1872. While still in good condition in 1916, their Achilles Heel was that they were single-shot; firing at around four rounds per minute as opposed to the 15 rounds that the opposing British army Lee Enfield could achieve.

Also in the mix was the single-shot Martini-Henry, standard issue to the RIC and very much a weapon of empire, having been used in imperial adventures such as Sudan and Rorke's Drift.

With an assortment of weapons requiring different bullets, the provision of rifle ammunition was a logistical nightmare for the Volunteers.

Shotguns were also in evidence, as these were readily available. However, they were good for close-quarter fighting, not for the long-distance sniping that comprised most of the action in 1916.

There was a miscellany of side arms: revolvers and automatics. Patrick Pearse carried a 7.65mm FN Browning automatic, which was relatively small and easily concealed (most likely why one had been used by Gavrilo Princep to assassinate the Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo).

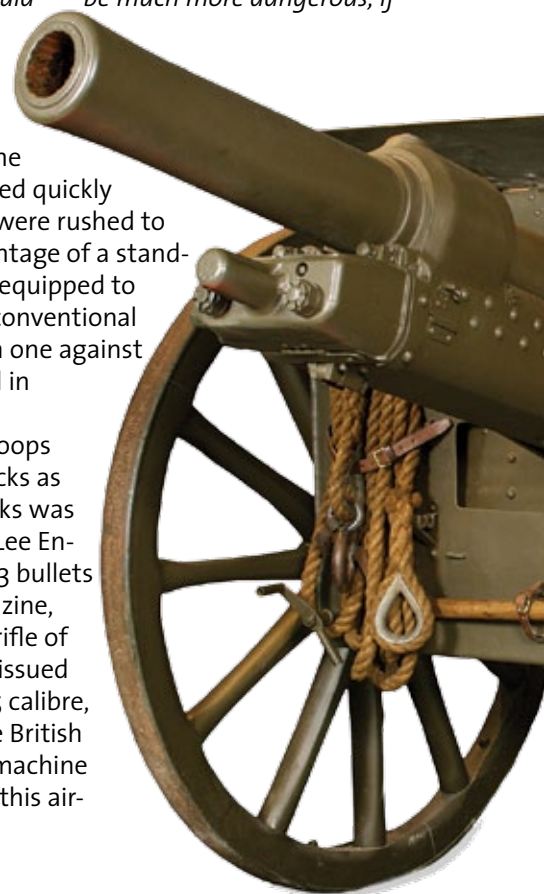
A prized weapon was the Mauser 'Broomhandle' C96, a semi-automatic pistol with a detachable stock. One was used effectively by Lieutenant Michael Malone at 25

Northumberland Road in repelling waves of attacking British soldiers. In the South Dublin Union, Cathal Brugha valiantly held off superior British forces from a barricade on the landing of the Nurses' Home with his Mauser C96, and Countess Markievicz famously kissed her C96 before handing it to a British officer during the surrender at the Royal College of Surgeons.

The wheels of Volunteer industry had also been busy. Improvised bayonets for shotguns had been run up (to add to the arsenal of French sword-type rifle bayonets). Primitive pike-heads had also been prepared, giving resonances of the 1798 Rebellion. Improvised bombs, many comprising cans filled with gelignite and shrapnel, were made in such places as Count Plunkett's premises at Larkfield in Kimmage and the basement of Liberty Hall. (One Volunteer later noted that these were '*so unreliable that after the first day I decided that they would be much more dangerous, if they did explode, to our men than to the enemy*').

While the rising came as a shock to the British, they responded quickly and the troops who were rushed to Dublin had the advantage of a standing army, being well equipped to fight a war; albeit a conventional field war, rather than one against an enemy ensconced in city buildings.

The weapon the troops grabbed from the racks as they left their barracks was the short-magazine Lee Enfield Mk III. Firing .303 bullets from a 10-shot magazine, this was the service rifle of WW I. Officers were issued with the Webley .455 calibre, six-shot revolver. The British also used the Lewis machine gun. Relatively light, this air-



cooled gun fired .303 bullets at 550 rounds per minute. They also had the Vickers, the regular heavy machine gun used in WW I and for many decades afterwards. Solid and reliable, it was water-cooled and fed by a 250-round (.303 calibre) canvas belt.

A Vickers was put to good use in strafing the Irish Citizen Army in St Stephen's Green, while a Lewis gun was in operation from the United Services Club, also on the Green. British troops also had Mills bombs (grenades), which they used in such sorties as the storming of Clanwilliam House, at Mount Street, and assaults on occupied buildings near City Hall.

From early on, soldiers on the roof of Trinity College (several from Australia and New Zealand) sniped with Lee Enfields. British forces began to spread out around the city and by the middle of Easter Week, they had command of most high places in the central Dublin area, like the Custom House, Tara Street tower and Mc Birney's department store by the Liffey, from where rifle and machine gun fire was poured on the Volunteers occupying outposts in and around Sackville Street. The Volunteers responded with their Howth Mausers.

Many tales tell of the skill of the marksmen on either side. One related to a can on a string - used to shuffle messages between an outpost on Sackville Street and the GPO - which was bagged by an Australian marksman from Trinity's roof. Another is of Volunteer Joseph Sweeney in the GPO, who halted an improvised armoured car on Sackville Street by firing through the driver's slit.

The rapid adaption of lorries into improvised armoured cars (Daimler lorries lent by Guinness were mounted with locomotive smoke boxes at the GS&WR's Inchicore works) was an ingenious move that allowed the British to advance through heavy fire along such locations as North King Street, and to relieve the Lancers trapped near the Four Courts.

However, the real game-changer was the British use of artillery. After the call went to the Reserve Artillery Brigade in Athlone, four 18-pounder field guns were fettled up and dispatched by train on Tuesday 25th April (along with shrapnel shells, the only ammunition available). These detrained at Blanchardstown. The first use was at 3.45 pm, when shrapnel shells were fired at the insurgent barricades on the railway bridges at North Circular Road and Cabra Road. The field guns then moved to Trinity College on Wednesday to bombard Liberty Hall, along with the 12-pounder of the armed yacht *Helga*. Later, shells were lobbed against the eastern end of the Four Courts.

When the guns were wheeled out of Trinity on Thursday to focus on the Volunteers on Sackville Street their shells began to rain down on a potential tinderbox, containing stores of oil, paint and newsprint. The shrapnel shells were enough to ignite flammable material, and by Thursday night fires raged along the street.

On Friday afternoon the GPO came under direct shell fire and the roof was soon ablaze. One account relates that a unit of Sherwood Foresters, based near Parnell Street, also used trench mortars to bombard the insurgents. The Volunteers evacuated the GPO that evening and re-established in Moore Street. The surrender occurred the following day, Saturday 29th April.

Perhaps the most poignant use of weapons in the Rising came later, with the Lee Enfields used by British firing squads for the 14 executions in Dublin and one in Cork over the period 3rd to 12th May. ■

#### Weapons Top Left:

**Mausers 71:** bolt-action, single-shot rifles issued to the Prussian Army in 1872, revolutionary for their time.

**Short-magazine Lee Enfield Mk III:** the general-issue service rifle during WW I. Capable of a much higher rate of fire than the rebels' single-shot Mausers.

**A collection of improvised bombs found in the Royal College of Surgeons after the Rising.**



**Improved armoured vehicle:** Five Daimler flatbed lorries were rapidly armoured for the military. Three had locomotive smoke boxes fitted. Gun slits were cut out, with some painted decoy slits to confuse snipers.



**18-pounder field gun:** standard British field artillery gun on the Western Front. Four arrived from Athlone on Tuesday 25th April.

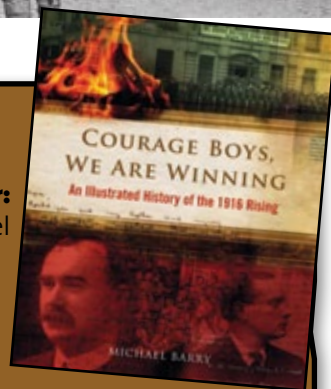


**Lewis machine gun,** with ammunition pan: capable of firing 550 rounds per minute.



#### About the Author:

Michael Barry is an author and historian living in Dublin. His most recent book, *Courage Boys, We are Winning: an Illustrated History of the 1916 Rising* (Andalus Press, 2015), contains over 550 photographs. His previous book, *The Green Divide: an Illustrated History of the Irish Civil War* (Andalus Press, 2014), received very high praise. Both are available from <http://andalus.ie/> and all leading bookshops.



# BRITISH SOLDIERS IN 1916

BY JOHN MCGUIGGAN, BARRISTER AT LAW

**W**ho were they and where did they come from? Those stern-looking English soldiers marching from Kingstown through the spring sunshine into the second city of their empire to crush rebellion, looked so young to the mostly cheering citizens, but they were the teeth of an empire, and were about to be unleashed upon those who would dare to question that empire's rule in Ireland.

Terribly young and inexperienced, some amongst their marching ranks had not yet even fired their weapons on the ranges, let alone in anger against a determined foe. Almost none of the privates were experienced in war and none of them in the urban warfare towards which they now marched.

They were all volunteers but they had signed on to fight in Belgium and France, not Ireland. Despite the casualty lists they were still prepared to sign on and to die for their country, but in Flanders, not Dublin.

They were from the North Midlands Division, recruited from a great slice of England running from the seaside towns of Lincolnshire, across the great agricultural plains to the coalfields of Nottinghamshire, through the hills and dales of Derbyshire, down into the industrial heartland of Staffordshire, Birmingham and the Black Country, before rising again towards the Welsh border.

These khaki-clad soldiers were fishermen and shepherds; tradesmen and unskilled workers from mills and factories; coalminers, gun makers, tool makers and brewers.

Many would have been as poor as Dublin's poor, coming from overcrowded industrial slums or primitive rural cottages, stunted by deference and class; cannon fodder for Flanders. Most didn't have the vote but they were loyal and brave enough to die. But dying in Dublin would not have crossed their minds before they marched with loaded weapons

towards the risen city.

The Sherwood Foresters led the march. They were without machine guns, hand grenades or mortars, and even if they had had them, most lacked the training to use them. But overwhelming numbers would count in the crushing of the rebellion and they were numbered in their imperial hundreds.

The officers were exclusively public school, which by then had effectively become officer factories, such was the casualty rate in the trenches.

The adjutant leading the march was married to an Irish girl who had played hockey for Ireland and whose brother had died at the Front only the month before the Rising.

She and her two small children were over from Nottingham to spend Easter with her parents in Blackrock. When she saw the soldiers marching along the coast road, she would have been amazed to see her husband at their head, when she thought he must have been in France.

The adjutant fell out from the ranks and embraced his wife and children. War had kept them apart but the Fates had conspired to bring them together. It was a too-brief embrace, as the captain had to rejoin his marching soldiers, but perhaps they could meet for tea on Sunday?

As he rushed back to the front of his battalion, waving goodbye, there would probably have been some smart remarks from his soldiers, maybe even some coarse banter. However, the sergeant major would stop that fairly quickly with a firm "Settle down, lads!" No need to shout, they weren't on the parade ground now, they were marching into battle.

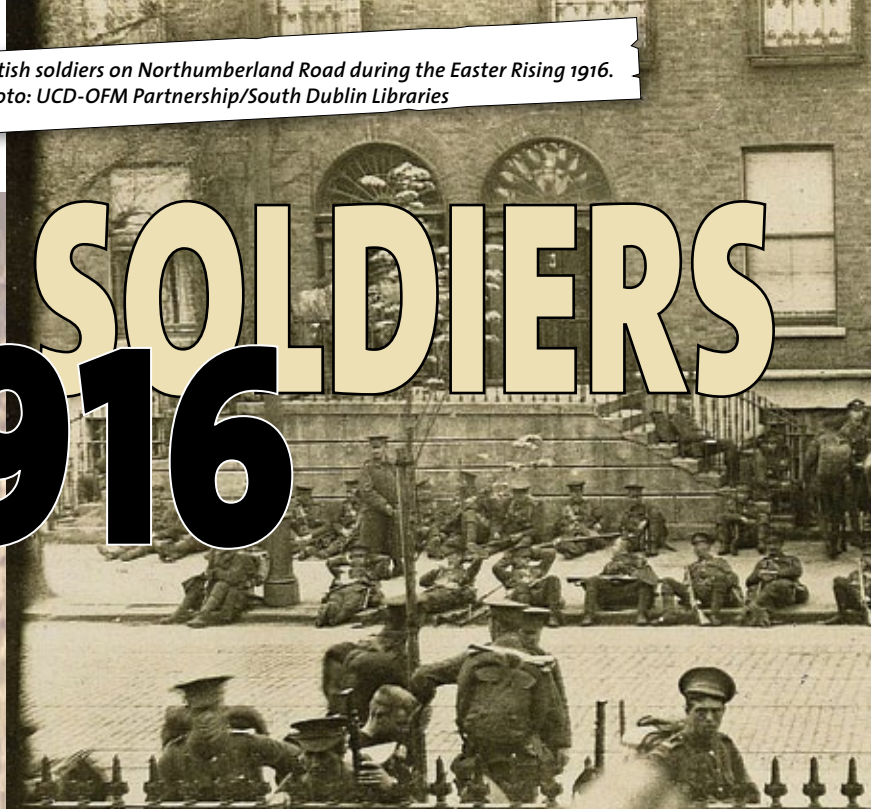
The sergeant major, who had worked

as an apprentice in the cloth trade and taught at a Methodist Sunday school before the war, was twenty-two years old! You wouldn't usually make corporal by that age, but the Great War was killing on an industrial scale; great cohorts of NCOs and officers were being systematically wiped out in the trenches, and new men, experienced well beyond their years, were being promoted to ranks they would never attain in a peacetime army. But twenty-two! Sergeants major should be veterans, feared on the parade ground, mentors in the field; mature, wise, experienced, reliable; looked up to by both officers and men. If the most senior NCO of this army advancing on Ballsbridge was but twenty-two then God bless the youths who were the sergeants, corporals and privates that he now steadied.

They were becoming more cautious now. Shots had been fired at them; ineffective shots from isolated rebels, but enough to increase the tension as they approached the edge of the city.

