

An tÓglac

Eagarthóir—Seán Ó Dubhghusa

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An Appreciation of the late Sir Thomas Myles

By ÉAMON MARTIN

Éamon Martin held the rank of Captain in the Irish Volunteers in 1916. He was Dublin Brigade Commandant of Fianna Éireann, and later was appointed Chief of Staff of the Fianna.

AFTER the attack on the Magazine Fort our party made its way back to the Four Courts area and reported to Commandant Ned Daly. While making my way to one of the houses in North Great Brunswick Street, which our forces were occupying, I met Sir Thomas Myles, the surgeon in charge of the Richmond Hospital. He stopped me and started off by telling me how mad we were. He said he was a life-long Nationalist—that Home Rule had been granted and would surely be put into operation after the War, and I, of course, gave him our side of the picture. I saw that he was really concerned and very distressed and I was patient with him. I reminded him that I had been at Kilcoole when he brought in the guns in his yacht. "That", he replied "was quite a different thing—I brought you those guns to show that b - - Carson that two could play his game." However, I was the first man to whom he had spoken who treated him in a friendly manner, and during that and the following days he took every opportunity to seek me out. He was isolated—confined to the Hospital area—and I believe, rather confused in his loyalties. While I did not know it at the time he held a commission in the British Army with the rank of Lieut. Colonel.

In the "Richmond"

When Commandant Ned Daly took over the area Myles approached him and explained that his hospital was, at the time, caring for wounded British soldiers and he asked Ned to recognize his position and not take over or use the hospital. Ned agreed. Consequent upon this not very realistic acceptance, our wounded had to be taken to an improvised medical depot at the Father Matthew Hall. But when I was badly wounded and was helped as far as our barricade at North Brunswick Street, I was attended by a Dr. Mannix and Dr. Michael Burke. The latter rushed back to the hospital and told Myles that "his friend Adrien" had been badly wounded. Myles sent him back to have me brought to the hospital. This, of course, upset the agreement between himself and Ned Daly, and as a consequence Myles had a complete ward cleared to which our wounded were transferred from the Father Matthew Hall. I think Sir Thomas had not quite caught my name from the beginning for he then and always after called me "Adrien". Eventually there were about twenty-five of our men in this ward and we were looked after by Sir Thomas and Michael Burke, who succeeded Dr. Mannix as Resident Surgeon.

To Linden

For some time after the surrender and after the executions of the leaders, the military were still rounding up and one morning Sir Thomas came in and told me to get in touch with my sister, to get her to bring my clothes, etc., that he was going to move me the next morning. He also asked me to ask my sister to find a safe hiding place for me, preferably where I could get medical attention. My sister got in touch with Mrs. Humphreys—the

ridden at a hot pace to intercept me and to tell me that the military had raided the Home looking for me. This must have been a direct tip-off. I recall that in the Home there were also British wounded and one day I had rather a heated argument with one of them, which, of course, was rather indiscreet on my part. However, I returned to my sister's house, and together we made our way to another sister, who was holidaying with her family at Bettystown.

To Belfast

Towards the end of the summer, military activity, in the matter of searches, ceased, and I was back in Shelbourne Road. I was attending the Richmond Hospital regularly to have Sir Thomas attend to my wound, which was still discharging. I was still a very sick person. One day I had a message from a Mr. MacAlinden, who said he was a friend of



IRISH PRESS

Sir Thomas Myles
WHEN PRESIDENT OF THE
COMPANIONS OF ST. PATRICK

decided to operate by making an outlet at the lower rib. At least, this is what I, with my lay mind, understood. I agreed but said I would first like to let Sir Thomas know about it. My sister saw Sir Thomas who immediately said "If there is to be an operation I'll do it"—have Adrien return to Dublin". I came back and Sir Thomas said he would treat me before deciding on an operation. As far as I can remember he treated me by keeping the wound open. Every morning his chauffeur called in for me and we went to the hospital, picking up Sir Thomas at his house in Mount Street on the way.

Passport for the U.S.A.

One day Sir Thomas said it would be a good thing if I could get away to a warm climate for the winter. Had I any money or was there any organisation to help me in this matter? In a round-about way he was offering to help me financially. I told him there was such an organisation but there was the difficulty of a passport. He said to leave that to him. Here again Mrs. Humphreys and Madame O'Rahilly, representing the dependants' Fund came to the rescue to pay my fare to New York, where I was to contact Devoy and be sent to California. To get a passport at this time the applicant had to appear before a magistrate. Sir Thomas arranged this, and one morning, after my application had been sent in, on medical grounds, a Detective Sergeant Fagan, of the D.M.P. called to my home and accompanied me to the Court, where he presented my case to the magistrate—Swift, I believe—handing in a certificate from Sir Thomas. This certificate stated that I had been a patient of his, had an operation for an abscess on the lung, was still under his care but he deemed it essential that I get away to a warm climate. All I had to do was tell the magistrate that I had

Extract from a letter written by Father Albert in 1917 to "Friends" in Lewes Prison.

"I suppose you know that Eamon Martin is in America. He is much stronger and glad to get to a drier climate. Sir Thomas Myles was splendid all along and we can never forget his kindness."



Eamon Martin today, at work in his Ballsbridge office

O'Rahilly's sister, and through some influence she arranged with Linden Convalescent Home to take me in. On the records I was recuperating after an operation for an abscess on the lung. This was Sir Thomas' idea.

Tip-Off

The next morning Sir Thomas came to the Hospital dressed in his officer's uniform. After he had finished at the hospital, he and I went to his chauffeur-driven open car and I was taken to the Home. It was rather amusing to me to nod to the policemen on traffic duty as they saluted the high-ranking khaki-clad officer beside me. I was in the Home for a month or more and often took a chance to visit my sister in Shelbourne Road. One day I was sitting on the seat at Lansdowne Road waiting for a tram to return to the Home when Jack O'Keefe, who had also been wounded in the Rising and who was convalescing at Linden, pulled up beside me on a bicycle. He had

Pádraic O'Riain in Belfast. The messenger said he wanted me to go back and stay with him at his house in Belfast. Could I be ready to return with him that evening on the train, after the races. If so, would I meet him in Jury's Hotel. The messenger, by the way, was Mickey Hamill, famous Belfast Celtic centre forward.

I went to Belfast where I was attended regularly by Dr. McNabb. Of all the kindnesses I received at this time, and they were numerous, that shown to me by Dr. McNabb and by Hugh MacAlinden, his lovely wife and his whole family, will always remain clearly in my memory.

Return to Dublin

The winter had set in and I was not responding to treatment. I had continued to lose weight and was coughing incessantly. The wound was closing, and, it appears, the poison was going through my system. Dr. McNabb



Photo of original poster for the meeting.

FOUNDATION OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS

S. Ó DUBHGHUSA

(Based on Piaras Béaslaí's Articles in the "Irish Independent",—January and February, 1953).

MACNEILL'S ARTICLE

IN the issue of 1 November, 1913, of "An Claidheamh Soluis", Eoin Mac Neill had an article in English on the formation and arming of the **Ulster Volunteers** to resist, in arms if necessary, the granting of Home Rule to Ireland by the British Liberal Government. Professor MacNeill concluded that it was evident that the British Army and Government could no longer object to the formation of armed volunteers in Ireland for other purposes.

FIRST MEETING

On 10 November, 1913, Piaras Béaslaí, Bulmer Hobson—who was centre of Piaras's branch of the I.R.B.—and Eamon Ceannt discussed the possibility of forming a body of Irish Volunteers for achieving the liberation of Ireland by military action. Eoin MacNeill agreed, and a meeting of likely sympathisers was called for Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, on the next night, 11 November. Piaras Béaslaí brought along his best friend, Seán Mac Diarmada, to the meeting which about a dozen attended. Half of them were in the I.R.B. and all were connected with some branch of the Irish Resurgence Movement.