What must they have thought as they marched down Northumberland Road, a quiet, leafy avenue of grand houses that could be anywhere in England. Like Nottingham, where the adjutant lived in just such an avenue, alongside barristers, doctors and well-to-do businessmen, with servants, well-tended gardens and an air of prosperity. What on earth were they doing, advancing down this so British-looking, peaceful place, holding loaded rifles?

The prettiness and ordinary familiarity of the place would surely have relaxed them. Their fear would probably have been





more like that of a pedestrian crossing a busy road, rather than those who are about to die.

Number 25 Northumberland Road, at the corner of Haddington Road, is a beautiful house that stands square, private, noble and commanding. It is unlikely that the advancing troops noticed that the windows had been barricaded. Nor did they probably expect that such a handsome house would be occupied by rebels.

The adjutant, who not long before had basked in the joy of the chance meeting with his family, was the first to be hit by the volley of shots that erupted from number 25. Ten Sherwood Foresters fell in the leafy avenue and,

suddenly, the ordinary, pretty, so-very-British Northumberland Road was wet with English blood.

The adjutant died quickly. His family would not have heard the shots or known that he would not be home for Sunday tea.

The soldiers scattered into the gardens and doorways of the grand houses, looking for where the shots had come from, shouting orders, returning fire, pulling the wounded and the dead into cover.

The remaining officers prepared to rush number 25. Swords drawn, they led their men on a frontal assault. They may not have been very well trained but they lacked nothing in their foolish bravery. If a fight was wanted then they were up for it; never mind the fear, the officer has his sword up...charge! Shots poured down on them from the house, and now other rebels, 500 yards away across Mount Street Bridge in Clanwilliam House, opened up with their Howth-smuggled Mausers, catching the inexperienced, brave troops in a deadly crossfire. The soldiers fell and fell. Even when they reached number 25 they lacked bombs to blow open the door, or grenades to toss into the windows.

How inexperienced were they? A British artillery officer from Athlone, Captain E Gerrard, recorded finding himself in the company of some Sherwood Foresters in Beggar's Bush Barracks under fire from rebels holding the railway line. *"They had never fired a service rifle before,"* he said. *"They did not even know how to load them; we had to show them how. They were the untrained, undersized products of the English slums."*

In the end the brave rebels in number 25 and Clanwilliam House were defeated by overwhelming numbers and the bombs and machine guns that eventually arrived. The young sergeant major had died in an advance on Mount Street Bridge and altogether the regiment suffered some 240 casualties.

Some of the soldiers would go on to form the execution parties that shot the rebel leaders in Kilmainham Jail. If they had been unfamiliar with their rifles when they first marched into Dublin, by then they knew their weapons with that rare intimacy of soldiers blooded by battle. They would be intimately familiar with the Lee Enfield, the smell of rifle oil and cordite, the feel of the wood, the oiled click of the steel bolt, the heavy kick of the brass-plated butt and the sharp crack of its shots.

Still, as they lifted their barrels to aim at the small, white cloth pinned above a rebel's heart, you could forgive some trembling barrels or some who faltered in their duty. These were fighting soldiers, not executioners.

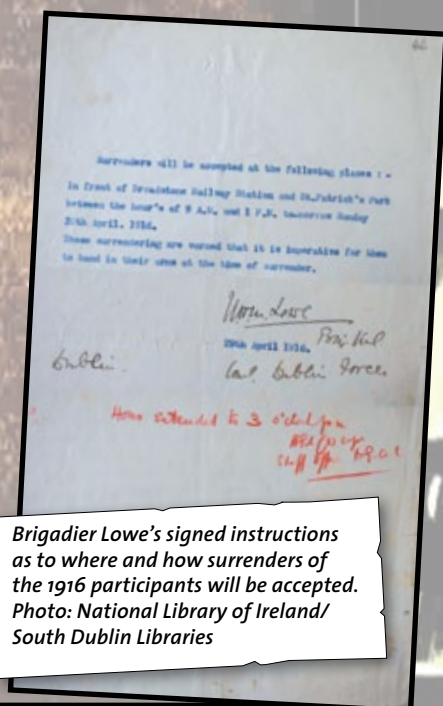
Would they have trembled more had they known that the shots they were about to fire would echo not just round the breaker's yard of Kilmainham but across the world; that they would signal the end of British rule in most of Ireland; and, perhaps, even signal the end of the British Empire itself.

Afterwards they marched away from the smoke and rubble of Dublin to barracks in Naas, where they would finish their training through the summer, marching, digging trenches across the Curragh, learning gas drills; all in preparation for the Front, which would prove far more deadly for the Sherwood Foresters, and where over 10,000 of them would fall.

So should we, in this centenary year, remember these English soldiers? While many an armchair republican would be horrified at the idea, those who actually fought them, the Volunteers of de Valera's 3rd Battalion, had no reservation. In 1966, de Valera, then the aged president of a free Ireland, invited the English officer who had taken the battalion's surrender in 1916 back to Ireland. They took tea together in Áras an Uachtaráin and then travelled to Mount Street Bridge, where they stood together with the surviving volunteers of the 3rd Battalion to remember those who had fought and those who had fallen, Irish and English.

We do not need to celebrate or honour them; just remember them. And perhaps it will be left to those of us who have been soldiers, or who are soldiers still, to acknowledge that in the end they were just soldiers too, and we will remember them as such. ■

**About the Author:** John McGuiggan is a barrister practising out of the Law Library at Dublin's Four Courts Law Library. He was educated at Ruskin College, Oxford, and University College Cork, and is a former British Trade Union Official (NUPE) and an Englishman practising in Ireland.



*Brigadier Lowe's signed instructions as to where and how surrenders of the 1916 participants will be accepted. Photo: National Library of Ireland/ South Dublin Libraries*



*British soldiers search through the rubble of Kavanagh's Public House in Bridge Street [sic] in the Easter Rising in Ireland in 1916. Photo: National Archives/Spaarnestad Photo/Collection Het Leven*

# THOMAS WOLFANGEL

designer and bespoke tailor  
TAILOR & CUTTER GOLD MEDALIST (LONDON)

*Thomas Wolfangel specialises in bespoke tailoring for the military. We carry a range of international fabrics for business and formal wear.*



PERSONAL ATTENTION GUARANTEED

Mobile: 085 214 0479 Tel: 01 280 7066

Mellifont House, 24 Mellifont Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin



## IRISH VOLUNTEERS

**KEEP OUT THE FOREIGNER.**

Caps may be Green, but Material Foreign.

Fallon's Caps are made from Irish Tweed Only.

Fallon's own Trade Union Made. Bandoliers.

Irish Leather throughout. Irish Leather

Waist Belts, with Fallon's own manufacture

Harp Buckle.

Fallon's Uniforms of Morrogh Bros.' material,

Approved by Irish Volunteer Provisional

Committee. Orders of 100 received up to

Tuesday Morning Dispatched Same Week.

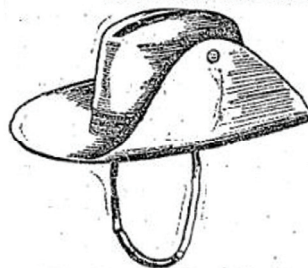
First maker in Ireland of Special Uniform,

and Sam Brown Belts for Officers.

See Irish Trade Mark on Every Article, Not  
Genuine Otherwise.

## VOLUNTEER EQUIPMENT.

NOTHING CAN STOP THE MARCH OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS.



The Famous Boer Hat  
as worn by the American Army

2/3 each. 22/6 doz.

BANDOLIERS AND BELTS

Made on the premises by Trade Union Labour.

Uniforms made  
to measure on  
the Premises  
by Irish  
workers.

Write for Self-  
Measurement Form.

FIRST MAKER IN  
IRELAND OF SPE-  
CIAL UNIFORM FOR  
VOLUNTEER  
OFFICERS.

Approved Material and  
Style. Write for  
Wholesale Price List.



Custom made Sam Browne belts hand  
made by Declan at his saddlery and leather  
work-shop in Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Award winning Saddler with over 30 years experience  
in the leather industry, renowned for his craftsmanship  
and attention to detail. Each bespoke belt is made using  
only the highest grades of leather and brass fittings,  
ensuring comfort of ease and longevity of the product.



Proud to work with the Defence Forces

Contact Declan or Margaret Clancy at 045 432606

clancysaddlery@gmail.com

[www.declanclancysaddlery.ie](http://www.declanclancysaddlery.ie)

Declan Clancy Saddlery

## Murty Quinn Medal Mounting Service

Including Ribbons and Medal Miniatures



Ring for estimates

Mobile: 087 939 4680 Email: [mquinn18@eircom.net](mailto:mquinn18@eircom.net)

27 Oaklawns, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

# TACTICAL AID

## STREET FIGHTING - Summary

In the military sense of the term what after all is a street? A street is a defile in a city. A defile is a narrow pass through which troops can only move by narrowing their front, and therefore making themselves a good target for the enemy. A defile is also a difficult place for soldiers to manoeuvre in, especially if the flanks of the defile are held by the enemy.

BY JAMES CONNOLLY

A mountain pass is a defile the sides of which are constituted by the natural slopes of the mountain sides, as at the Scalp. A bridge over a river is defile the sides of which are constituted by the river. A street is a defile the sides of which are constituted by the houses in the street.

To traverse a mountain pass with any degree of safety the sides of the mountain must be cleared by flanking parties ahead of the main body; to pass over a bridge the banks of the river on each side must be raked by gun or rifle fire whilst the bridge is being rushed; to take a street properly barricaded and held on both sides by forces in the houses, these houses must be broken into and taken by hand-to-hand fighting. A street barricade placed in a position where artillery cannot operate from a distance is impregnable to frontal attack. To bring artillery within a couple of hundred yards – the length of the average street – would mean the loss of artillery if confronted by even imperfectly drilled troops armed with rifles.

The Moscow revolution where only 80 rifles were in the hands of the insurgents, would have ended with the annihilation of the artillery had the number of insurgent rifles been 800.

The insurrection of Paris in June, 1848, reveals how districts of towns or villages should be held. The streets were barricaded at tactical points not on the main streets but commanding them. The houses were broken through so that passages were made inside the houses along the whole length of the streets. The party walls were loop holed as were also the front walls, the windows were blocked by sandbags, boxes filled with stones and dirt, bricks, chests, and other pieces of furniture with all sorts of odds and ends piled up high against them.

Behind such defences the insurgents poured their fire upon the troops through loop holes left for the purpose.

In the attack against Napoleon a village held in this manner repulsed several assaults of the Prussians allies of England. When these Prussians were relieved by the English these latter did not dare

attempt a frontal attack, but instead broke into an end house on one side of the village and commenced to take the houses one by one. Thus all the fighting was inside the houses, and musket-fire played but a small part. On one side of the street they captured all the houses, on the other they failed, and when a truce was declared the English were in possession of one side of the village, and the French enemies the other.

The truce led to a peace. When peace was finally proclaimed the two sides of the village street were still held by opposing forces.

The defence of a building in a city, town or village is governed by the same rules. Such a building left unconquered is a serious danger even if its supports are all defeated. If it had been flanked by barricades, and all these barricades were destroyed, no troops could afford to push on and leave the building in the hands of the enemy. If they did so they would be running the danger of perhaps meeting a check further on. Which check would be disastrous if they had left a hostile building manned by an unconquered force in their rear. Therefore, the fortifying of a strong building, as a pivot upon which the defence of a town or village should hinge, forms a principal object of the preparations of any defending force, whether regular army or insurrectionary.

The general principle to be deducted from a study of the example we have been dealing with, is that the defence is of almost overwhelming importance in such warfare as a popular force like the Citizen Army might be called upon to participate in. Not a mere passive defence of a position valueless in itself but the active defence of a position whose location threatens the supremacy or existence of the enemy. The genius of the commander must find such a position, the skill of his subordinates must prepare and fortify it; the courage of all must defend it. Out of this combination of genius, skill and courage alone can grow the flower of military success. ■

**Extract from Revolutionary Warfare 24th July 1915**

# The Maritime Perspective in the

# 'Poets' Rebellion'

BY LT CDR CAOIMHÍN MAC UNFRAIDH, NAVAL HQ

**I**n a military sense, the outcome of the 1916 Rising was never truly in doubt. This was not only, or even primarily, because of the mismatch in combat power between the opponents but due to the British command of Ireland's seas, which meant they could reinforce their positions in Ireland at will and ensure that their troops would be resupplied continuously. The Rising's leaders were aware of this and their decision to proceed with the Rising nonetheless is what makes its sobriquet of the 'Poets' Rebellion' quite apt.

Although sometimes used pejoratively, to suggest a sentimental ignorance in the military planning of the Rising, the title 'Poets' Rebellion' is also a shorthand acknowledgement that the Rising relied upon a revolutionary aspiration for the possibility of its success, rather than a sound appreciation of the military realities. Since British command of the sea could not be challenged, the only military outcome possible was a tactical, temporary success on land. What would have followed is outlined by Alfred T Mahan's (near contemporary) strategic naval theories; when the enemy has no fleet, he writes, *"the noiseless, steady, exhausting pressure with which seapower acts, cutting off the resources of the enemy while maintaining its own, supporting war in scenes where it does not appear itself...and striking open blows at rare intervals" leads ultimately to the enemy's defeat.*

Full mobilisation of the Volunteers, unified command and the element of surprise could have resulted in the British temporarily losing control of most of Ireland, but without the means to challenge British dominance at sea, the positions could not have been held. Many of the northern ports would surely have been protected by the unionist UVF for British reinforcement. Nor, lacking the political build-up that preceded the War of Independence—a build-up that, itself, was largely a result of the Easter Rising—would any initial enthusiasm have been enough to sustain the backing of the population in the face of naval blockade and invasion.

True realization of our island status often occurs only when at-

tempting to export or import commodities, especially when those commodities are contraband. Their gun running had already brought home to the leaders of the Rising the crucial importance of sea lines of communication. This was a lesson identified, but rarely learned, by Irish leaders throughout history, especially since lead, powder, firearms and canon became essential to the assertion of military power.

In the early modern period, British domination of the sea around Ireland was less complete than in 1916. The Spanish and the French were able to intervene with significant forces, and did so, for example, during the Desmond Rebellion (1580), the Nine-Years War (1600) and during the Napoleonic period (1798).