THE FIANNA COME IN

It was decided that some members of John Redmond's party—which was then the party which controlled 90% of the votes of

Nationalist Ireland—should be invited to act on the committee. The principal recruits from this source were **Larry Kettle** and solicitor **John Gore**. Already a body of youths styled **Na Fianna**, and the I.R.B., had been holding secret "drills" and receiving some weapon training. The Fianna were Irish Boy Scouts, formed as an answer to the Baden Powell "Seoinin" scouts who were then very powerful in Ireland. They were formed on the suggestion of **Bulmer Hobson**, an idea enthusiastically supported by **Madame Markievicz**. Some of the Fianna were co-opted on to the committee and **Liam Mellowes** was appointed Assistant Honorary Secretary.

THE ROTUNDA MEETING

A public meeting was called for 25 November (replica of poster herewith) in the Rotunda Ice Rink, now the Nurses' Home, as it was reputed to be capable of holding 7,000 people. The then Lord Mayor, Lorcan Sherlock, had refused the use of the Round Room of the Mansion House, to the committee. The Rink was packed and three overflow meetings were held outside. 3,500 volunteers signed up on that first night. The city was divided into four Battalion areas, and halls were secured in various parts of the city. On Monday, 1 December the first drills were held. Volunteers with British Army experience acted as instructors. Piaras Béaslaí attended the 1st Battalion Drill in the Hall of the Colmcille Branch of the Gaelic League in Blackhall Street.

THE FIRST COMMITTEE

The Dublin Brigade had come into existence. "In less than

three weeks without any assistance from publicity," wrote Piaras, "or sympathy from the influential, an Irish Volunteer Force was called into being." It is fitting that we should here name the members of **The First Provisional Committee**: Eoin Mac Neill, *Pres.*; L. J. Kettle, *Hon. Sec.*; **The O'Rahilly** and **John Gore**, *Hon. Treasurers*; Piaras Béaslaí, Eamon Martin, Seán Mac Diarmada, P. H. Pearse, Tomás MacDonagh, Con Colbert, Liam Mellowes, Peadar Macken, Sir Roger Casement, Tom Kettle, M.P., Seán Fitzgibbon, Peadar White, Col. Maurice Moore, George Walsh, M. J. Judge, Peter O'Reilly, J. Lenehan, Bulmer Hobson, Pádraig Ó Riain, Colm Ó Lochlainn, M. Lonergan, Robert Page, Séamus O'Connor, and Liam Gogan.

Of these men sixteen were in the Irish Republican Brotherhood, eleven were executed or killed in action, twelve were Irish speakers, and nine could be described as creative authors.



Bulmer Hobson

(INDEPENDENT)

THE TITLE "ÓGLAIGH NA hÉIREANN"

Piaras Béaslaí suggested the title "Óglaigh na hÉireann" for the volunteers, and Pearse and MacNeill agreed. It was adopted. Some had advocated the title "Fianna Fáil" for the organisation, and it was probably some enthusiast for this name who was responsible for the Gaelic letters "F.F." in the volunteer cap badge; a badge still used by our army. But the official name of the Irish Volunteers of 1913, and of the army of 1919 to 1922 always was "Óglaigh na hÉireann". The name "I.R.A." was unknown to Béaslaí and his comrades, at that period, and was never officially adopted.

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SIR THOMAS MYLES

Continued from page 1



Col. Sir Thos. Myles, C.B., F.R.C.S.I.
IN HIS LATER YEARS

(INDEPENDENT)

friends in California who had invited me to stay with them. From his manner, I am almost certain that Detective Sergeant Fagan, certainly, and possibly Swift, were in on the deal with Sir Thomas. When I asked Sir Thomas what would happen if I were examined by the British or the American medical authorities and they discovered, as they surely would, that it was a gunshot wound I was suffering from, he exploded with his usual style of invective, "I'd like to see the 'so-and-so' who will question my certificate!"

Not I alone, but every wounded man in the Rising, who came under the care of Sir Thomas will always cherish his memory. He rendered a service in 1916 that the Nation should never forget.

P. J. BOURKE

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DHÁ SHOS COGAIDH

Leis An OLLAMH LIAM Ó BRIAIN

BHí aithne agam ar aon duine amháin i nÉirinn i mbliain '21 and '22 nar bhféidir linne, an mhuintir a bhí ar thaobh an "Treaty", a lochtú ná aon argóint a dhírú uirre nach raibh sé i n-ann a fhreagairt go héagsaidh. Bean uasal do b'eadh í a bhí go mór i naghaidh an tsosa chogaidh i mí Iúil 1921, a raibh fearg uirre gur tugadh an tsíocháin sin, an spás sin chun anáil a tharrait, do na Sasanaigh i n-áit gabháil dóibh gan staonadh agus iad a ruagairt amach as an tír.

Áthas

Gach éinne eile a casadh liomsa an tráth sin, bhí an-áthas orru gur éirigh linn an sos cogaidh sin a bhaint amach. Ba mhór an faoiseamh é tar eis anachain agus anró an dá bhlian roimhe sin. D'fhéadfadh an-chuid daoine dul abhaile agus codladh na hóiche a dhéanamh go maidin go sámh. Ceapadh gur an-bhuaidh ar fad é de bhrí gur tugadh aitheantas do fhórsaí na Poblachta, agus go mbeadh oifigigh liaison mar dúradh, den dá arm ag dul timpeall le chéile i n-aon chár amháin, an Khaki ar dhuine acu, an uaithne ar an duine eile, ó áit go háit ag féachaint chuige go geólonfaí téarmaí an tsosa chogaidh. B'ionann sin agus aithneantas a thabhairt dár bpoblacht?

Cúlú

Níorbh eadh: ní oibríonn an inntinn Shasanach ar an mbealach lóighicéil sin. Níor thug éinne fá deara gur fhan an t-arm Gallda i nÉirinn agus an póilias Gallda ins na bearraicí a rabhadar lá an tsosa chogaidh. Ní raibh fhios, fiú amháin, ag roinnt mhaith daoine gur minic a thárla i geúrtaí cogaidh gur chúlaigh arm aon taoibh amháin acu, nó, amannta, an dá arm siar ón mball a raibh an chogaíocht ar siúl acu, go dtí líne áirithe, teora áirithe ar ar soerúfódh, le linn dóibh bheith ag plé téarmaí an tsosa chogaidh.

Cogadh an "Kaiser"—Cóimheas

Bhí sompla de sin taréis bheith ós comhair a súl agus ós comhair súl an domhain tamall gearr roimhe sin. I mí na Samhna 1918, bhí a ndóthain den chogadh mhór, 1914-1918, ag na Gearmáinigh. Bhí buailte orru. Cé go raibh na Rúisigh curtha as an gcogadh acu, bhí na Meiriceánaigh taréis teacht isteach ann le bliain anuas, agus ó thaobh lón cogaidh, maoin agus tionscail agus airgid agus líon saighdiúirí agus loingis agus aerfhórsaí, taréis do na Gearmáinigh a bheith ag troid le ceithre bliana anuas bhí an lámh uachtair ag na "cairde" (allies) idir Shasanaigh, Francaigh, Iodáiligh, Beiligh agus Meiriceánaigh, orru agus bhí na hairm Ghearmáineacha dá dtiomáint siar go mall, as an bhFrainc isteach sa mBeilg agus i dtreo na Gearmáine féin.

Comhairle

Saighdiúirí a bhí i gceannas na n-arm céanna an uair úd, sé sin le rádh, geinearáil agus "feld-mharascail" a raibh a saol caite acu ag déanamh staidéir ar calaíon an chogaidh. Nuair a thuigeadar go raibh an cluiche cailte, mhóladar don Kaiser gur cheart deireadh a chur leis gan mhoill agus cártaí maithe fós 'na lámha acu sa gcaoi go bhféadfaidís margadh réasúnta maith a tharrait as.