The Confederation of Kilkenny, taking advantage of the divisions caused by civil war in England, challenged Britain's naval dominance in Irish waters (an unusual occurrence in our country's history) with Irish naval forces and control of key ports and fortifications. The Confederation was thus able to function as the first national Irish government for nearly eight years (1642-1649) and ensured, through its own seapower, that its lines of communication, its embassies, flow of arms, and funding were maintained with the Continental powers that supported it.

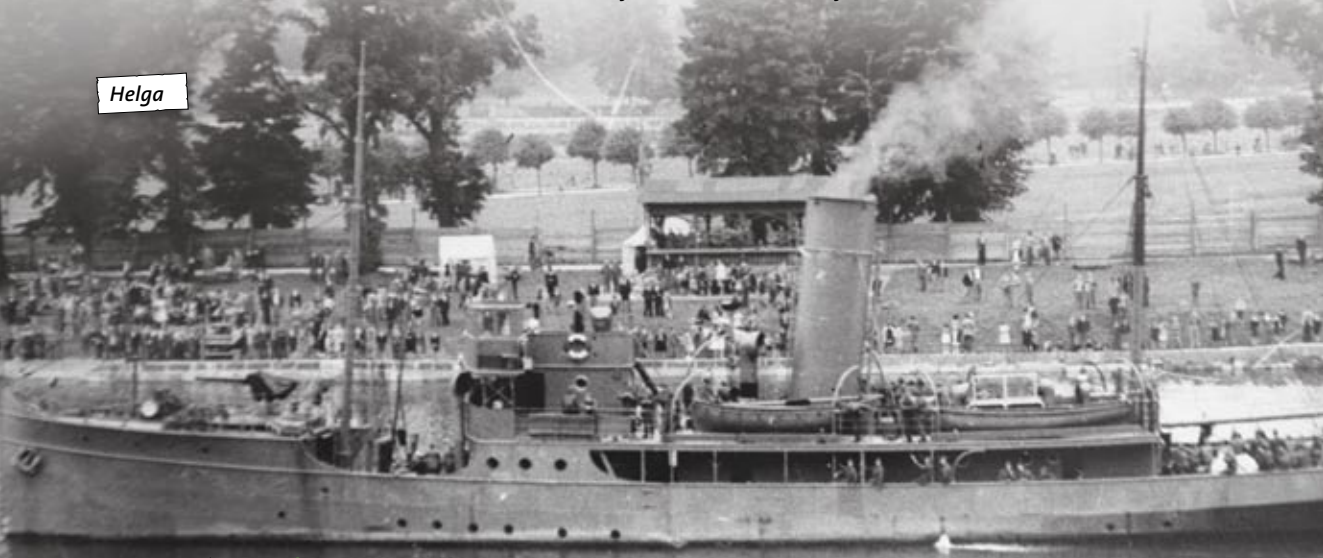
It would not be so in 1916. Such a period of Irish maritime capability was long past by then. Even the maritime power of the industrialised German state was shortly to be bottled up and corked by the British after the Battle of Jutland.

Limited German naval support was obtained and gun-running efforts continued, but the interception of the *Aud*, with its crucial arms shipment, showed that the Royal Navy was capable of disrupting any such effort with relative ease. The sheer maritime adventure of



HMS Adventure (1904)

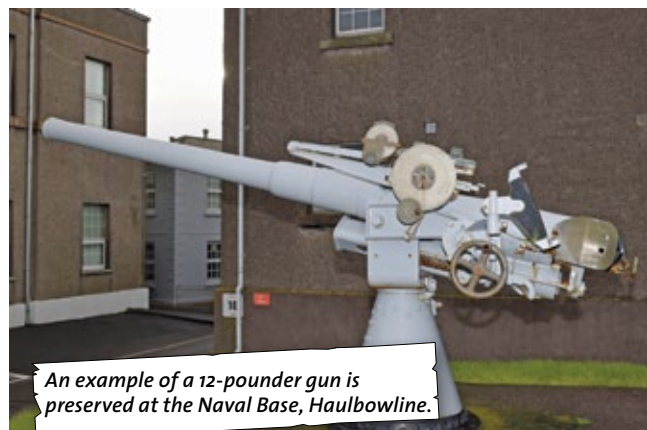
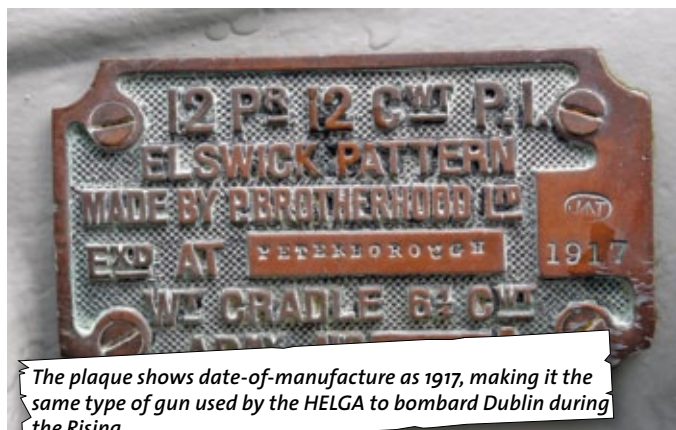
Helga



that effort is worth remembering though; Casement's landing from a German submarine on Banna Strand; the *Aud*, with 20,000 rifles onboard, disguised as a Norwegian ship, signalling frantically; the accidental drowning of the Volunteers that were to meet her; her voyage, under detention, to Cork; and running up the German ensign before

column. Famously, the *Helga* shelled Liberty Hall with her 12-pounder. Less well known is that she also shelled Boland's Mills and the Dublin Distillery building, and moved troops around Dublin Bay, across the Liffey, and between Dublin and Kingstown.

Not only does such action demonstrate the reach and mobility of



being scuttled by her captain – a symbolic scuppering of the chances of success for the rebellion.

Through their gun running activities and their attempts to utilise German naval capability to achieve their ends, the rebels were aware of the problems posed by Ireland's island status. Erskine Childers showed in his pre-war writings, a clear understanding of Mahan's naval strategy. (The characters in his prescient novel *The Riddle of the Sands* even quote Mahan to each other.) The Rising's leadership was therefore, at some level, conscious of the dangers posed to their effort from the sea.

This awareness, however, did not translate into practical counter-measures. Daire Brunicardi, in his book *Haulbowline: The Naval Base and Ships of Cork Harbour* (The History Press Ireland, 2012), states that it was intended to capture Carlisle Pier in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) to prevent troops landing there but that the lack of manpower [caused by contradictory mobilisation orders] required this objective to be abandoned. Brunicardi also notes that the seizure of the radio transmitters in Dublin by the rebels was probably the first such act – and since much copied – in revolutionary history but that the presence of Royal Navy ships meant communications with Britain were maintained.

In fact, when the power to Kingstown Wireless Telegraphy station was cut, the only communication between Britain and her forces in Ireland was by *HMS Adventure's* radio in Kingstown. Conscious of this, Eamon de Valera considered sending an armed train down the line from his position at Boland's Mill but demurred, probably due

to the remarkably swift landing of British troops there from Liverpool. Therefore, the rebels' plan to seize the communications infrastructure of Dublin and prevent early British reinforcement was undone by the simple presence of naval units.

British naval activity was not limited to communications. Landings were conducted at Skerries and infantry was also moved by sea from Cork to Galway, where *HMS Laburnum* also shelled a Volunteer

even modestly accoutred naval ships, it also demonstrates a significant military failing of the rebels. The *Helga* and the other naval units involved were able to move with impunity as the rebels lacked weapons of sufficient calibre and range to threaten them. (It is a common failing of land-centric forces that when confronted with the need to tackle naval ships they find that typical infantry and infantry support weapons lack the range and payload required.) This freedom of naval movement meant that Volunteer positions could never be sure of the axis of attack while having no meaningful riposte to hand.

Britain was well practiced at navy/army co-ordination and was organised and swift in transporting troops and equipment from Liverpool and Cork. The rebel leaders realised the importance of preventing reinforcements from Britain but were powerless to stop them. They had only managed a gallant but piecemeal importation of weapons and ammunition using leisure craft before losing the major shipment on the *Aud* and they were unable to interfere with maritime freedom of movement. They lacked the weapons and vessels to impede even the riverine and littoral movements of enemy ships and their effort to cut communications with Britain was undermined by the presence of the navy. In short, they had no maritime capability.

Awareness that the sea would be central to the result was not allowed to develop into an actual maritime strategy for the Rising. However, this was a wilful ignorance, not a lack of consideration. The leaders of the rebellion did understand the implications of not controlling the sea supply lines; that it would be only a matter of time before they were defeated. However, they were not in a position to challenge Britain's sea power, nor could they have been. Sea power has always been highly technical and highly expensive. In the industrial age, it requires an industrial base. For an irregular, non-state organisation to establish seapower is highly unusual. For the rebels to have done so under the nose of the greatest naval power in the world was impossible, and their attempts to harness German naval power were thwarted. This, at some level, was surely what crystallised for Pearse and the others the strategic necessity of a sacrifice. The awareness of their lack of maritime power, and the consequent desperation of any military effort they might make, contributed to the inspirational, if somewhat romantic, approach taken by the leaders of the Poets' Rebellion. ■



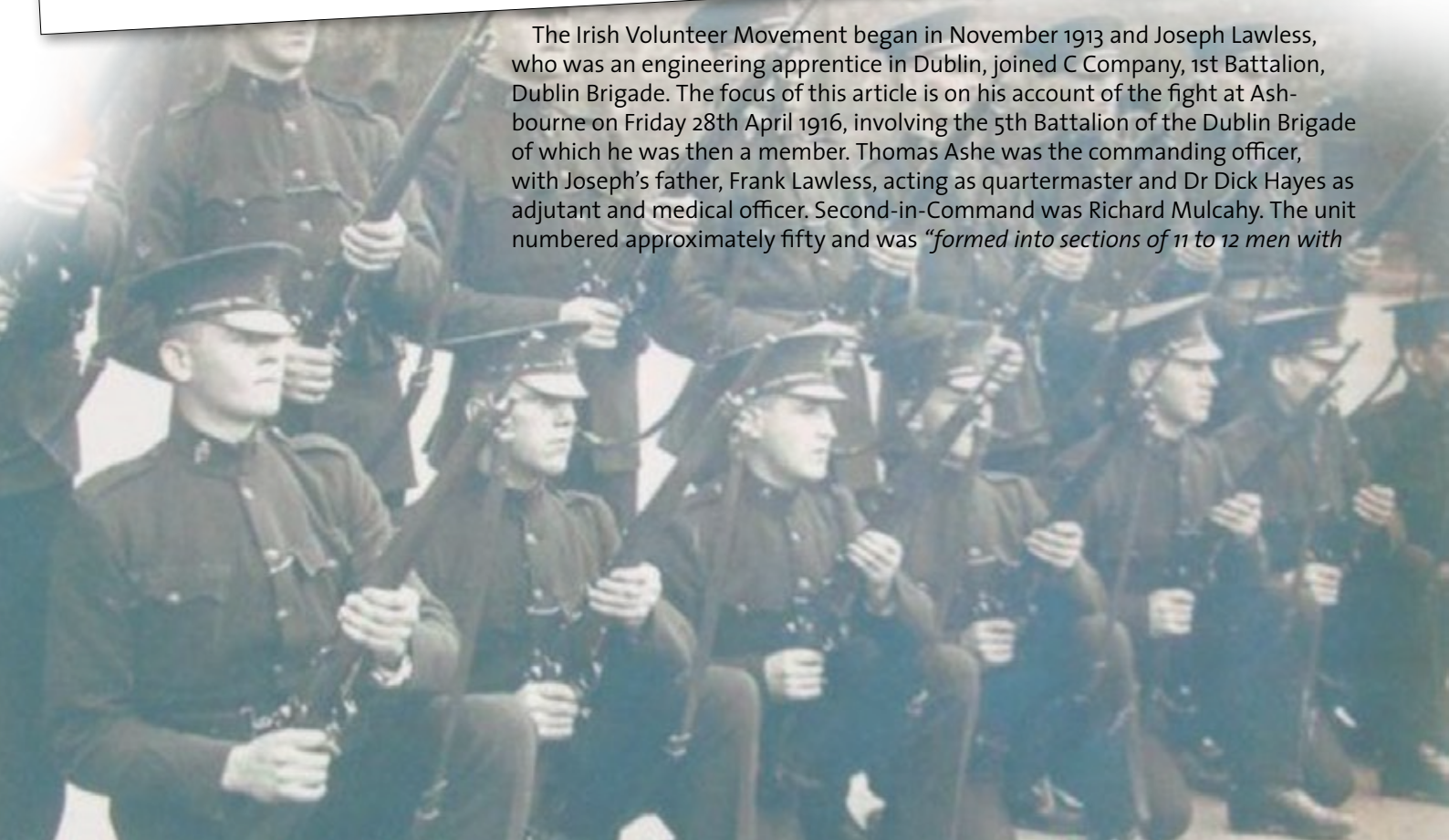
# A Personal Recollection

## BATTLE OF ASHBOURNE 1916

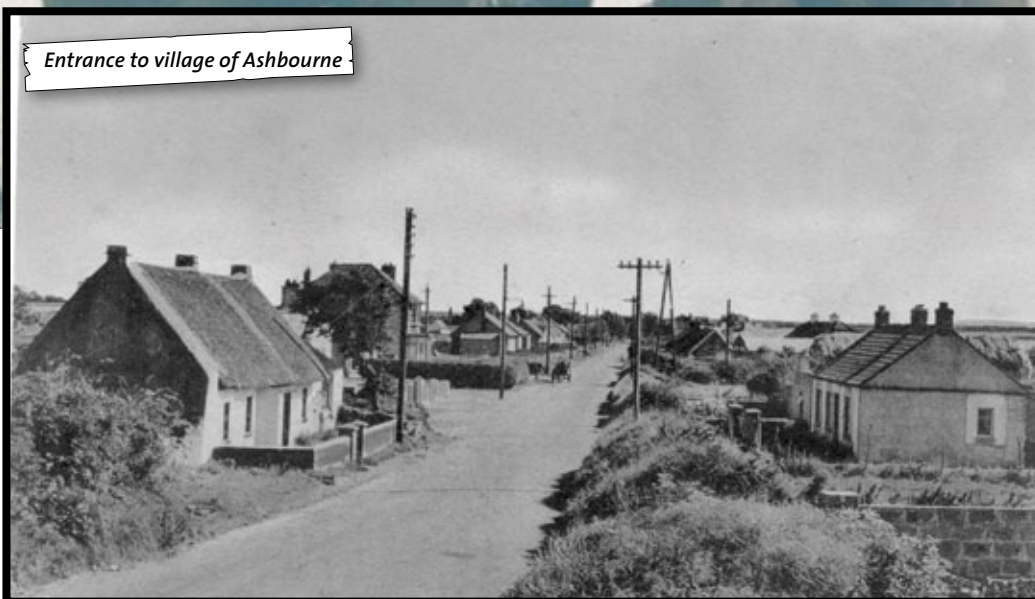
BY LT COL FRANK LAWLESS

**In this article Lt Col Frank Lawless introduces us to his grandfather's account of the fight at Ashbourne during the Rising. As we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Easter 1916 Rising it is timely for me to reflect on my own family's involvement, particularly that of my grandfather Joseph Vincent Lawless through a statement he submitted in 1954 to the Bureau of Military History.**

The Irish Volunteer Movement began in November 1913 and Joseph Lawless, who was an engineering apprentice in Dublin, joined C Company, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade. The focus of this article is on his account of the fight at Ashbourne on Friday 28th April 1916, involving the 5th Battalion of the Dublin Brigade of which he was then a member. Thomas Ashe was the commanding officer, with Joseph's father, Frank Lawless, acting as quartermaster and Dr Dick Hayes as adjutant and medical officer. Second-in-Command was Richard Mulcahy. The unit numbered approximately fifty and was *"formed into sections of 11 to 12 men with*



Entrance to village of Ashbourne



Typical Hedgerow in Ashbourne





# Seán Forde

**S**eán Forde was an active participant in the 1916 Rising, being one of those who raided the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park and afterwards fought in the North King Street/Church Street area. Interned in Stafford and Frongoch prisons, he was later active throughout the War of Independence before taking the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War, during which he was again interned until 1924. He joined the Civil Service in 1933, serving with distinction until 1960. He died on 15th December 1971.