Liam Ó Briain IRISH PRESS

Na Cártaí Maithe

B'iad na "cartaí maithe" stráice mór saidhbhir den Fhrainc agus an Bheilg ar fad a bheith faoi n-a spraic acu gan trácht ar réigiúin mhóra i n-oirthear na hEorpa agus a loingias cogaidh cumhachtach. B'fhiú do na "cairde" íoc go maith as an méid sin fháil i n-aisce gan dortadh fola. B'ionann an "moladh" sin ó na Geinearáil agus ordú don Kaiser, agus d'aontuigh sé. Ní hé sin amháin é ach thug sé é féin as an mbealach isteach sa Tír-Fó-Thuinn agus d'fhan ann go bhfuair sé bás, ar mhaithe leis an nGearmáin. Féach chomh ciallmhar stuamga is a rinneadh an méid sin, ní hionann agus cúrsaí an tseanchorporaíil bhuile i 1945 a d'fhógair go dtroidfeadh sé ní hé amháin "go dtí an aonú uair déag" ach go meán oíche agus na dhiaidh agus a bhí ag seoladh saighdiúirí bochta a thíre amach le bás fháil ar shráideanna Bheirlín féin gan mhaith gan dóchas.

Sos Cogaidh 1918

Dá bhrí sin uile, maidin áirithe i dtús mí na Samhna 1918, stop an ghunnaíocht a bhí de shíor ar siúl le ceithre bliana anuas idir tríní na "gcairde" agus tríní na nGearmáineach, ag pointe áirithe sa líne fada dhíobh a shín treasna na Fraince agus tháinig roinnt fear usual amach ón trínse Ghearmáineach, hatáí árda orru agus "frock-coats". Shiúladar treasna an "no man's land" go dtí an trínse Francach. Seoladh uaidh sin iad go mear go dtí carráiste traenach i náit ar a dtugtar "Doullens". Thosuigh an ghunnaíocht arís ó thaobh go taobh. Sa gcearráiste traenach cé bhí rompu ach an Marascal Foch, ard-cheannasaí fórsaí na "gearad" go léir. Duairt seisean leo go simplí "que desirez vous, messieurs?"

Duairt siadsan, "deireadh a chur leis an gcogadh" Taréis roinnt chainte, tharraing Foch páipéar fada as a phóca agus thug dóibh é. "Sin iad téarmaí an tsosa chogaidh atáthar a thairsgint díbh; glacaidh nó fágaidh." B'éigin do na Gearmáinigh glacadh leo.

Na Téarmaí

Céard iad na téarmaí sin? Go n-imeoch arm na Gearmáine as an bhFrainc ar fad; as an mBeilg ar fad; go bhfágfaidís 'na ndiaidh i ngach áit a rabhadar a gcuid gunnaí móra go léir, a gcuid meaisín-ghunnaí go léir; a gcuid eiteallán cogaidh go léir; go gceadófaí dhóibh a gcuid raidhfil agus piostal a choinneail; nuair a shroichfidís teora na Gearmáine, go leanfaidís leo ag cúlú do dtí an Réin (agus tá réimse mór fairsing saidhbhir den Ghearmáin deirim libh idir theorainn na Fraince agus na Beilge agus an Réin): go leanfaidís fórsaí na "gearad" iad go dtí an abhainn sin agus go bhfanfaidís ann go ndéanfaí an tsíocháin; i dteannta an méid sin go dtiúraí suas do na "cairde" loingias cogaidh na Gearmáine, gach uile shoitheach de. Bhí tearmaí eile ann a bhain leis an bPólainn agus an taobh sin den Eoraip nach gá dhúinn bacaint leo.

Comparáid Arís

Sin é an cineál sos cogaidh a leagann an buaiteoir ar a namhaid. Anois, dá mbeadh ar chumas arm Phoblacht na hÉireann an cineál seo sos cogaidh a leagan ar na Sasanaigh; "glanfaidh sibh amach as na bearraicí go léir atá nbhur seilbh ar fud contaethe na hÉireann uile agus seolfaidh sibh ar ais go Sasana; fágfaidh sibh bhur gcuid gunnaí móra agus meaisín-ghunnaí agus lón cogaidh agus eiteallán nbhur ndiaidh; seolfaidh Arm Phoblacht na hÉireann treasna na fairrge agus fanfaidh sé i seilbh Ghlascaú agus Learpholl agus Bristó go ndéantar síocháin bhuan idir Shasana agus Éirinn"; dá mbeadh, deirim, ar chumas arm na poblachta a leithéid sin de shos cogaidh a ghearradh ar na Sasanaigh, bheadh an phoblacht againn de thoradh Códháil na Síochána i Lundain i mí na Nollag 1921!

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THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS IN LONDON

ERNIE NUNAN RECALLS

LITTLE, if any, has ever been recorded of the part played by the London Company of the Irish Volunteers in the Rising of 1916, and this being the 50th anniversary of that historic occasion, I am proud to be able to place on record my appreciation of those "Faithful and Few".

On the formation of the Irish Volunteers in Dublin in 1913, the Irish in London soon followed the lead of the men of Dublin and the Irish Volunteer movement was founded. Hundreds of men of Irish birth or descent enrolled in the ranks, and two strong companies were formed. North and South London. The North London Company trained and drilled in the German Gymnasium at Kings Cross, and the South London Company at St. George's Hall, near the Elephant & Castle. This was in 1913, not 1912, as has been stated.

So far as my memory serves me, the instructors to the Volunteers were Patrick Erin Maguire, ex British Navy, ex Sergt. Patrick Murphy, Irish Guards, Louis Noble and Cecil McGowan of the London Irish Rugby Club, later to become a major in the British Army, and Joe Cassidy who trained the South London Company.

The outbreak of the 1914-18 war saw the first reduction in the ranks of the Volunteers. Many joined the British Army for various reasons, such as "Gallant Little Belgium", "The Freedom of Small Nations", and others being given the promise by their employers of "Your job will be waiting for you when you return". The jobs were waiting, but many never returned.

The German Gymnasium was then closed down by orders of the British Government and the North London Company practically ceased to exist. Those few who remained true transferred over to the South London Company and continued their drilling, training, etc. in St. George's Hall under the command of Capt. Joe Cassidy. With the coming of 1916 and the preparations for the Rising, the majority of the Company made their way by devious routes to Dublin to join the Volunteers and to take their place with their Dublin comrades.

When the Rising took place, the men of the London Irish Volunteers gallantly answered the call of Ireland and played their part in no mean fashion.

Those who made the Supreme Sacrifice were Roger Casement (Patron of the London Company), Dan Sheehan, drowned at Ballykissane, Sean Hurley, Patrick Shortes, Mick Mulvihill and Jimmy Kingston.

For historic records, the following took part in the Rising: Joe Furlong, Matt Furlong, Seamus Nunan, Seán Nunan, Ernie Nunan, John O'Connor, Frank Kelly, Gilbert Ward, Joe O'Reilly, Mick Collins, Dave Begley, Joe Good, Garry McAuliffe, Sean McGrath, Michael McGrath, David O'Leary, Diarmuid O'Leary, Eamonn Tierney, Liam Daly, Joe Crighton, Denis Daly, Thomas O'Donoghue, Patrick O'Donoghue, Seamus O'Kelly and Grace O'Sullivan.

Liam Daly was severely wounded during the fighting in the O'Connell Street area and the bravery of Eamonn Tierney in the North King Street area will never be forgotten by his comrades.

Following on the Rising of 1916, the London Irish still played their part in subsequent events. Thomas O'Donoghue, Denis Daly and Mick Collins were returned as members of Dáil Éireann, Frank Kelly played an important part in the escape of De Valera from Lincoln Gaol, the Nunan brothers fought and won the Conscription Fight against the British Government, Sean Nunan later becoming Irish Minister to Washington, and Secretary, Department of External Affairs.

Truly, I think a remarkable record for the men of the London Irish Volunteers.

Before closing this article on the London Irish Volunteers, I must pay my humble tribute to the men of London who died for Ireland in later years; Simon McInerney, Reggie Dunne and Joe O'Sullivan, and to those other unsung and forgotten men and women who gallantly upheld the proud tradition of the London Irish.

Irish men and women of London, you have a proud heritage—Cherish it.



London Picture

Pre - 1916

ERNIE NUNAN AND "BLIMEY"
O'CONNOR AS IRISH DANCERS

SOME HAVE COME FROM A LAND BEYOND THE SEA

By JOHN T. ("Blimey") O'CONNOR

I often wonder if, when writing "The Soldier's Song", my old friend Peadar Kearney foresaw how prophetic this sentence was to be proven in the Insurrection of 1916, because 70 to 80 Volunteers, and a few women, from overseas, actually took part in the Rising.

It is not generally known that there were units of the Irish Volunteer in London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Manchester. These were composed of Irishmen who had gone to England to work and also of men born in exile of Irish parents, or whose grandparents had been forced to emigrate from Ireland owing to the Famine. In some cases these men had never been to Ireland and were to see it for the first time when they crossed as Volunteers to fight for it.

The Kimmage Garrison

Although resident in England or Scotland these people sought every opportunity of living in an Irish atmosphere by attendance at G.A.A., Gaelic League and other Irish Ireland gatherings and of course at the regular Volunteer meetings. I am proud to say that I was a member of the London Company. This unit was formed in 1913 as part of what was the "National Volunteers" and at one time our strength was about 500.

In 1915 the leader of the Irish Party at Westminster, Mr. John Redmond, offered the Volunteers to the British Government and a great number actually joined up to fight, as they were led to believe, for the freedom of small nations, and many laid down their lives in Flanders and elsewhere. But, thank God, there was a number of us who would not fight for the British crown and who realised that their duty was to Ireland only.

By this time the "Irish Volunteers" had been formed in succession to the INV, and we established a company in London. We met at St. George's Hall in South London (which was associated with the Cathedral where Terence

MacSwiney's remains were to lie in state on a later occasion) where we held our weekly parades and were drilled by our instructors, Joe and Martin Cassidy, in the use of arms, and listened to talks on military tactics and strategy. The guns with which we drilled were Martini carbines belonging to the local Catholic Boys' Brigade. At Christmas 1915 our strength was about 50-60. Around this time we received orders from G.H.Q. in Dublin to proceed to Dublin and to report at the Volunteers' headquarters in No. 2 Dawson Street.

It was decided that in order to avoid arousing suspicion we would travel one or two at a time. I actually crossed in mid-January 1916 and reported for duty as ordered.

Some of the men who came over had relatives with whom they stayed but the vast majority had no relatives in Dublin.

At the same time Volunteers from Liverpool, Glasgow, etc., made their way to Dublin. G.H.Q. had arranged with Count Plunkett to use an old mill on his property at Larkfield, Kimmage (now Derrington's factory) to house us, and thus was formed the first standing army of the Republic, and Kimmage Mill the first garrison in our time, and we became known as "The Kimmage Garrison".

Included in our number were a couple of Dublin men who were "on the run" and Seamus Brennan of Tullamore and people such as Mick Collins, Seamus Robinson, Dinny Daly and Thomas O'Donoghue, all of whom were elected as T.D.s in later years, also Sean Nunan who was to become Minister in Washington and later Secretary to the Department of External Affairs.

Organised Military Force

The garrison was run on full military lines under our Captain, George Plunkett. Guards were mounted day and night, fatigue parties arranged, etc., and those not on any of these duties were occupied on the making of munitions such as large pellets for shotguns, hand grenades, and Yes! pikes made out of mortice chisels mounted on long shafts. We also carried out experiments with a long "Scatter Gun" made from a 6 foot length of 2½ inch bore tubular shafting which had a solid end and which was taken down from the old mill.

A charge of coarse gunpowder was inserted into the barrel and a piece of fuse led to this charge through a small hole in the barrel.

(Continued on page 5)

"SOME HAVE COME..."**"Blimey" O'Connor's Story**

Continued from page 4

The ammunition consisted of small pieces of metal, nuts, etc.

But unfortunately the man detailed to load the gun overloaded it, with the result that it blew to pieces. At the time we laughed at the result, but how we were to miss having it with us during Easter Week, particularly in Moore Street. But all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy and to offset the work we held camp-fire concerts in the evenings and played cards, chess, etc. It was at one of these concerts that I was nicknamed "Blimey".

In the beginning of February we were raided by G-men (Special detectives from Dublin Castle) and at least one of their number was wounded.

Easter Approaches

In the week preceding Easter there was an air of great tension and on the Thursday we were honoured by a visit from Pádraig Pearse and others, and were informed by Pearse that it had been decided to form a Headquarters Battalion comprising the Kimmage Garrison and one company from each of the four Dublin Battalions, whose duty it would be to guard Headquarters posts when on service and to supply personnel for special services required by General Headquarters.

On Holy Thursday a car left Kimmage for Kerry with Dan Sheehan (ex London), Con Keating (wireless operator) and a couple of others but, as you are already aware, the car went over a bridge at Ballykissane and all but the driver were killed.

On Saturday we were advised by Captain Plunkett to go to confession that evening and most of us went to Mount Argus, and those of us whose footwear had by now become worn out were given money to buy good marching boots.

On Easter Sunday we read in the newspapers that all parades fixed for that day were cancelled by order of Eoin MacNeill. Most of us, including our O/C, were of the opinion that perhaps these reports were inserted in the papers to deceive the British authorities.

However, after a long wait for a courier to bring the awaited message we were informed by our crestfallen Captain that apparently everything had been called off. We were confined to barracks and extra guards posted. Easter Monday came and there was a terrible air of disappointment and we were ordered to get back to our ordinary routine. But at about 10.30 a.m. Sean McLoughlin arrived with orders for Captain Plunkett.

Luan Cásca, 1916

Pleasantly excited, he paraded us and gave orders to prepare to leave at short notice and, needless to remark, we were all ready in a matter of minutes. We marched out from Kimmage about 50 strong to Harold's Cross, where we were to have been joined by the Rathfarnham Company which was composed of students from St. Enda's and men from the Rathfarnham area. We waited some time for this company but, as time was pressing, Captain

Plunkett stopped a tram which we boarded and on which we travelled to O'Connell Bridge.

I remember being on top of the open decker and playing national airs on a flute which I had brought with me, and the lads joined lustily in singing.

From O'Connell Bridge we marched to Liberty Hall where our Captain reported to G.H.Q. inside the Hall. In about 15 minutes we were paraded by our O/C, but this time we were joined by some members of the Citizen Army and by a few Irish Volunteers who had reported for duty at this point.

It can be justly claimed that this particular occasion was the first on which there was a composite army of the Republic.

To the G.P.O.

We were told off in sections and then marched to the G.P.O. via Lower Abbey Street.

Included in the party were some of the H.Q. officers and there were two or three cars containing explosives, etc. On reaching O'Connell Street one section turned left and took up positions at the bridge, the remainder carried on to the G.P.O. The second section together with the cars, went to the Princes St. gate, the third to the Henry St. door and the last section took the main door.

I was in No. 4 section and I remember well that as we came abreast of the main entrance the order rang out: "Halt. Left-turn. Charge." Oh! What excitement as we charged into the building. My throat was suddenly dry and immediately I got inside Tom Clarke handed me a tommy can. My first reaction was that the organisation must have been great to anticipate how thirsty we would get on going into action.