John (Seán) Christopher Forde, the fourth of 15 children, of whom five died in childhood, of Luke and Mary (née Nolan) Forde of Tuam, Co Galway, was born on 23rd December 1895.

For periods of time, due to economic pressures, some of the children were cared for by others, usually close relatives. However, records show Seán and his younger sister, Angela, as residents of Tuam Workhouse on the night of the 1911 Census.

Perhaps inspired by the Galway republican activist brothers Liam and Barney Mellows, he joined Fianna Éireann in 1912, after moving to Dublin, and enrolled in the Irish Volunteers in 1914. In July of that year he was one of those who helped bring the Asgard-smuggled guns into Dublin from Howth, and he attended the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa in Glasnevin in August 2015, at which Pádraig Pearse delivered his famous eulogy.

A member of 2nd Battalion, Dublin Brigade, of the Volunteers, Seán was one of a group chosen to attack the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park on Easter Monday, with the aim of blowing up the munitions store.

He was cycling towards the city centre when his wheel got caught in a tram track and he was sent flying one way and his knapsack another. Little did the RIC officer who helped him up and returned the knapsack to him realise that its contents were the very explosives to be used in the attack!

Although they succeeded in capturing what he was later to describe as “*twelve fine Lee-Enfield rifles*”, Seán and his comrades failed in their primary objective of blowing up the munitions dump.

The Volunteers made their way to North King Street, where they linked up with members of Comdt Daly's Four Courts garrison to set up an outpost aimed at stopping the British from sending reinforcements from the Broadstone railway depot to retake the Four Courts.

Fierce fighting took place throughout the week, with many casualties on both sides, before the insurgents surrendered on Sunday morning.

Marched to the Rotunda Hospital for identification and registration, Seán overheard a British officer tell future Taoiseach, Seán Lemass, to go home because he was too young. (Lemass had pretended to be older but was actually just 16.) Seán and most of the other insurgents were marched under military escort to the North Wall, from where they were shipped to various places of confinement in England. During the journey to the docks, they were insulted by local women whose men were serving at the Front. However, something that left a lasting impression on him was that the British officer in charge of the escort reprimanded the women for their abuse, on the grounds that the Volunteers “*had fought bravely*”.

Forde was sent to Stafford prison, where his fellow inmates included Michael Collins and Dr James Ryan (who many years later, as Minister for Health, would appoint Forde as his Private Secretary).

He was then transferred to Frongoch internment camp in Wales, and sent to Wormwood Scrubs prison briefly for interrogation, before being released in August 1916.

Shortly afterwards he resumed his activities with the Volunteers, eventually switching to B Company, 2nd Battalion, where he was appointed 1st lieutenant and was involved in drilling, training, re-arming and re-organisational matters.

Seán Forde 1916 Volunteer



## Irish Volunteer 1916

BY DERMOT FORDE, (SON OF SEÁN FORDE)



Seán Forde's medals

*Reilly's Fort at the junction of North King Street and Church Street. Photo: Military Archives*



*Seán Forde pictured at North King St./Church St. at the 50th Anniversary in 1966. The loopholes at the top of the building behind him were ones he was firing from in 1916. Photo: Kieran Forde*



*1916 site, Magazine Fort Corner View, Phoenix Park in 2006. Photo: Armn Billy Galligan/Defence Forces*

During this time he was also engaged by Tom Hunter and Peadar Clancy, owners of the Republican Outfitters in Talbot Street, a known meeting point for members of the nationalist movement.

On 29th January 1919, Forde was arrested with 11 others at the Volunteer Hall on Clonliffe Road. Sentenced to six months imprisonment, he was one of a large group of prisoners who escaped from Mountjoy two months later. He went on the run in Clare and Galway before returning to Dublin, where he recommenced his work with the Republican Outfitters and his activities with the Volunteers, including the planning of an attack on a British troop train at Newcomen Bridge, North Strand.

Around April 1920 Forde was appointed Deputy Intelligence Officer of the Dublin Brigade, frequently meeting with

country units and acting as a conduit between them and GHQ.

It was at the Republican Outfitters shop on 14th October 1920 that he witnessed one of the defining moments of the War of Independence. Seán, Leo Henderson and Joe Vize were chatting to one of the most wanted men in Ireland, Seán Treacy, of the 3rd Tipperary Brigade, when the shop was raided by British troops. Af-

ter shots were exchanged, Treacy tried to escape on a bicycle that was far too big for him. He fell off and was shot dead. Forde and his companions were arrested.

After giving the false name, John Fitzgerald, he remained unrecognised and was released on 30th October. To his surprise and delight, the £35 in notes he had in his pocket on the day of his arrest (the takings from the shop) was still there when his clothes were returned to him!

Seán immediately resumed his role as a senior intelligence officer and was on active service with the Dublin Brigade during this crucial part of the War of Independence. He had regular contact with the Intelligence Department at GHQ, and occasionally stood in for its commanding officer, Joe Griffin. He is thought to have replaced Griffin as Brigade Intelligence Officer when the latter was arrested after the Custom House attack in May 1921.

In an interview, under oath, with the Military Pensions Advisory Committee in 1940, Seán related the following story that indicates the respect that existed between the adversaries at the time:

*"...Mrs McCarthy, the wife of the DI who was shot by McEoin in Longford, sent a very fine letter to Dublin Castle, pointing out that although her husband was shot by this man that he had behaved very gentlemanly and that kind of thing and that from his point of view he was fighting for the freedom of his country and it was not murder in the ordinary sense and as the widow of the dead man she appealed to him to stay the execution. This letter I gave to Mick Collins myself."*

When 'the split' came at the end of 1921 Seán became the deputy to Director of Intelligence of the IRA, Joe Griffin. After the attack on the Four Courts and the beginning of the Civil War in June 1922, Forde was engaged in the fighting in Dublin, including that at the Gresham Hotel where Cathal Brugha was in command.

On Brugha's orders he and others attempted to get to Leenane in Connemara to receive a shipment of weapons. On their first attempt they were turned back at Naas by Free State soldiers and returned to Dublin. However, on the second attempt they travelled via Blessington, Co Wicklow, where they linked up with Ernie O'Malley, amongst others, and made it to their destination, later returning to Dublin through Limerick, Waterford and Wexford.

Forde became IRA Director of Intelligence following the arrest of Joe Griffin on 8th July. On October 8th, while disguised as a clergyman, he was recognised, arrested and interned on the Curragh (Hare Park Camp) and later in Mountjoy, where he went on a 37-day hunger strike. He was released in May 1924.

For a period in the 1920s and early '30s, Seán owned and ran Forde Brothers, a men's outfitters in Talbot Street, Dublin, and was elected president of the Talbot Street Traders' Association.

He joined the Civil Service in July 1933, where he served with distinction in the departments of Agriculture and Health. He became Private Secretary to the Minister for Health, his former comrade-in-arms, Dr James Ryan, in 1951 and distinguished himself in that post before retiring in 1960.

Seán married Ita Gleeson of Nenagh in January 1938 and they had five children, Barbara (RIP), Áine, Brendan, Dermot, and Kieran.

At the request of his family, the guard of honour of Old IRA comrades at his funeral in December 1971 consisted of four members who had taken the pro-Treaty side and four who had supported the anti-Treaty side. ■

# The Fires of

# Easter

## Captain Thomas Purcell's maps of 1916

BY LAS FALLON

**P**hotographs taken in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising show a burned-out city centre, large parts of which had been devastated by the fires that started and spread during the fighting. A combination of fires started by looters and military actions, including the use of artillery and the Volunteer tactic of 'mouse-holing' between buildings, all helped to create a major fire in the lower Sackville (O'Connell) Street/Abbey Street/Earl Street/Henry Street area.

The 'mouse-holing' allowed fires to travel quickly between adjoining buildings, while the use of artillery softened up buildings for the fires by blowing in doors and windows and loosening roof slates. It is often thought that incendiary shells were used but in fact such shells were not available at the time. The British 18-pounders were using a mix of solid shot and shrapnel rounds. Photos of buildings like Liberty Hall and Kelly's Fort show evidence of heavy artillery fire yet they didn't burn, while buildings on the Eden Quay side of the street were reduced to burned out shells by a rapidly spreading conflagration.

Captain Thomas Purcell had been the chief of the Dublin Fire Brigade since 1892 and had developed the city fire service into a modern, well-equipped fire brigade, the equal of any. However, while the massive fire enveloped central Dublin during the Rising the fire brigade

*Fire brigade searches for items of value in the rubble after the Easter Rising, May 1916. Photo: Dutch National Archives/Spaarnestad Photo/Collection Het Leven*

was unable to operate due both to the danger of getting caught in the crossfire and to orders from the military not to respond to fires unless directed to do so.

The brigade's ambulance service worked non-stop throughout the week but despite several appeals to be allowed to use their fire engines, it wasn't until the ceasefire and surrender that the brigade was able to muster its 45 men and get to work to prevent the further spread of fire.

Dublin Fire Brigade also called for assistance from the in-house fire brigades in both Power's Whiskey Distillery and Guinness Brewery, each of which contributed a small crew, and set to work to contain and extinguish the main fires in the Henry Street and Moore Street areas as well as fires threatening Jervis Street Hospital.

As part of his subsequent report on the Rising, Captain Purcell mapped the areas affected by the fires. His main map, of the city centre, has featured in a number of publications but the second map, showing the fires outside the Sackville Street area, has rarely been published. This map shows four separate and distinct fires. Each of them is linked to a story of the Rising.

*Interior of the destroyed GPO in May 1916. Photo: Dutch National Archives/Spaarnestad Photo/Collection Het Leven - Het Leven (Life Illustrated) was a Dutch weekly magazine published between 1906 and 1941.*





**Map Top left: Ushers Quay/ Bridge Street.**

On Friday 28th April a section of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers had occupied buildings on the corner of Bridge Street and Ushers Quay. Their vantage point gave them a view into the Four Courts and rifle fire from their position presented a threat to the Four Courts garrison. Two members of the garrison, Lieutenant Peadar Clancy and Volunteer Tom Smart (the son of a

Dublin Fire Brigade himself in 1920) decided to burn them out. They crossed Church Street Bridge under fire, while carrying cans of petrol, and ran to the front of the building occupied by the soldiers. They broke the windows, poured the petrol in and set it alight before returning to the Four Courts, again under intense fire. The fire took hold in the building and forced a withdrawal by the British troops.

This fire spread to include a number of premises at Bridge Street and Ushers Quay.

**Map Top right: Linenhall Barracks.**

On Thursday 27th April the fire brigade received a call to the Linenhall Barracks but they couldn't attend due to the conditions in that area of the city. Volunteers had captured the barracks and in order to deny its use to the military had been ordered to burn it. The fire spread rapidly and extended to the oil and drug stores of Hugh Moore and Alexander, a wholesale chemist.

This fire would burn unhindered for two days and nights.

**Map Bottom right: Mount Street Bridge area/Clanwilliam House.**

At 8.40pm on Wednesday 26th April the brigade were called to a fire at numbers 1 and 2 Clanwilliam Place. The official entry in the annual report says that they 'did not attend as the houses were being shelled by military'. Clanwilliam House was an out-post manned by seven Volunteers. Along with their small band of comrades posted in 25 Northumberland Road and the Parochial Hall, they had inflicted massive casualties on the 2/7th and 2/8th Sherwood Foresters.