But I soon came back to earth when I realised that the tommy can was in fact a home made bomb. We were immediately posted at the windows and ordered to break all glass. I was at the window at the North of the main door and as I climbed the long counter under the window a shotgun went off accidentally and the bullets passed close to my head, but unfortunately Liam Roche was badly wounded in the arm. Shortly afterwards I was transferred to the second window in Henry St., and was not long there when a party of Lancers approached from the direction of Parnell Square. Orders were given to hold our fire until a whistle was blown, but as the party reached Nelson's Pillar somebody fired a shot prematurely and then we all let fly. Some of the Lancers were wounded and at least two of the horses were killed. I later found out that one of the men was well known to me as I had often met him at Irish functions in London. At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon I was told to report to Commandant Joseph Plunkett, who was O/C Communications.

Our Radio Station

He informed me that as from that minute I was attached to his staff with the rank of Lieutenant. He then instructed me to report to the Brigade Engineer, Captain Breen, at Reis's Chambers. I made my way across to the building which was situated at the

corner of O'Connell Street and Lower Abbey Street, now occupied by the Munster & Leinster Bank. I was accompanied by another electrician from London named Liam Daly. When the Volunteer on duty at the door heard our Cockney accents he refused to admit us, but we soon convinced him. Captain Breen sent me to Fergus O'Kelly, who was in charge of the wireless station on the top floor.

This Marconi School contained a complete 1½KW ship's transmitting and receiving apparatus for use in training operators. As a military precaution, this wireless school had been closed since the war began in 1914 and the equipment had been completely disconnected but not dismantled. The aerial had been taken down and all parts removed except the poles and portion of the clamps which had supported them. The poles were lying in the valley of the roof. I assisted Fergus with the erection of the aerials, etc., and getting the transmitting plant in order.

Transmissions were commenced on Tuesday night, Fergus sending out a communique from James Connolly stating that an Irish Republic had been declared, with a Provisional Government in Dublin, and that the Army of the Irish Republic had taken possession of the city. This message was transmitted at intervals and at a much later date evidence was found that it had been received and re-transmitted to the outside world, thus countering the British propagandist version of the events in Dublin.

Evacuation

On Wednesday afternoon a messenger arrived from G.H.Q. with orders that we were to evacuate the block of buildings and return to the G.P.O. As O'Connell Street was by now under severe enemy fire, our party, which included Seamus Robinson and Tom Ennis, made its way down Lower Abbey Street, through Marlboro' Street to the Parnell Monument. At this point we decided to rush across O'Connell Street in a body. This we did and took the enemy located in Frederick Street completely by surprise and we were half way across before fire was opened on us, but fortunately none of us was hit. We went through Moore Street, Henry Street, Liffey Street, Middle Abbey Street and through the passage-way to Prince's Street Gate.

Return to G.P.O.

How pleased I was to see my old friend Ernie Nunan, who was in charge of the gate (and still has the keys). I remained with Fergus O'Kelly during the rest of the afternoon and all night endeavouring to get new aerials erected, etc. On Thursday evening I was at one of the windows on the ground floor where I remained until Friday afternoon. The Imperial Hotel (now Clerys) was blazing fiercely and so intense was the heat that we could almost feel it at our post. In case any of the flying embers would set fire to our barricades we soaked them with water. At about 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon Commandant The O'Rahilly sent Michael McGrath and myself to the telegraph room on the top floor with a large double handled

fire extinguisher, saying that there had been a fire in this room and we were to help in putting it out. When we reached the top floor we found that the enemy was shelling the building with incendiaries and that the roof was on fire in several places. We managed to get a hose up to the men on the roof but the water pressure was very weak and it was impossible to put the fires out. Work in the telegraph room was difficult owing to the fact that the windows were very low and we were in danger from enemy fire, we therefore had to bend low when moving about.

Fire Fighting

We were joined in the fire fighting by another London Volunteer, Mick Collins, who was a staff officer. We held the fire at bay, floor by floor, by placing barriers of sand across the doorways and flooding the floors with a lake of water. Meanwhile, a number of our men was moving explosives to a comparatively safe place in the cellars, but I remember Joe Good telling me how nervous he felt when passing the lift shaft as burning timbers and sparks were falling down the shaft continuously. Later on the building became untenable and we got orders to evacuate.

G.P.O. Farewell

The plan was to endeavour to reach Williams and Wood's factory and then join up with the North King Street men. We left by the Henry Street door into the laneway opposite, intending to work up Henry Place and Moore Lane. But the enemy had barricades in the lane and at the lower end of Moore Street. A call went out for volunteers to attack this barricade and most of us volunteered, but only men with rifles were allowed to go, and as I, like most of the Kimmage lads, had only shot guns, we were refused. The party, under Commandant The O'Rahilly, moved along Moore Street in single file and close to the walls. When nearing the barricade fire was opened up by the enemy and The O'Rahilly was killed and some of the party wounded, including Liam Daly. The remainder of the G.P.O. garrison got up Henry Place and broke through the gables of the Moore Street houses, boring holes in the dividing walls until we got as far as the next narrow laneway, at the corner of which lay the riddled body of The O'Rahilly. We took up positions at all of the windows and I shall never forget the long awe-inspiring night that followed.

Surrender

The city was in darkness and the only light was that of the burning G.P.O. reflected on the windows across Moore Street. At about 3 in the morning the fire reached the explosives in the cellar and the resultant blast was terrific. Daylight came out at last and with it a realisation of the fact that we were completely surrounded. After a time the rumour went around about the possibility of surrender, but almost to a man we felt that it would be best to go out and attack the barricades, even if most of us died in the attempt. However, we were informed by our officers that in order to save the city and to avoid unnecessary sacrifice of

(Continued on page 6)

"SOME HAVE COME . . ."

('Blimey' O'Connor Story)

Continued from page 5

civilian lives (a few had already been killed by the enemy while attempting to cross Moore Street) our leaders had agreed to unconditional surrender. I was one of the party addressed by Seán MacDiarmada. He explained the exact position to us and overcame whatever objections some of us had to surrender. He said that we had fought a gallant fight and our morale had been very high, also that in his opinion the leaders would be executed, but that most of us would probably be sent to prison, and it was up to those of us who survived to carry on the work, which had been so nobly begun. With this belief, those who had yet to die could do so in the certain knowledge that their sacrifice would not be in vain.

White Flags

The rest of my story is now well known. We were marched out of Moore Street under our own officers who carried white flags to O'Connell Street, lined up in front of the Gresham Hotel and after laying down our arms in the centre of the road we were brought back to the footpath with an armed British soldier with fixed bayonet opposite each prisoner. Our names and addresses were then taken. Afterwards we were herded to the open space inside the railings of the Rotunda Hospital where we were kept all night without being allowed to leave for any reason. On Sunday morning we were marched to Richmond Barracks where after a number of known men had been identified by police and detectives the remainder were put in several rooms around the barrack square. I had a strong feeling that we would all be shot, but around 5 o'clock in the evening we were paraded in the barrack square and each man given a small tin of bully beef and some army biscuits.

Internment

Later we were marched to the quays under a heavy guard, put on board a cattle boat and shipped to England. We were divided over a few gaols, Knutsford, Wakefield and Stafford. I was in the last mentioned prison together with Brian O'Higgins, Mick Collins, Murt O'Connell, Dr. Jim Ryan, Sean and Ernie Nunan, Captain Breen, Sean O'Duffy, Sean McEntee, Fintan Murphy, John Kilgallen, Joe Sweeney and others. We were in solitary confinement for about one month and then allowed to mingle together, talk, play games, etc., under the control of our own officers. In the Summer we were transferred from the various gaols to an internment camp at Frongoch in North Wales, a lovely place in the Welsh hills. The camp was controlled by our own officers and at one time our Commandant was E. A. Morkan.

It was in this camp that the first hunger strike was staged, lasting three days.

The "Sankey Circus"

The British Government had set up an appeals commission in London, composed of Justices Sankey, Moore and Pim, commonly referred to by us as the "Sankey Circus".

Any prisoner had the right to have his case considered by this commission, but since we all ignored it completely it was decided to bring us all before this commission. So we were brought to London in batches and housed alternately in Wormwood Scrubbs and Wandsworth prisons. But the fight was not yet over because after Seán and Ernie Nunan had been before the commission, they were handed over to the police as deserters under the Conscription Acts, as in the eyes of the authorities they were liable for military service. But the Government did not know the character of these men, because although they were subjected to awful ignominies and several courts martial in different parts of England they would not join the British Army. So after about 10 months they were discharged from the army (which they had never joined) and were released, after proving that all the might of the Empire could not break an Irishman's spirit or will.

In addition to the Nunan brothers, Thomas O'Donoghue and others were subjected to the same treatment and the result was the same. I would also like to mention other names that were well known, such as Gilbert Lynch of the Manchester Unit, and Frank Thornton from Liverpool. Of the men from London, we lost five who were killed in action, and of course this was only one section of the overseas contingent.

Release

Most of us remained in Ireland after our release and continued with the fight, in fulfilment of our promise to Seán MacDiarmada, and we played no small part in the affairs of Ireland in the years that followed.

And now it is up to those who come after us to do their utmost for the welfare of their country, and for its economic and social development, also for the reunification of the 32 counties.

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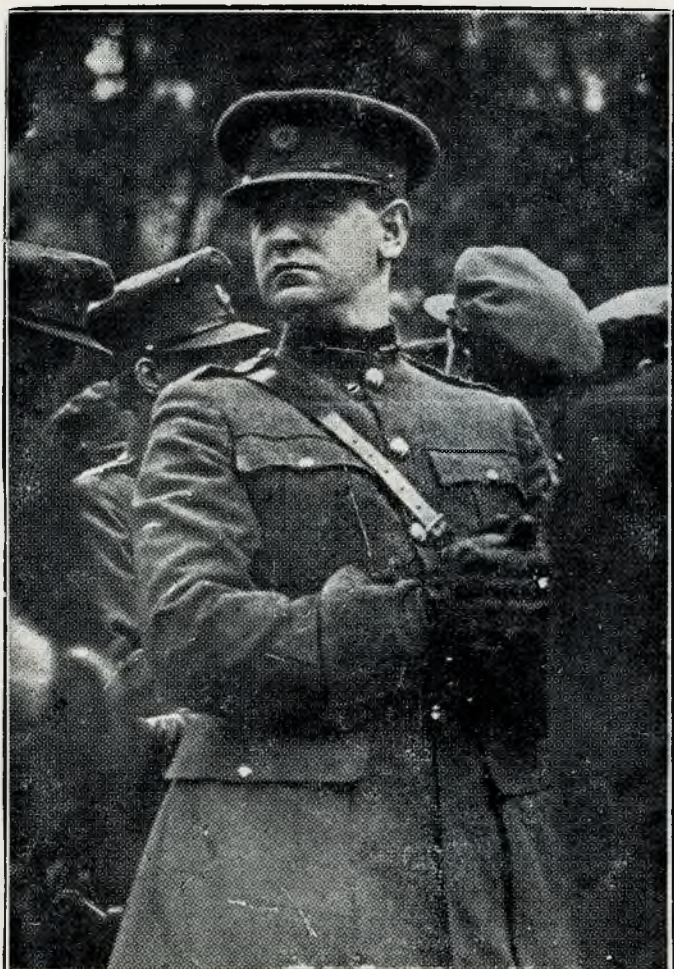
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"THE BIG FELLOW"

BY LEO MAGUIRE



I

This old land of ours has reared many a son
Who was ready when brave deeds were there to be done;
But, read down the list, was there ever a one
To compare with the gallant Mick Collins?
I grant you we've never lacked brave men and true
Who fought and who suffered for sad Ro-sheen Dhoo:
But here is my toast; and I'll drink it with you—
"The memory of gallant Mick Collins!"

Chorus

They called him "The Big Fellow", and that was no lie!
If ever a man seemed to reach to the sky—
Oh, he was the one! come let no one deny
The greatness of gallant Mick Collins!

II

He was young, he was strong: He was truer than steel,
With an arm that could strike, but a heart that could feel
He could swing a camán: he could skip through a reel;
There was laughter and joy in Mick Collins.
He was brave as a lion when facing the foe,
With his hand to the ploughshare he never let go!
Mavrone! That an Irishman's hand laid him low.
And shed the red blood of Mick Collins!

Chorus

III

But the dark days are over, the dawn is now clear.
And the Sunburst illumines this land he held dear.
Come, Irishmen all!—Banish hatred and fear
In memory of gallant Mick Collins!
No! Build him no statue: No Monument grand—
Let us make our dear Éire a free happy land;
With her people united in heart and in hand,
As a fitting memorial to Collins!

Chorus

(This song, with words and music by Leo Maguire, is published by Walton's, North Frederick-street. It has been recorded by Doreen Dunne, this year, on "Glenside" EPW. 321, and is frequently heard on the Walton programme on Saturday afternoons from Radio Éireann. Let us hope that the grand aspirations of the final verse will come to fruition in our time, for all Irish folk of whatever politics or religious beliefs).

LETTER FROM AMERICA

Konrad E. Hewitson, of Davis Ranch, Harwick-road, Petersham, Massachusetts, in the course of a letter to the Editor of the "Cork Examiner", dated 30th October, 1965, wrote:

"I am writing to inform you and your readers about a most regrettable item displayed at the recent Irish Trade Exhibition in the largest department store in Boston. One of the books displayed, ('Facts about Ireland'), did not seem to please some of the visitors who left little handwritten notes near or in the book warning that it was a partial book, a dishonest book, a bigoted book. I send you a short account of what some of the protesting notes had to say. 'This book has hushed up the lives of the men who built the modern Irish state.' 'The present Irish authorities are using public funds to re-write Irish history to their own advantage, passing over in silence some of the noblest, the purest and the bravest of their race' 'Why does this book not say anything about the history of Ireland between the years 1921 and 1932?' 'The Irish have a great admiration of our former youthful President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. We Americans, who have studied history, have a still greater admiration for another youthful statesman who was head and shoulders above Kennedy in every way—Michael Collins, without whose genius the Irish would never have succeeded in their War of Independence . . . Collins is one of the greatest men in the history of any land; but maybe, true greatness is not appreciated in Ireland.' One of the most likeable and most heroic figures in the history of wars of liberation is without any doubt the very young and extremely popular Irishman—Michael Collins. Ireland then should be as proud of Collins

as we are of Kennedy, so I cannot understand why no mention at all is made of his name in this book. But, maybe, Irish politicians are of the hateful and bitterly jealous type.' In any other country, Arthur Griffith, a man who gave his entire life to the service of his country and who lived and died in poverty because of his honesty, his devotion, and his patriotism would be looked up to as we look up to that great American, Dr. Tom Dooley. In Ireland, however, Griffith is not even worthy of the mention of his name by the present-day Irish politicians, whose state and welfare are no doubt very far indeed from the poverty, the devotion and the patriotism of Griffith'.

"I would probably have paid little or no attention to these notes were it not for the fact that I made a rather extensive study of Irish history at the University. I was always fascinated by Ireland's fight for Independence and nobody who took part in that effort appealed to my students so much as did Collins, who must have been a genius for organisation, for military intelligence, for financial management, for oratory, for vision, for simple and humble living, as well as for exceptional bravery. I too, was disappointed by the omission.