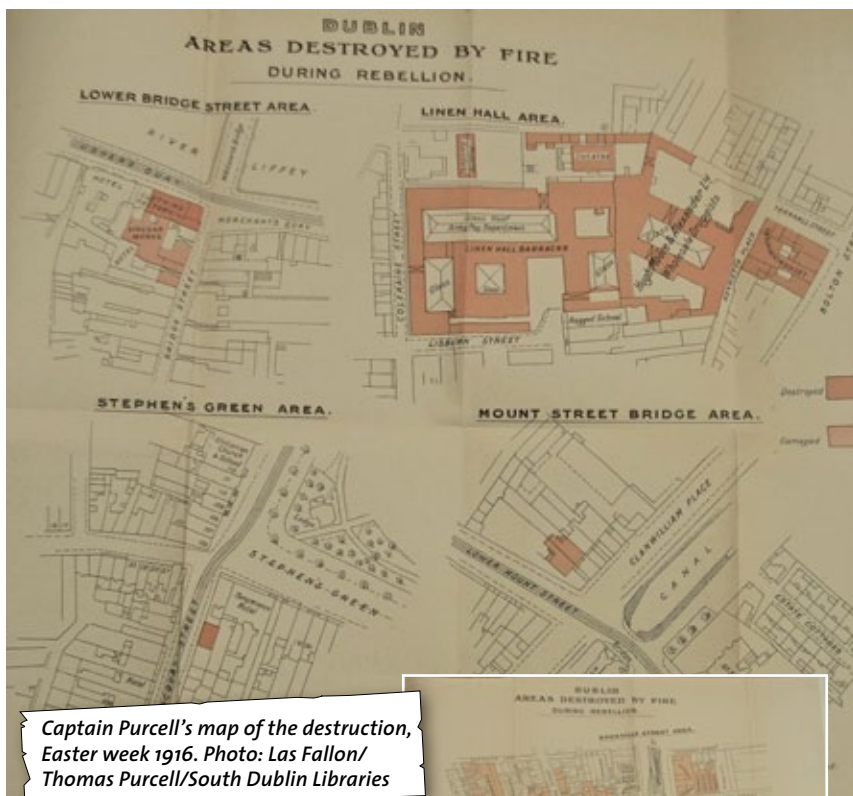
The men had been posted in the area to ambush British reinforcements heading into Dublin by the direct route from Kings-town (Dun Laoghaire). In the course of a long afternoon they had inflicted over 200 casualties on the British troops. One by one their positions had fallen in the face of overwhelming odds and at last Clanwilliam House itself was taken by troops using machine guns and throwing grenades. The sheer volume of fire directed into the house had ignited some curtains and soft furnishings, and fire soon took hold and started to spread. As the troops gained entry to the house they cleared it room by room by throwing grenades and again the volume of fire increased.

The house was soon blazing and was reduced to a burned-out shell, cremating the mortal remains of those who had fallen within it.

**Map Bottom left: Stephen's Green area - Harcourt Street.**

At 5.07am on the morning of 27th April the fire brigade extinguished a fire 'in a shop of four storied building by two jets from hydrants: stairs and part roof destroyed'.

This bare report refers to a fire at Harcourt Street that arose



*Captain Purcell's map of the destruction, Easter week 1916. Photo: Las Fallon/ Thomas Purcell/South Dublin Libraries*

through an attempt by the Citizen Army garrison at the College of Surgeons to burn out British troops of the Royal Irish Regiment from their positions at the Russell Hotel and St Stephen's Green south. A squad of Irish Citizen Army

members under the command of William Partridge and Margaret Skinnider were sent from the College of Surgeons to start a fire and burn out the buildings on Harcourt Street and St Stephen's Green that were being used to consolidate British strength in the area. When they arrived at the building Partridge smashed the glass door to gain entry. The sound alerted British sentries who opened fire, killing 17-year-old Fred Ryan and seriously injuring Skinnider. The rebels withdrew, bringing the wounded Skinnider with them but having to leave Ryan behind. Captain Purcell's notes for the DFB report states that on arrival at the fire they found 'a rifle, a bag of ammunition and two revolvers. A dead Volunteer lay outside at the corner'.

Thus the bare bones of a Dublin Fire Brigade report hide deep and poignant human stories. Each of these four fires pinpointed on Captain Purcell's maps have a story of the Rising behind them and are also a reminder of the often forgotten part played by the Dublin Fire Brigade in the events of the Rising. ■

*Captain Purcell's map of affected areas of O'Connell Street 1916. Photo: Las Fallon/Thomas Purcell/ South Dublin Libraries*

#### About the Author:

Las Fallon, a firefighter with Dublin Fire Brigade since 1985 is the author of Dublin Fire Brigade and the Irish Revolution (2012) and The Firemen's Tale: the burning of the Custom House 1921 (2015) ISBN: 978-1-908056-11-5, priced €5 and published by Kilmainham Tales <http://kilmainhamtales.ie>. Las is a former volunteer curator of the DFB Museum (2008-2011), and an avid collector and researcher of Irish fire service history and memorabilia.



# Stonebreakers' Yard

There is a simple plaque on the wall of the Stonebreakers' Yard in Kilmainham Gaol that lists the names of 14 men and the dates of their deaths between May 3rd and May 12th 1916 – from nine to 18 days after the Easter Rising.

A total of 97 men and women had been sentenced to death by field general courts martial for their parts in that rising; their sentences being confirmed by General Maxwell, CIC British Forces in Ireland. While the executions of those named on the plaque were carried out, the remaining sentences were commuted to prison terms.

Brigadier General JR Young issued detailed instructions for the executions. His first memo, on May 2, noted: *"The attached memo was prepared in case there should be a large number of executions tomorrow morning but, owing to delay in Court proceedings, it is not likely that there will be more than four."* This suggests he expected the prisoners to be sentenced to death following their trials.

In the end, there were 'only' three executions that first day – Patrick Pearse, Tom Clarke and Thomas MacDonagh. All were refused the assistance of the Capuchins as they walked to their deaths, something the priests complained vociferously about. Following their representations, the Capuchins were allowed attend all subsequent executions.

Rumours of executions had been rife in Kilmainham Gaol. Some suggested all prisoners would be shot; others that General Maxwell had ordered a pit big enough to hold 100 bodies to be dug in the exercise yard of Arbour Hill prison. There was an ele-

Full view of the Stonebreakers' Yard.  
Photo by Paul O'Brien

BY MÍCHEÁL Ó DOIBHILÍN

1916 Plaque in Stonebreakers' Yard,  
Kilmainham Gaol. Photo by Author

ment of truth in these rumours as following their trials, 97 men and women were sentenced to death. Most were not told their sentence at their trials, but given the information later in their cells, only to be subsequently told that their sentences had been commuted to prison terms.

But for 14 there was to be no reprieve. On May 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th and 12th, rifles spat fire in the Stonebreakers' Yard as they were executed; their bodies buried in a pit dug in Arbour Hill prison and covered thickly with quicklime.

The public was not told of these executions in advance, only learning of each one after the fact. It was this drip-feeding of information and the secrecy of the executions, that gave them the appearance of revenge rather than justice.

Initial public and media reaction to the rebellion had been abhorrence. Newspapers and parliamentarians called for swift and severe punishment. But as the executions dragged on it became obvious that the public had no sustained appetite for this and opinions were changing. When, on May 9th, Thomas Kent was executed in Cork City, this increased public resentment outside of Dublin.

Calls were made in the British parliament for the executions to stop and, eventually, Prime Minister Asquith instructed Maxwell to cease. The last to be executed in Kilmainham were Seán MacDiarmada and James Connolly. (Sir Roger Casement was to be hanged in August in Pentonville, London.)

With Connolly's death Maxwell had succeeded in executing all seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic that Patrick Pearse had read outside the GPO at the beginning of the Rising. But Connolly was a sick man, already on his death bed from wounds received in the fighting. He had to be brought from the field hospital in Dublin Castle to Kilmainham Gaol on a stretcher and was executed tied to a chair there, unable to support himself.

News of this execution in particular caused public revulsion and, instead of suppressing nationalism for the next 100 years as General Maxwell had intended, the executions served to fan its flames, and inspire those who were to take part in the War of Independence that shortly followed.

Tom Clarke, first signatory of the proclamation, told his wife Kathleen when she visited him in his prison cell the night before his execution: *"I and my fellow signatories believe we have struck the first successful blow for Freedom. The next blow, which we have no doubt Ireland will strike, will win through. In this belief we die happy."*

Arguably, General Maxwell's actions facilitated this as by their deaths, these men fanned the flames of Irish nationalism to new life.

# Clós Bristeoirí na gCloch

LE MÍCHEÁL Ó DOIBHILÍN

Tá plaic chomórtha shimplí ar fhalla Chlós Bristeoirí na gCloch i bPríosún Chill Mhaighneann ar a bhfuil liosta d'ainmneacha ceathrar déag fear agus na dátaí ar a bhfuair siad bás idir 3ú Bealtaine agus 12ú Bealtaine 1916 – idir naoi agus ocht lá déag i ndiaidh an Éirí Amach.

Ina iomlán, daoradh 97 duine, idir fir is mná, chun báis ag cúirt mhíleata ghinearálta mhachaire as an bpáirt a ghlacadar san éirí amach sin; dheimhnigh an Ginearál Maxwell, Ardcheannasaí Fhórsaí na Breataine in Éireann, na breitheanna sin. Cé gur cuireadh iad siúd chun báis abhí ainmnithe ar an bplaic, iomhalartaíodh na breitheanna eile ar thréimhsí príosúin.

D'eisigh an Briogadaire-Ghinearál JR Young saintreoracha i leith na mbásaithe. Seo sliocht as an gcéad mheabhrán aige ar 2ú Bealtaine: *"Réitíodh an meabhrán seo ar eagla uimhir mhór bhásaithe maidin amárach ach, toisc moilliú ar chúrsaí Cúirte, ní dócha go mbeidh thar ceithre cinn ann."* Cuireann sé seo i gcéill go raibh sé ag súil go gcuirfí na príosúnaigh chun báis tar éis a gcuid trialacha.

I ndeire na dála, níor tharla ach trí bhásaithe ar an gcéad lá – Pádraig Mac Piarais, Tomás Ó Cléirigh agus Tomás Mac Donchadha. Diúltaíodh cuidiú na gCaipisíneach dóibh siúd uile agus iad ag siúl chun báis, rud ar dhein na sagairt gearán fíochmhar faoi. Tar éis dóibh uirill a dhéanamh, ceadaíodh do na Caipisínigh freastal ar gach uile bhású ina dhiaidh sin.

Bhí ráflaí faoi bhásaithe á scaipeadh go forleathan i bPríosún Chill Mhaighneann. Cheap daoine áirithe go lámhachfar na príosúnaigh uile; mheas daoine eile gur órdaigh an Ginearál Maxwell go ndéanfaí poll i gclós aclaíochta phríosúin Chnoc an Earbair a bheadh mór go leor le 100 corp a ghlacadh. Bhí fírinne áirithe sna ráflaí seo, mar tar éis a dtrialacha, daoradh 97 fear is bean chun báis. Níor luadh na pianbreitheanna seo leo i rith na dtrialach, ach tugadh an fhaisnéis seo dóibh níos déanaí ina gcillíní, agus níos déanaí fós, dúradh leo go raibh na pianbreitheanna iomhalartaíthe le tréimhsí príosúntachta.

Ach bhí 14 fós gan faoiseamh ó bhreith an bháis. Ar an 1ú, 4ú, 5ú, 8ú agus 12ú Bealtaine, scaoil na raidhfíli a gcuid urchair lasracha i gClós na mBristeoirí Cloch agus iad á mbású; a gcuid corp curtha i gclais bhainte i gCnoc an Earbair agus iad clúdaithe le haol beo.

Níor luadh na básaithe seo roimh ré leis an bpobal. Chualadar futhu ceann i ndiaidh a chéile nuair a bhíodar thart. Dob é an sileadh faisnéise seo agus a rúnda is a bhí na básaithe a chuir cruth an dioltaí seachas an chirt ortha.

I dtosach báire bhí dearg-ghráin ag an bpobal agus ag na meáin chumarsáide i leith an Éirí Amach. Bhí na páipéir nuachta agus lucht páirliminte ag iarraí piónóis chruaghasta. Ach de réir mar a lean na básaithe bhí sé soiléir nach raibh goile marthanach ag an bpobal i leith a leithéid seo ruda agus bhí athrú ag teacht ar a bharúil siúd. Nuair a básaíodh Éamonn Ceannt, ar 9ú Bealtaine, i gCathair Chorcaí,

mhéadaigh ar fhala an phobail leasmuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Rinneadh éileamh i bPárlimint na Breataine go gcuirfí stop leis na básaithe agus, faoi dheireadh, d'órdaigh an Príomh Aire Asquith do Maxwell stop a chur leo. B'iad na daoine deireannacha a cuireadh chun báis i gCill Maigheann ná Seán MacDiarmada agus Séamas Ó Conghaile. (Bhíodas le Ruairí Mac Easmainn a chrochadh i Mí Lúnasa in Pentonville i Londain.)

Le bású Uí Chonghaile d'éirigh le Maxwell seachtar sínitheoir uile Fhorógra na Cásca, a léigh Pádraig Mac Piarais leasmuigh d'Ardoifig an Phoist ag tús an Éirí Amach, a bhású. Ach fear tinn abhí i Séamas Ó Conghaile, ar leaba a bháis cheana féin de bharr gonta a fuair sé sa troid. B'éigean é a bhreith ó ospidéal machaire i gCaisleán Átha Cliath go príosún Chill Mhaighneann ar shintean agus básaíodh é agus é nasctha le cathaoir toisc nach raibh sé in ann é féin a choinneáil inairde gan taca.

Tháinig samhnas ar an bpobal nuair a chualadar faoin bhású seo. In áit an náisúnachas a cheannús ar feadh 100 bliain mar abhí ar intinn ag Maxwell, d'aithn an bású seo an tine beo agus spreag sé an lucht abhí le páirt a ghlacadh i gCogadh na Saoirse a lean go luath ina dhiaidh.

Dúirt Tomás Ó Cléirigh, céad sínitheoir an Fhorógra, lena bhean Caitlín nuair a thug sí cuairt air ina chillin sa phríosún an oíche roimh a bhás: *"Creidim féin, maraon le mo chomhshínitheoirí, go bhfuil an céad buille ar son na Saoirse buailte againn. Éireoidh leis an gcéad buille eile, a bhuailfidh Éire fhéin, an bua a bhaint amach. Ina muinín seo gheobhfaimid bás go sona sásta."*

D'fhéadfá a rá gur chuidigh an Ginearál Maxwell le seo; lena mbású siúd d'aithn na fir seo tine beo na náisiúntachta. ■

Cross marking execution spot of James Connolly in Stonebreakers' Yard, Kilmainham Gaol. Photo by Author



Famous image of Patrick Pearse surrendering to General W.H.M. Lowe who is accompanied by his staff officer, Major John de Courcy-Wheeler (nearest to camera). To Pearse's side, and partially obscured, is Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell who helped spread the word of the surrender. Original caption: British officers interviewing Pearse, the rebel leader (afterwards tried and shot), in Parnell Street, and demanding unconditional surrender. Photo: The Manchester Guardian History of the War 1914-18/ South Dublin Libraries

**About the author:** Mícheál Ó Doibhilín is MD/editor of Kilmainham Tales Teo., a publishing house specialising mainly in 19th and early 20th Century Irish history, and has worked for the last ten years as an information officer/tour guide in Kilmainham Gaol. The company has published 13 books, authors include Las Fallon, Paul O'Brien, Shane Kenna, Rory O'Dwyer, Joe Connell and Ciara Scott, as well as Mícheál himself. The company has a full programme of books to mark the centenary of the Rising, visit [www.kilmainhamtales.ie](http://www.kilmainhamtales.ie) for more info.

Irish Volunteer Prisoner being escorted across O'Connell Bridge under British Army armed escort.

# Preserving our Past

BY COMDT PADRAIC KENNEDY, OIC MILITARY ARCHIVES

Given we are a number of years into the decade of commemorations, it may come of little surprise that the revolutionary records held by the Military Archives continue to attract widespread attention. The various online platforms operated directly by the Military Archives have recorded nearly 12 million page views in the three years since the launch of our website. With circa 700,000 pages to view online, primarily from the years 1913-1923, the Military Archives holds the largest collection of Irish revolutionary primary source material in the world. These records play a pivotal role in understanding events of the time and are increasingly being used in publications on the period 1916-1923.

As awareness continues to grow about the number of sources available via the Military Archives, so does the workload and responsibility, and the staff deserve praise and congratulations for their hard work and professionalism. This year has seen a dramatic increase in the number of queries received, with an almost 52% increase in emails and phone queries, from 569 in December 2015 to 864 in January 2016. This is despite an ever growing number of records available online.

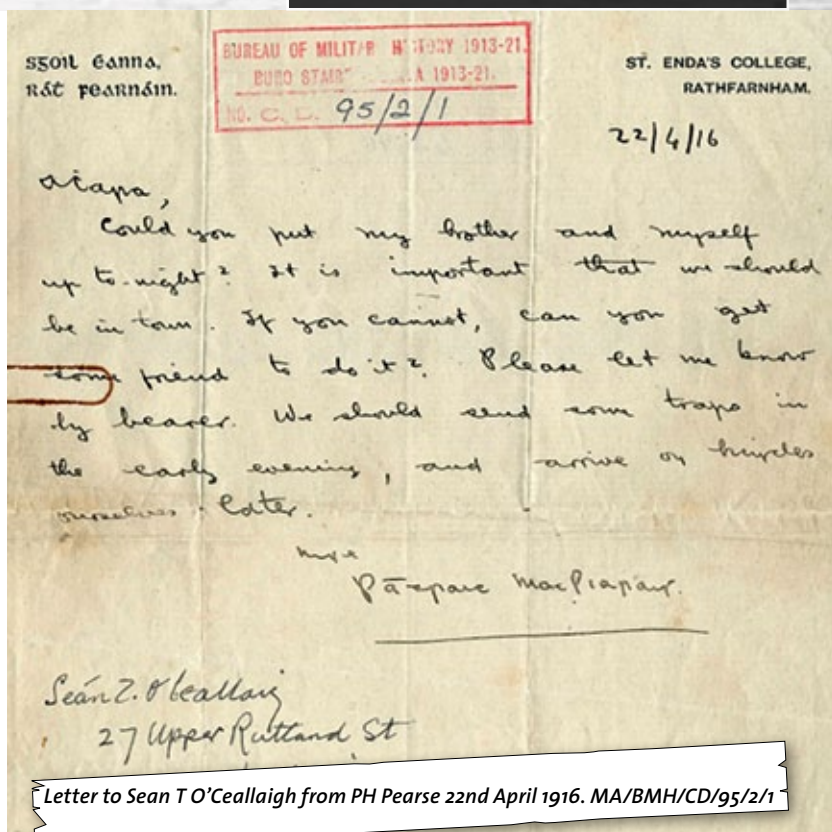
The level of detail included in the queries has also increased, as researchers have often conducted prior research online and are now focusing on more specific areas. The increasing use of primary sources and interest in these sources can only be a positive development, as members of the public become more familiar with archival research and the valuable information held within.

The Military Archives has a busy schedule ahead, with its legislative responsibility in providing access to records under the National Archives Act, and the many events scheduled for 2016. The provision of original source material throughout the decade of commemorations also remains a key component of the 2016 programme.

The Military Archives has a wide range of current projects, including the Military Service Pension Collection (MSPC), which

The Military Archives is tasked under the National Archives Act of 1986 with the acquisition, preservation, and making available, of the records of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and the Army Pensions Board.

To facilitate the increase and advantages of online research, the Military Archives has made significant strides in the provision of our records online while maintaining our traditional public reading room. Our online presence is a major platform that has created an awareness of, and access to, the Military Archives' records for a wider audience, free from any geographical or time limitations. The initial launch of [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie) took place in January 2012, followed in August by [www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie](http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie). Having the Bureau of Military History online has transformed the expectations for the Military Service Pensions Collection. We can now reach an audience at the click of a mouse, both national and internationally.



Letter to Sean T O'Ceallaigh from PH Pearse 22nd April 1916. MA/BMH/CD/95/2/1

has been running for over seven years, making it the single largest archival collection in Ireland for the 1916-1923 period. The phased release of the MSPC will continue over the coming years, following previous releases in 2014 and 2015. A further release of the Medal File series will take place following the official opening of the new Military Archives on 26th April 2016.

The Bureau of Military History (BMH) is also currently undergoing a revamp that will provide online access to newly digitised

### New Military Archives architectural drawings



material and an enhanced online search facility. The MSPC and the BMH represent two of the most important archival collections on the revolutionary period in Ireland, not only for military history but also societal, economic and political research.

Additional 2016 projects include a digital timeline for 1916; a 1916 calendar and exhibition; lectures; and a collaborative transition-year project with the Department of Education and Skills and Maynooth University among others.

The Military Archives has also been involved with a wide variety of institutions and groups, including the 2016 Project team, Royal College of Surgeons, Military History Society of Ireland, county programmes, GPO Witness History exhibition, the National Museum, Dept of Education and Skills, Maynooth University, RTE,

BBC, UCC, Digital Repository of Ireland, Irish Examiner, Irish Independent, Irish Mail, Irish Times, Journal.ie, and internationally in events including ones in Liverpool and Poland.

The MSPC, as the government's primary project for the decade of commemorations, has assisted in creating awareness of many of the lesser known events and participants of the period. The issue of female participation having long been written out of the history of the revolutionary period has been largely addressed and remedied

through the release of the BMH and MSPC.

The 1925 pension application of Margaret Skinnider (released online in Jan 2014) faced an initial refusal for payment under the Army Pensions Act due to her gender. The treasury solicitor confirms this interpretation of the act, writing: 'I am satisfied that the Army Pensions Act is only applicable to soldiers as generally understood in the masculine sense.'

Skinnder subsequently applied under the 1934 Military Service Pension Act and was awarded eight years service towards a military pension in 1937 for her role in the Rising, which included receiving three gunshot wounds while leading a squad of five men on Harcourt Street, and her subsequent service.

Many of the files contained in the MSPC highlight a wide variety of interesting narratives from the period. Michael McCabe's claim is one such case, detailing his membership of Na Fianna Éireann and the Irish Volunteers from 1911. His application outlines his involvement in the Howth gun running in April 1914, and his 10-day detention following his participation in the Easter Rising before being released due to his age. McCabe goes on to relate that in 1917 he joined the British Army, serving until April 1922, at which time he joined the anti-Treaty IRA as a sergeant major and drill instructor, taking part in raids on the Curragh Camp, Dublin Port and Docks/Customs House. He was captured after the surrender of the Four Courts garrison in July 1922 and interned for the remainder of the Civil War. Released in December 1923, McCabe re-enlisted in the British Army with the Gold Coast Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force, in the 1930s, and served in WWII, which meant he had been involved in two world wars, a rebellion and a civil war. He was awarded nearly five years pension for his military service during the period 1916-1923.

As part of the government's 2016 centenary capital project, the highly anticipated new Military Archives building will be completed and open to the public in April 2016. This new facility will provide the necessary research and storage facilities to ensure the long-term preservation of these important records.

The brief for the building required a central archive facility to provide a repository and reading rooms for Dept of Defence and Defence Forces archive material, equipped with a mobile storage shelving system to maximise space efficiency. The building had to be energy efficient, robust and low maintenance, provide optimum environmental conditions (temperature, humidity and light) for its contents, protection against fire damage, secure storage, and have retrieval functionality. An existing building (the Old Hospital) will be refurbished and adapted to provide research areas for readers studying archive materials; storage areas for collections requiring special conditions; and administration and ancillary areas.

The end gable will be opened up to provide a new public entrance to the reading room. The new archive building stands behind this, comprising two levels of storage, with the lower recessed into the ground. The new building's two gables match the height and general outline of the Hospital gable, to which it is linked by a series of glazed bridges across a dramatically folded wall.

The Military Archives has worked alongside the Office of D Engineers, project architects McCullough Mulvin, and the Department of Defence, to develop a state-of-the-art facility that will meet the requirements of the Military Archives to preserve these critically important records long into the future, a project that benefited greatly from the professionalism and knowledge of the late Lt Col Kelly (RIP).

The Military Archives has facilitated a wide variety of institutions, groups and individuals in the provision of its records at no charge, thus ensuring the widest possible audience can be reached. We look forward to continuing to support a wide variety of individual research, plays, films, theatre, novels, publications and lectures. ■

23rd Feb 1925

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,  
ARMY PENSIONS DEPARTMENT,  
21 MARGARET STREET, DUBLIN.

23rd February 1925.

To  
SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

An application for Pension or Gratuity under the Army Pensions Act, 1925, has been received in respect of the following:-

Name: Margaret Skinnider widow of William Skinnider

Army No. -

Rank: Pte (S.G.R.)

Date of Wound, Injury or Death: April 27th 1916

Circumstances: As I was general accounts in Ireland, and one wound to the arm, received in action about 2.30, while in charge of 5 men in Harcourt St.

Will you please state below whether any award in respect of military injury has been made or is being considered by you in this case.

L. J. Hogan  
for Minister of Defence.

REPLY  
Department of Finance.

To State the date of the application received.

Application for Pension & Gratuity Margaret Skinnider 23rd February 1925. MSPC

Irish Volunteers parading through the streets before the rebellion, circa 1916. Photo: National Library of Ireland/ South Dublin Libraries

# ON THE MARCH

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

**F**rom the formation of the Irish Volunteers in 1913, the steady stomp of marching feet with the rhythmic sound of 'left, right, left right,' echoes throughout the mountain ranges of the country as battalions of Irish Volunteers participate in what is called a 'Loaded March' as part of their manoeuvres. A loaded march is a relatively fast march over a distance carrying a load.

Today, in 2016, military fitness is defined as, *The ability to respond instantly and effectively to the physical and psychological demands of combat with the minimum of distress and return to a normal healthy state once the demand ceases.*

Between 1913 and 1916, Volunteer Command knew the importance of physical fitness and to obtain the high level required, they knew that the foot march is one of the best ways to improve and maintain fitness amongst the ranks. Volunteers must be able to move rapidly, carry a load (backpack) of equipment and weapons, and be physically able to perform to advance to contact after extended marching.

While there are many different types of marches, the Volunteers use 'Day Marches' which they can easily fit into their exercise regime. This particular exercise is characterised by dispersed formations and ease of control and reconnaissance.

Road marches are a proven method of physical activity that develops the muscles in the lower body when soldiers carry a heavy load. The benefits of such marches are abounding as they are easy to organise, large groups can participate and if properly planned they result in fewer injuries than other exercises.

Many soldier related skills can be integrated into road marches, such as map and compass reading. Officers will benefit in developing their skills in planning, preparation, and supervision and thus enable officers to critically assess the physical stamina of their men. Because of these important factors the Volunteer Command made road marches a regular

part of their battalions physical training programme.

Before conducting a Road March, the following needs to be taken into account:

- Load to be carried
- Discipline and supervision
- Distance to be marched
- Route reconnaissance
- Time allotted for movement
- Water stops
- Present level of fitness
- Rest stops
- Intensity of march
- Provisions of injuries
- Terrain and weather conditions
- Safety precautions

Marches need to be planned ahead of schedule as this assists morale and enables the troops to prepare for the exercise, both physically and mentally. A pace setter is chosen to lead the march and will be carrying the same load as the others in the unit and will be of medium height to ensure a normal stride. This position within the marching group is of great importance, as the pace setter will need to keep in mind the sloping ground as this will affect the stride length. A normal stride and cadence needs to be maintained on moderate

A group of Irish Volunteers drilling with weapons.



Members of Cumann na mBan Marching.



ground with the pace setter making adjustments for terrain that is muddy, slippery or rough.

Preparation for the march is half the battle as personal hygiene is important to prevent unnecessary injuries. Feet need to be washed and dried and toe nails need to be cut short and squared off. A light dusting of talcum powder to be applied with clean dry socks that fit well. Boots need to have been broken in and in good condition. An extra pair of clean socks is an essential part of the Volunteers kit and those suffering from blisters need to apply a light coating of petroleum jelly to any susceptible areas.

At designated distances and times, rest periods are permitted. During these stops, Volunteers should lie down and elevate their feet. If time permits, feet should be massaged, socks changed and talcum powder applied to revive tired feet. Before recommencing, stretching will alleviate any cramped muscles.

To prevent lower back strain, Volunteers need to assist one another in repositioning backpacks and strapping. Swollen feet can be relieved by loosening boot laces across the arches.

It is important after marches that all Volunteers care for their feet, washing their feet, applying talc and use dry socks as well as drying out their boots.

To prepare for such marches Volunteers need to be of a certain physical standard.

The Volunteer Physical fitness programme is practised in every battalion throughout the country. It is of the utmost importance as it assesses the endurance of the individual. A number of simple physical exercises, measures the recruit's physical strengths, abilities and cardio-respiratory fitness.