"I hope this letter from an American of English, Polish and French descent will not seem out of place to you. I mean no offence to anybody. I am just bringing to your attention what took place in Boston last week."



1922.—AT THE GRIFFITH FUNERAL

Generals Collins and Mulcahy, Maj. Gen. O'Sullivan,
Maj. Gen. McMahon and Col. Comdt. Cullen.

(PHOTO—PETER KERNAN)

OBITUARY

As we go to press we deeply regret to announce the death of Comdt. Bill Corri, who died 27 September 1966, while visiting his daughter in Manchester. Bill was, of course, a member of the Active Service Unit, and Captain of 'E' Coy., 1st Batt., Old Dublin Brigade. He was a Vice-President of the A.O.D.B. He was interred in Manchester. May he rest in peace!



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A RANK AND FILE VOLUNTEER IN BOLAND'S MILLS

By PATRICK NOLAN 'A' Co., III Batt.

IN endeavouring to recount here my experiences during Easter Week 1916, I am conscious of the extent to which an effort to retail them is limited by human frailty and fallibility. I had hoped at first to set down the several events as they happened from day to day but I discovered much to my disappointment that except for Easter Monday I found myself unable to do so, and that only certain isolated events—and a general picture in which these events were highlighted against a very blurred background—come to mind.



50 YEARS AFTER

Photo: Kevin McDonnell

Mick Fleming and Pat Nolan reminisce in the Old Dublin Brigade Club, Easter Monday, 1966.

As I was only a rank and file volunteer and rather young, the general strategy and disposition of our forces was not known to me in a general sense and I can only relate as far as I can remember, such events as occurred in the sector to which I was attached.

Preparations

In preparing for the Rising some preliminary work had been going forward for a time previously and bayonets for shotguns, canister grenades and other material had been procured, or made, and were stored in various places. In preparation for the rising these arms, stores and other equipment had to be collected and made ready for transport to the designated posts.

On the Saturday of Holy Week I was detailed to move guns, ammunition and other stuff from a number of houses in the South Circular Road area to Murphy's shop in Clanbrassil Street. Seán Murphy who owned the shop was with me and we had a lot of travelling back and forth to do in the heat of an unusually warm day, with the result that by the evening we were both tired out. I understand that this stuff was

later moved by another couple in a hand cart to 144 Pearse Street. I had nothing to do on Sunday and spent the day waiting to see what would happen after the notice by McNeill calling off the parade had appeared in the papers.

Easter Monday

At about 10 a.m. on Easter Monday Joe McDermott, now deceased, mobilized me for 144 Pearse Street. The scheme of mobilization provided that every Volunteer would report for duty to such position as would be occupied in his area or to the parade ground near his residence. This was my first introduction to B. Company's Headquarters as the Company to which I was attached i.e. A. Company, always paraded at 41 York Street or Camden Row.

I had no uniform so I put on my haversack, belt and ammunition pouches and with the No. 12 bore single-barrelled shotgun to which a bayonet was attached by means of two screws with wing nuts and with a small point-22 silver-plated revolver, and a small dagger, I duly reported at 144 Pearse Street at about 11.30. I found that about eighty or ninety men were already there, some in

the rooms, some on the stairways and a few others in the hall. Among them I was glad to see my pal Mick Fleming, and also Tom Cassidy. A number was also outside in the street and I saw some vehicles, horse-drawn and motor, being searched by the volunteers. Some men were also in the front area of the house covering the street and to this latter party I was attached by Lieutenant Sean McMahon. (Afterwards Battalion O/C and later Quarter Master General).

To Boland's Mills

At about 12.20 we were ordered to "fall in" outside "144" and we marched to Boland's Bakery. The gate was closed and a couple of our party climbed over it and opened it from the inside and we marched in.

When inside, an effort was made to group the men in their various units and such officers as were available were put in charge of the several groups and were given their orders. One group was to take over Westland Row Railway Station and the other groups sent to Mount Street, Grand Canal Street, advanced positions along the railway lines, etc. Our group consisting of Mick Fleming, Peadar O'Meara, Sean Goulding, a few others and myself from A. Company crossed the wall from Boland's Bakery on to the railway line and we proceeded along it towards Lansdowne Road.

Our objective was to prevent any trains from coming along the line and we proceeded systematically to put the signals and telephones out of order. We sent the signalmen home, and locked or otherwise immobilized the signals as far as Blackrock. We also removed some rails here and there and returned towards Headquarters where we remained on the line through the night. The day had been very hot and we had worked hard so we were quite tired. Luckily there was no attack made at that point although all round us the noise of firing continued with little interruption. We ate such rations as we had with us and remained on the "look out" all night.

Here and there on the line we had dug trenches between the rails. We had found some tools in the stores attached to the railway works at Barrow Street and these had been used in such demolition work as we had done the previous day.

Various Duties

It is difficult to assemble in their proper sequence the events of the following days with any degree of accuracy probably because as day succeeded day, lack of sleep and insufficient food had dulled our perceptions and besides that, incidents were succeeding each other almost too rapidly to be particularly noticed. Captain Joe O'Connor, afterwards Commandant of the 3rd Battalion, was in charge of our sector and he established his headquarters in the stores attached to the railway workshops. He also established outposts between Canal Bridge and Barrow Street in a large dwellinghouse in Grand Canal Street and in Roberts's grocery shop at the corner of Grand Canal Street and South Lotts Road facing, at an angle, Beggar's Bush Military Barracks. This shop was at the end of a terrace which

(Continued on page 10)

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A RANK-AND-FILER IN BOLAND'S MILLS

Continued from page 9

started from the railway bridge on South Lotts Road, and was approached by such of us who held it, through the houses in the terrace, from which the occupants had been evacuated, and the walls of each house had been broken through so that it was not necessary to appear on the street, but access could be obtained by moving through the houses in the terrace. On the Thursday this house was so strongly attacked by Lewis-gun fire from Beggar's Bush Barracks, that despite the fact that it had been barricaded, and the defenders protected by sacks of sugar, flour and any other articles to be found there, it had to be evacuated. This house had been a valuable asset up to this time, as it commanded the entrance to the barracks and impeded traffic through it. It was subsequently re-occupied and while I was there I had an opportunity of seeing the damage done by the machine-gun fire. The partition walls were so light that such bullets as pierced the walls or came through the windows or doors, seemed to have ploughed through several houses. Strange to say none of the defenders suffered any casualties that I heard of through the attack.

Sniping Duel

A sniping post was established in the water tower close to the works which held two water tanks between which a sniper had, by reason of the height of the tower a very good command of a large area whilst partly screened by them. During the fight at Mount Street Bridge good support was given to our men there by fire from this position until the church tower on Haddington Road was occupied by the enemy who then subjected the tower to such intense fire that it became almost untenable. It had a great defect also in so much as only one man could occupy it at a time and we lost one man there who was shot through the head from the fire directed from the church spire. The water tanks became so perforated by shot that water poured from them as from a watering can for several days.

Another position from which valuable support was given during the Mount Street battle was the railway bridge over the canal and fire from this position rendered it almost impossible for the enemy to occupy the canal banks on that side of Mount Street Bridge, from which position under cover of the bank it would have been an easy matter to have subdued Clanwilliam House much sooner and with fewer casualties.

Rest Periods

I have already referred to the occupation of the stores and workshops as our headquarters. Whenever possible a few men were brought in to rest usually when they were too spent to be of help. This was real luxury for them as it contained rolls of felt and carpet which provided bed and covering. I slept there on two occasions and felt quite comfortable.

I had found for myself a position in a railway truck which was on a siding on Barrow Street Bridge.

It was filled with sand and I dug myself into it and it proved a valuable look out post and firing position along Barrow Street and it came in very useful on the first attempt made by the enemy to attack long Grand Canal Street after the attack on Roberts's shop, as they were easily picked off when they crossed it, and it was impossible for them to work their way down Barrow Street.