Young Volunteers in Fianna Éireann and the students at Scoil Éanna have been training under the tutelage of Con Colbert. Drill sessions with sit-ups, press-ups and squats prepare these young men for later service in the Volunteers. Within these training facilities sports such as hurling and Gaelic football are also played. These activities make a vital contribution to the development of these young men as they improve their fighting spirit and morale. Team participation and working together not only brings personal development but also later contributes greatly to unit operational effectiveness. ■

# Sports Round Up



## Irish Volunteers Tug O'War Team

Photograph of the D Company 3rd Battalion Irish Volunteers Tug O'War Team taken in St. Enda's Rathfarnham, Dublin, September 1916. *Photo: Military Archives*



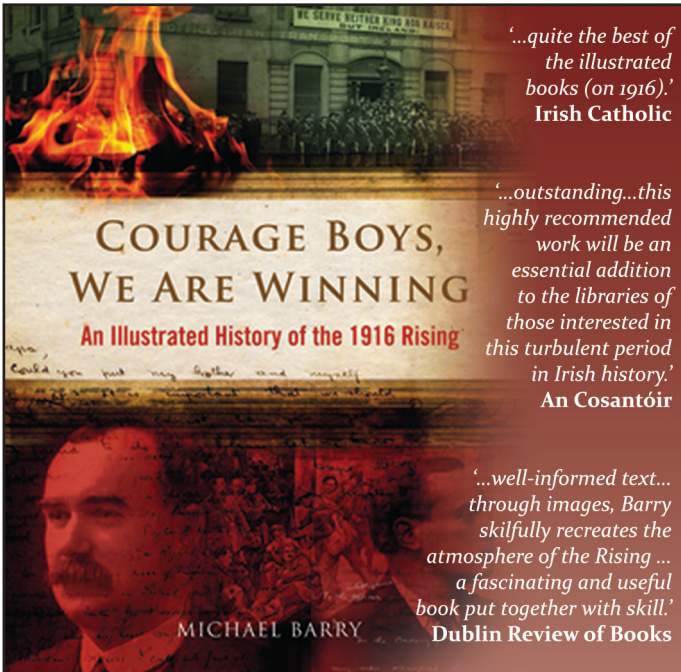
## Scoil Éanna hurling team, 1909-10

Photograph by H.Roe MacMahon, Harcourt St. of the Scoil Éanna hurling team, 1909-10. It was reproduced in the Christmas 1909 edition of An Macaomh, and this is alluded to in an inscription on the back. It was taken in the grounds of Cullenswood House. *Photo: Pearse Museum/OPW*



## A Class of Drill in the Gymnasium

Photograph of Scoil Éanna pupils in drill class in the gymnasium in Cullenswood. This image featured in the Midsummer 1909 edition of An Macaomh. *Photo: Pearse Museum/OPW*



*'...quite the best of the illustrated books (on 1916).' Irish Catholic*

*'...outstanding...this highly recommended work will be an essential addition to the libraries of those interested in this turbulent period in Irish history.'*  
An Cosantóir

*'...well-informed text... through images, Barry skilfully recreates the atmosphere of the Rising ... a fascinating and useful book put together with skill.'*  
Dublin Review of Books

**COURAGE BOYS,  
WE ARE WINNING**  
An Illustrated History of the 1916 Rising

MICHAEL BARRY

The events of the Rising are brought alive and explained in a readable and accessible style, illustrated with over 550 engrossing photographs and images.

If you want to understand the story of 1916, from its origins, the events of the week itself and its aftermath, this is the book.



County Kildare  
**Archaeological Society**

*Presents a one day seminar*

# Remembering 1916



**Chairman:** Professor Raymond Gillespie

**Speakers:** Dr Darragh Gannon  
Mr Mario Corrigan  
Dr Séamas O'Maitiú  
Mr Gerard Long  
Brig. General John Martin (Rtd.)

**Keynote Address:** Professor Roy Foster  
(Carroll Chair of Irish History,  
University of Oxford, and Visiting Parnell  
Fellow, Magdalene College, Cambridge)

**Saturday 12th March 2016**  
**Killashee House Hotel,  
Naas, Co. Kildare**

**Fee: €30 which includes a light lunch and tea / coffee**

Prior booking is essential. Booking forms and details can be downloaded from the Society's website [www.kildarearchsoc.ie](http://www.kildarearchsoc.ie) and further details can be had from Hugh Crawford Tel: 087 9072994 Email: [hughecrawford@gmail.com](mailto:hughecrawford@gmail.com)

## RIDE THE REVOLUTION

### 1916 RISE OF THE REBELS TOUR

Meet the men and women who made it happen!




Travel back in time on our custom designed "Rise of the Rebels" tour bus, fitted out as an under siege base of revolutionary action.

Professional actors will guide you through the landmark locations in Ireland's rise for independence in Easter week 1916.

Using the testimonies of the battle survivors we bring to life the struggles that precipitated this call to fight for Ireland's freedom.

Giving voice to those who fought in garrisons around the centre of Dublin, our actors will testify on their behalf to the battles lost and won in the week of the revolution that changed Ireland forever as you walk through some of the key battle locations. We invite you to hear the testimony of people of the time, and see the places whose involvement, until now, has been hidden within the official histories told of this crucial week in Ireland's fight for independence.

**DEPARTS: EVERY NIGHT 7.30PM**  
Please see online for our daytime schedule  
(Outside College Green Tourist Office. Lasts approximately 2 hours)

**€25 on**

[www.ridetherevolution.com](http://www.ridetherevolution.com)

## The International Militaria Collectors Club

### Present their Militaria & Collectables Fairs

**2016 Fair Dates**

**May 21st,  
Aug 13th, Nov 19th**

**Clontarf Castle Hotel, Castle Avenue Clontarf, Dublin 3.**  
**Phone: 018332321**

**\*Extra fair\* June 11th in Gorey Wexford**

**Medals, Badges, Uniforms, Helmets, Caps,  
Equipment, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets,  
Postcards, Books, and much much more**

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT**  
**Mark 0861602228 Eddie 0863410159**  
**<http://www.internationalmilitariacollectorsclub.com>**



## Malin 2 Mizen Cycle For CF

May 12th - 15th



[www.cfireland.ie/get-involved1/eventschallenges](http://www.cfireland.ie/get-involved1/eventschallenges)

CFI are delighted to announce a National Cycle to raise funds to help people with Cystic Fibrosis taking place on May 12th - 15th.

This event is open to members of the public and there are a number of different registration options to suit most cyclists. The full 4 days fundraising target is €2,500, which will also cover food and accommodation. Participants are required to pay a deposit of €500 to register - with the remaining fundraising balance due by Friday 6th May. The deadline for registration for the 4 days is 31st March.

Participants can also sign up for a 1 day Cycle for €100 or 50Km of any day for €30 and registration can be done through our website: [www.cfireland.ie](http://www.cfireland.ie)

For more info contact: Peter Minchin, CF House, 24 Lower Rathmines Rd, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Tel: 01 496 2433 Email: [pminchin@cfireland.ie](mailto:pminchin@cfireland.ie) - LoCall: 1890 311211

## Military Veterans Gala Ball

### Military Veterans Gala Ball 2016



will be held In

The Green Isle hotel.  
on



Saturday 27th of August 2016.



The dress for this event is black tux, white shirt, black bow tie.

or

Official association uniform with white shirt and black bow tie.



Issued military medals may be worn.



Tickets €50 each & limited to 200

Ph: 01 513 0515 (lines open 24hrs)

or contact Benny Hill of Swan Batt

on 087 679 8691

All profits will go to the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen & Women (ONE)



## CERTIFIED MEDICAL TRAINING

Emergency Medical First Response and Emergency Medical Technician courses

Training since 2006, fully accredited by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council

Receive nationally recognised training from EMS professionals

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THESE COURSES CONTACT US:

C21 The Exchange, Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 24.

E-mail: [info@esti.ie](mailto:info@esti.ie) Tel: + 353 (0)1 409 8113 Web: [www.esti.ie](http://www.esti.ie)



The Emergency Services Training Institute is a recognised institute of the pre-hospital emergency care council

# PROTAC

Best wishes for  
the Centenary 1916  
2016



€33



€8

## [www.protac.ie](http://www.protac.ie)

Protac, Market Green, Curragh Camp, Co Kildare.

[www.protac.ie](http://www.protac.ie) - [info@protac.ie](mailto:info@protac.ie)

Ph: +353 (0) 45 441798 or visit us on

[www.facebook.com/protacmilitary](http://www.facebook.com/protacmilitary)



# GEAR UP



Sponsored by Team Alpha.ie



Team-Alpha is an online store providing members of Military and Law Enforcement in Ireland with extra equipment and uniform clothing at a competitive price. Our brands include 5.11 Tactical, Arc'Teryx, ASP, Streamlight and many more that also cater for the Hunting, Outdoor and Airsoft industries. We are committed to bringing our customers the highest quality and best value products. For more information please contact [customerservice@team-alpha.ie](mailto:customerservice@team-alpha.ie)

## SOG INSTINCT MINI

PRICE: €27.90

### The manufacturer says...

The Instinct is a compact, wearable fixed blade knife that is made just for those times. Available in two sizes and two handle types, it is suitable for many people. The Instinct offers multiply carry options. It can be worn around the neck with a lanyard. It can be clipped to a belt or boot with the multi-angle adjustable clip. It can also be secured to a vest or bag with its many attachment points. When your first instinct is to go for a blade, consider the SOG Instinct.

**Specification:** overall length 4.8", product weight 1.60 oz, blade length 1.9", blade thickness 0.16", a satin polished, straight edge blade with a stainless steel and G10 handle in black or silver, hardness RC. 53-57, black sheath with belt clip and lanyard hole included.



### Our reviewer SQMS John Sargent, 1 ACS, DFTC says...

"I found the chain very strong, I wouldn't hang it around my neck as its too rough, but I would tie it onto my battle vest. The sheath itself is very good, strong and can also clip to other kit. The blade is very sharp but can only be used for certain functions, for example gutting fish or animals and cutting belts/cord etc. It's not a combat knife in my opinion or a throwing knife. Because of the short handle style inexperience individuals could end up cutting themselves. I tried to break the blade itself again very strong piece of equipment and the blade sharpener is good idea." 8/10

COMPETITION



**For a chance to win a SOG Instinct Mini knife worth €27.90, kindly sponsored by [www.team-alpha.ie](http://www.team-alpha.ie), answer the following question:**

***How much is a Streamlight Night Com Flashlight on team-alpha.ie?***

Send your answer along with your name, address & contact number to An Cosantóir's address or by email to [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) by the 21st March 2016. Winner will be the first correct entry drawn. Last month's winner was: Willie Lockhart, Co Kildare.

# Noticeboard

## New Exhibit: Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising

Opening Thursday 3rd March 2016, the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks will mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising with an exciting new exhibition Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising. Located in the Riding School, the exhibition delves into the background of the 1916 Rising. It introduces the visitor to the nuances of early-1900s politics; the growing administrative powers of the Catholic élite; the push for Home Rule along with the counter-moves of unionism; the increasing 'Irish-Ireland' aspects of the arts and cultural sectors, and the growth of republican nationalism. The visitor will be presented with factual accounts of the individuals and the organisations which featured in the political arena of 1916, as it became increasingly militaristic in nature. The exhibition also offers the audience the unique experience of physical proximity to the people and events of Easter Week through the clothing, equipment and personal belongings that featured in every activity undertaken during that week.

## PALS EXHIBITION NOMINATED FOR 3 IRISH TIMES THEATRE AWARDS

We are delighted to let you know that PALS has been nominated for 3 Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards 2016 including the highly prestigious Best Production Award, Best Lighting Design and for the first time ever the Irish Times Audience Choice Award.

The GPO witness history audience choice award works by audiences nominating their favourite show of 2015. PALS was without doubt one of the most amazing experiences we have ever had at the museum and it was an honour to tell the stories of these forgotten young men. Hopefully they pick up an award at the National Concert Hall on Sunday 6th March.

National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7.  
Ph: +353 1 6777444. Opening times: Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 5pm, Sunday: 2pm - 5pm, Closed Mondays, Christmas Day & Good Friday. [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)

## Word search

### CROSS OFF THE WORDS IN THE LIST AS YOU FIND THEM.

Word searches are fun, they also bring benefits you may not realise and can play an important role in keeping you mentally fit.

## 1916 Locations

S	Y	K	P	E	N	I	L	B	U	D	A	A	Q	F
A	E	N	P	B	K	E	R	B	D	U	P	W	O	V
X	K	N	O	B	C	C	H	U	I	Y	A	H	M	P
O	U	B	B	I	V	C	T	Y	S	G	R	N	H	A
W	G	G	F	R	N	Q	H	N	A	H	K	O	Z	C
H	J	F	A	F	S	U	E	A	R	K	E	C	N	I
E	O	C	J	Y	Y	H	W	T	Q	N	N	P	N	A
W	K	J	K	K	P	A	Y	U	I	V	P	S	X	F
G	I	N	Y	E	J	G	N	X	W	N	Y	Y	Z	M
R	W	O	T	T	M	E	P	D	F	P	N	K	W	R
E	T	S	R	Y	P	N	B	U	G	I	J	G	L	T
E	G	G	E	T	P	E	H	T	U	O	S	Z	B	H
N	D	G	B	S	T	R	F	I	C	V	I	Z	A	P
V	J	F	I	G	N	A	T	S	O	P	D	L	G	B
X	F	G	L	M	A	L	O	V	P	U	L	S	F	R

DUBLIN  
GENERAL  
GREEN  
HALL  
LIBERTY  
OFFICE  
PARK  
PHOENIX  
POST  
SOUTH  
STEPHENS  
UNION

## Royal Meath Branch of ONE

The Royal Meath Branch of ONE held an AGM recently with the following officers elected for the next three years: Chairman John Tobin; Asst Cathal Rodgers; Secretary John O'Brien; Asst Victor Nugent; Treasure Peter Rodgers; Asst Norman Geraghty & PRO Noel Cloak P.C.



## COMPETITION €50 VOUCHER

### WHAT TANK CAN YOU BUY ON WWW.PROTAC.IE?

Post your answer along with your name, address and contact number to us or email [subs@military.ie](mailto:subs@military.ie) for a chance to win a PROTAC €50 Voucher to use in store or online.

Last month's winner of the PROTAC €50 Voucher was Patrick Daly, Co Westmeath. Closing date is 21st March 2016.

Protac, Market Green,  
Curragh Camp,  
Co Kildare.  
[www.protac.ie](http://www.protac.ie)  
[info@protac.ie](mailto:info@protac.ie)  
Ph: +353 (0) 45 441798  
or visit us on:  
[www.facebook.com/protacmilitary](https://www.facebook.com/protacmilitary)



## Centenary Classics

**Contributors:** Fearghal McGarry (series editor), Darrell Figgis, Joseph Johnston, Padraig De Burca, Ernie O'Malley, Mossie Harnett & Patrick Sarsfield O'Hegarty

**Publisher:** UCD Press (October 2015)

[www.ucdpress.ie](http://www.ucdpress.ie)

**ISBN:** 9781910820032 **Price:** €54.00

As Irish people remember the events of 1916, they necessarily do so with hindsight. There is no one alive today that can give a first hand account of those seminal actions of 100 years ago, that would in time set Ireland on the road to independence. University College Dublin Press has, through its Centenary Classics series, reproduced six volumes that tell the story of the establishment of the Free State through those that lived and experienced these tumultuous changes in the nation's history.

**Civil War In Ulster** by Joseph Johnston, originally published in 1913, takes the reader through the Third Home Rule Bill and the Ulster crisis that would in time set in motion many of the changes that would affect the country.

The author, Darrell Figgis, who in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising was imprisoned at Reading Gaol, published his personal account in his work, *A Chronicle of Jails*, which was originally released in 1917. The book reveals much about political imprisonment and of what many Volunteers endured for Ireland's fight for independence.

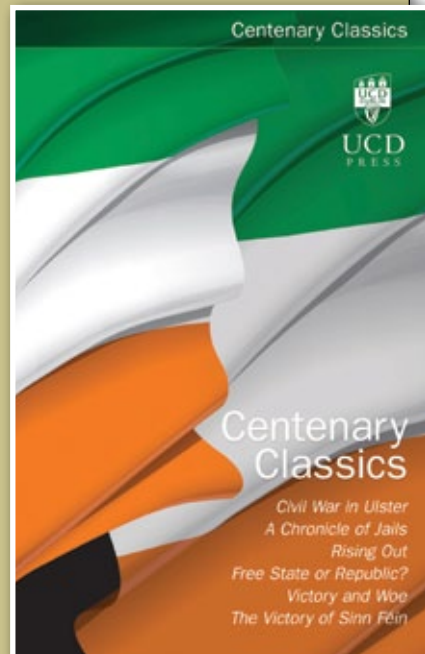
**Rising Out**, written by Ernie O'Malley, relates the story of Brigadier Seán Connolly, OC of the Longford Brigade, who was killed in action during the Irish War of Independence. O'Malley discovered the story of Connolly in the 1950s and his work brings to life the man and his battle against overwhelming forces during the Tan War.

**Free State or Republic?** provides eye witness accounts by two reporters from the Irish Independent newspaper of the historic Treaty debates of Dáil Éireann. Originally published in 1922, Padraig de Burca and John F. Boyle capture the intensity of the discussion and gives us a window into the events of that December/January that would later plunge Ireland into Civil War.

**Victory and Woe**, penned by Mossie Harnett, is an account of his life and service during the Irish War of Independence and Civil War when he commanded the 2nd Battalion, West Limerick Brigade of the Irish Volunteers. This book is a clear and concise account of one man's involvement in the armed struggle not only against the British but also later against the newly established Free State Government.

P.S. O'Hegarty's work, **The Victory of Sinn Féin**, originally published in 1924, is an eyewitness account of events in Ireland from the Rising of 1916 to 1923. Described on the blurb as being written from the forgotten viewpoint of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, O'Hegarty, a pro-Treaty supporter, has penned a strong body of work that opposes those that wanted to continue a mandate of force after the ratification of the Treaty.

This series of books are well produced and come in a sleeve that keeps the six volumes together. Each work is introduced by a leading historian of today, while the series introduction is given by Fearghal McGarry of Queen's University Belfast. These six works are contemporary and are of the time, and they reveal the mindset of people that lived through one of the most turbulent periods in Ireland's history. As Ireland continues its journey through the decade of centenaries, these books will appeal to those who are seeking first hand accounts of those major episodes and of those that made them happen. **P'OB**



## The Easter Rebellion 1916, An Illustrated History

**Author:** Conor McNamara  
**Publisher:** The Collins Press  
 (December 2015)  
[www.collinspress.ie](http://www.collinspress.ie)  
**ISBN:** 9781848892590  
**Price:** €19.99  
**Pages:** 266



They say, "A picture paints a thousand words"

and this photographic book of the history of the Easter Rebellion 1916 does that sentiment justice. The accompanying text gives an overview of the events leading up to the Rising/Rebellion, Home Rule crisis, the First World War and the formation of both the Ulster Volunteers, the Irish Volunteers and of the Rising/Rebellion itself. One fine example is a photograph of a well-defined double page shot at the graveside of O'Donovan Rossa where Pearse gives his famous oration, "That Ireland Unfree Shall Never Be at Peace". Another photograph taken from Nelsons Pillar (where the Spire stands today), shows the amount of material destruction on both sides of the now O'Connell street. In the aftermath of the Easter Rebellion of 1916, a generation of extraordinary revolutionaries left behind a wealth of photographs, posters, sketches and cartoons as well as eyewitness accounts, letters and personal notebooks. We can read the leaders final letters to their loved ones in the hours before their execution which gives an immediacy and intimacy to these iconic times. Leafing through the pages of this book of bombed out buildings after all the fighting that took place in 1916 Dublin it really came to life. This book is well worth the investment for the people who are interested in the Irish fight for Independence captured in photographs, illustrations and the written word. **SS**

## 1916: The Mornings After

**Author:** Tim Pat Coogan  
**Publisher:** Head of Zeus (October 2015)  
<http://headofzeus.com/>  
**ISBN:** 978-1784080112  
**Price:** €24.50 H/B  
**Pages:** 336



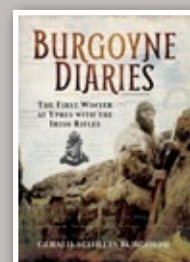
Tim Pat Coogan is an Irish writer, broadcaster and columnist whose works include biographies of Éamon De Valera, Michael Collins and 'The IRA', His works examine a lot of the Nationalist, Republican and earlier Independence movement of the 20th century often in great depth and detail and I personally have found that he writes in an accessible and engaging style that has brought many of the pivotal moments of Irish history to life. From the early days of the Civil rights movement in the North through the dark days of the Troubles and right up to modern Irish history.

I was also looking forward to reading this book because of the public spat between the eminent Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD, Diarmuid Ferriter who was fairly scathing in his review of Mr Coogans work in the *Irish Times* on Saturday 21st November 2015: "By page 20 of this truly dreadful book Tim Pat Coogan has puffed himself up to the extent that he has an important announcement to make". Mr Ferriter reaches a conclusion that Mr Coogan "has not read up on Irish history..."

You can see why my interest was piqued, far be it for me to take a position opposite to Mr Ferriter but on the whole, it is well worth a read - even though I wanted to like it more than I did. There is a lot of information and quotes trust at you, but you can see the seeds of a lot of our future trouble been sown. I agree it is a great pity that there are some historical inaccuracies with mismatched dates and some generalisations that would be woeful if produced by a history professor. Read it with that in mind and if nothing else use the highlighted errors as pointed out by worthy scholars to do a little digging into the real facts behind this moment of revolution! I look forward to reading Prof. Ferriters own book *A Nation and Not a Rabble: The Irish Revolution 1913-1923* as soon as I can. **RdeB**

## The Burgoyne Diaries: The First Winter at Ypres with the Royal Irish Rifles

**Author:** Gerald Achilles Burgoyne  
**Publisher:** Pen and Sword Books  
 (January 2016) [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)  
**ISBN:** 978-1473827585  
**Price:** €25.80  
**Pages:** 249



This book is compiled from the original diary entries of Gerald Achilles Burgoyne, an officer in the Royal Irish Rifles, written while serving in the front line trenches at Ypres during the Great War in 1914-1915. Originally printed in 1985, this edition is released for the centenary commemorations of the Great War. The book contains many maps, illustrations and sketches originally drawn by the author. It was the author's daughter Claudia that brought the diaries to the fore after she discovered them in an old trunk filled with her parent's personal effects. This personal account written on notepaper while under great stress, and enemy barrages in his mud filled trench, were sent home almost daily to his wife back in England. The book gives a real daily view of what life was like at the front lines of what was known as the 'bloodiest war to end all wars'. While the cold weather and the modern weaponry of the 20th century took their toll on lives on both sides, Burgoyne kept the diary pages constant from November 1914 until there sudden stop in May 1915, when he was wounded and returned England. Burgoyne is very outspoken about his personnel opinions on the war effort, and of his men, who he openly admits to hitting them to instil discipline, and naming them. This honest account is at times to 'real' to read as the author probably didn't envisage they would be printed as a memoir some 70-years later. **WF**

# What I Do

**name**

**HUGH FORDE**

**rank**

**LIEUTENANT**

**unit**

**27 INF BN /52 INF GP  
UNDOF**

BY SGT WAYNE FITZGERALD

Originally from Moynalty, Co Meath, I took a year out after school to train fulltime in the modern pentathlon (swimming, running, shooting, fencing and show jumping), which was originally a military sport and I met many military personnel through it.

I went on to study at the University of Bath, which is the British Olympic team's centre of excellence. I represented Ireland at junior European and junior World Championship levels as well as a senior World Cup. I was very proud to represent Ireland, but unfortunately I had to retire through injury at age 23.

At university, I studied European Studies, French and Russian, which included a year studying in Russia and France. I was particularly interested in politics. I went on to complete my MA in Business Management in UCL, Limerick. After university I applied for a cadetship in 2009 and joined 86 Cadet Class aged 24.

I was commissioned in 2011 and posted to the 27 Inf Bn, Aiken Bks, Dundalk, as a platoon commander in Sp Coy, where we ran numerous infantry light support weapons courses in addition to normal security duties. I also ran basic swimming lessons for non-swimmers in the unit, using my pentathlon experience. I was then posted to B Coy in Gormanston Camp.

In 2014 I underwent a tough six-week Infantry YO's course, which was very well run, with a great emphasis on learning. We also had a great group and bonded well.

In 2015, I underwent the CIMIC course in UNTSI in the Curragh with a view to getting the opportunity to serve overseas as a CIMIC officer.

Back with 27 Inf Bn, I was appointed platoon commander for 51 Recruit Platoon. I had a great NCO training team, with Sgt Tommy Macken as my platoon sergeant, and we started the 17 weeks training with 37 recruits and passed out 30 soldiers. This was a challenging but positive experience and it was great to see the recruits' development from civilian to soldier. We emphasised selflessness to them and they embraced it; developing a great attitude and bonding very well as a platoon.

In late 2015 my application for overseas was successful, and I was appointed Pl Comd, 1 Pl, A Coy, 52 Inf Gp, UNDOF. We have been in phase 1 of training since the start of the year, conducting unit admin, CBRN, ranges, medicals and passports applications. The platoon is made up of personnel from seven different locations and has been a challenge to coordinate.

Phase 2 will focus on tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), getting platoon drills/C-IED standardised. We will spend a few weeks operating as a mechanised infantry company out of Aiken Bks before phase 3 culminates with the mission readiness exercise in the Glen of Imaal at the end of March. I'm looking forward to the mission and the opportunity and very proud to be going to serve my country overseas.

My grandfather, Séan Forde, served with the 2nd Battalion, Dublin Brigade, Irish Volunteers' during the Easter Rising (see article on p30); a hugely significant event in our family history that we are extremely proud of. I particularly admire that he stood up to be counted when it mattered most and that's something I hope to emulate in my career.

Growing up we visited the GPO and Arbour Hill every Easter to commemorate the sacrifices that were made. Because of my grandfather's service, my father was very emotional when I was a flag officer at the annual 1916 commemoration in Arbour Hill a few years ago. My family are very proud that I'm serving, and I think my grandfather would also be proud. I have volunteered along with many others to read out the proclamation on Easter Sunday. ■



**“Cadetships  
change  
you for the  
better and  
I’m very  
grateful to  
the DF  
for that.”**



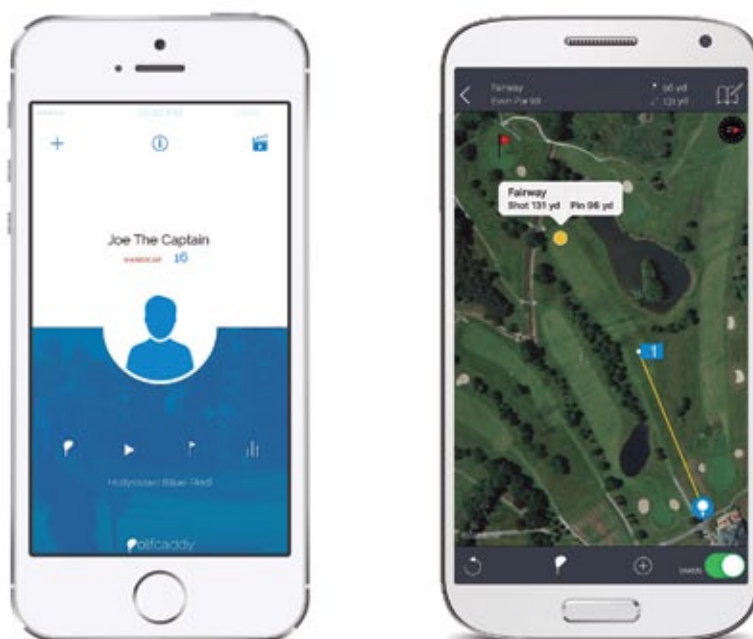
# REVOLUTIONISE YOUR GAME WITH GOLF CADDY PRO

## FEATURING TOP IRISH COURSES

**GOLF CADDY PRO** contains  
Rangefinder, Shot Tracker & Live In-Play Strokesaver

All Features uniquely work offline

Available to download **FREE** for a limited period



Join the Club



[www.golfcaddyapp.com](http://www.golfcaddyapp.com)

19  
20 16



Working with you,  
yesterday and  
in the future

Timoney Technology, IDA Technology Park, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath, Ireland  
**timoneygroup.com**



**TIMONEY**