Dawn Attack

The second attempt to take the workshops occurred the following morning. It was early dawn and a burst of firing put us all on the immediate alert. About four or five of us rushed to the position. It was occupied by a few men and we rushed to their aid. I took up a position at the window from which some panes of glass had been broken and on the sill of which we had placed a number of heavy wheel bushes and other castings as head cover. About twenty or thirty khaki-clad figures were in the grounds beneath us and they appeared to have gained access, under cover of darkness, through the doorway of a small hut which might have been used as a timekeeper's office, or over the wall which as far as I can remember was almost six feet high. The enemy was keeping up a heavy fire on all of the windows and we were returning it as fast as possible. A few of them were killed and the rest beat a hasty retreat and managed to get over the wall. We had one man wounded in this attack but they did not try this position again, probably thinking it too strongly held.

"The Reason Why?"

My activities for the whole week were largely confined to this position except for one occasion, when on, I think, the second day, a number of us was sent to report to Boland's Bakery. We were there attached to another party which crossed to the railway line and proceeded along the line to the other side of the canal when we again left the line and entered the granary attached to, I understand, Boland's Mill. We occupied the granary that night—for which purpose I never found out—and the next morning crossed the railway wall again on to the line. The railway line was at this time under fire. Shots were coming across it at some open spots where enemy positions gave a field of fire to it or where the parapet of the bridge across the canal was so low that it was necessary to crawl or crouch along it. Shots were also coming down the line and although we could see no sign of an enemy it appears that they had made an effort to go along it somewhere in the vicinity of Lansdowne Road and had been repulsed by our men in the advanced post in the line. One of our party, Christy Byrne, was wounded by this fire. I can remember drawing on myself on one occasion a fusillade of shots when crossing this low parapet on the bridge. I was bringing up some bread from the bakery and just showed myself for a second. I was satisfied after this to push it along, and crawl after it on my belly.

The Surrender

My last recollection of that period was on Low Sunday when the order to fall in for the purpose of surrender was given. I had relieved a man at dawn who was on duty in the small office at the corner of Barrow Street and Grand Canal Street which I have already described in the attack on the workshop. I was in this position with a limited view of Grand Canal Street and everything was strangely and ominously silent. The Church bells were ringing half-hourly and when the Angelus rang out I was envisaging the congregations in the various churches assembled for Mass. I thought it would be a good idea after I had said the Angelus to endeavour to follow in imagination the steps of the Mass and to say from memory as far as I could, the appropriate prayers. I was thus engaged for about half an hour when one of the men came with an order that I was to "fall in" on the railway line.

Captain O'Connor explained

that a surrender had been ordered and that we were to lay down our arms when we reached the appointed position. I do not propose to give my impressions of this tragic end to our hopes. I understand that an account of the surrender under Commandant de Valera, the march under military escort to Ballsbridge Showgrounds, and the subsequent march to Richmond Barracks, for identification by the police and Special Branch in Dublin Castle, has already been described in other accounts, and does not need to be told again.

This is only a very sketchy account of my own experiences and I am not prepared to say it is complete. Many events I have refrained from mentioning because I do not think they are worth attention. I know that I must have forgotten much more which might be interesting if I could bring it to mind. Perhaps some others of Boland's Garrison may be in a position to fill in the many omissions.

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CONSCRIPTION RESISTANCE VOLUNTEER PLANS CAPTURED

(By Col. Eamon Broy)

Eamon Broy in 1918 was a member of G Division, the Detective Force, in Dublin. In that position he gave inestimable aid to the Volunteer Intelligence Squad.



Capt. Eamon Broy

When Adjutant of Baldonnell,
1922

During the Conscription Crisis in 1918 the R.I.C. (Royal Irish Constabulary) claimed to have captured from the Irish Volunteers attaché, "Measures for combating Conscription".

The R.I.C. sent a copy to the Commissioner of the D.M.P. which force policed the Dublin Metropolitan district. The Commissioner sent the document to the G. Division or Detective Force and so it reached me.

I at once forwarded a copy to the Irish Volunteer Headquarters in order to let them know that the document had been captured by the enemy. I forwarded it per a go-between to Harry O'Hanrahan, who with his sisters ran a shop on North Circular Road and ran a sort of Irish Volunteer clearing house there.

O'Hanrahan sent me back word that the Volunteer H.Q. were alarmed to ascertain that the enemy had obtained possession of the document.

I am not aware of what steps, if any, were taken afterwards, as when I got into direct touch with Volunteer Headquarters in 1919 we had more pressing and serious matters to concern us.

The British Intelligence officer, "I.O." published a copy of the document in his "administration of Ireland 1920."

MEASURES FOR COMBATING CONSCRIPTION

1.—Preventive Measures

"The only preventive measure is the working up of all public opinion against Conscription, unifying that public opinion and giving it the greatest possible amount of publicity both national and international. The greater the uproar and publicity created

and the more the international character of the matter is emphasised, the less likely is the Government to try to enforce it.

The following means of arousing public opinion and securing publicity should be resorted to. (1) Pronouncements against Conscription by the Clergy, (2) resolutions by public bodies, Trade Unions, and public meetings against Conscription. (3) securing the support of the daily press and of the Local Press through the country. (4) insisting on Members of Parliament opposing it. (5) letters in the Press and pronouncement by public men. (6) circulation of anti-conscription leaflets in various ways.

2.—Evasive Measures

Only in towns would enforcement of Conscription be at all feasible; consequently all men of military age should as far as possible leave the towns. Shop assistants and others should make provision to return to their homes in the country. It should be made quite clear to employers that the enforcement of Conscription would entail the dislocation of their business, and they should be compelled to agitate against it as a body. Similarly dues might be withheld from Clergymen who did not protest against it.

3.—Militant Measures

The Irish Volunteers afford the only unified basis of resistance of conscription. The rest of the population should set about co-operation with them in the most effective way, (1) all men of military age should at once join the Volunteers, (2) all householders and others in a similar position should render the Volunteers all material assistance in their power. Those who do not do so voluntarily should be compelled, (3) women should be used for carrying information, cooking etc. In general the method of opposition to conscription in any district would be determined by the local circumstances, and in particular by the extent to which the district was organised for such purposes.

4.—Tactical Measures

"To attack troops or police would be a mistaken policy. The method adopted should be to act in small numbers in suitable localities, thus compelling the authorities to disperse in search of them. The English Conscripts who would be employed to enforce the measure are all town bred and would be at great disadvantage in such cases.

"Destruction of communications should be carried out as systematically as possible.

"Telegraphs and Telephones can be destroyed by (a) removing the instruments in County Post Offices (b) throwing a stone at the end of

a rope across the wires near pole, and hawling them down, (c) quietly cutting wires in obscure places.

"Railways can be rendered useless for a time by (a) rolling down boulders or felling trees in a cutting or tunnel, (b) lifting a section of line—which should be done at a curve, (c) jamming points at quiet spots and wrecking Signal Boxes, (d) removing vital parts of locomotives, (e) inducing Railway employees to go on strike.

"Roads can be made useless by (a) barricades of different kinds, (b) systematically destroying motor-cars, bicycles, and stores of petrol. All these demolitions should be done as often and in as many places as possible. Any considerable gain in time from these causes would be of extreme value.

"Always when possible fighting by day should be avoided. Fighting by night in familiar localities would offer advantages.

"No kind of weapon should be despised; certain farming implements can be turned into formidable weapons. Thus (a) a hay fork is quite as good as a rifle and bayonet in hand-to-hand fighting, (b) a billhook, axe, graip, spade, or sledge-hammer, though inferior to a hay fork may be formidable in close fighting at night, a sythe-blade securely lashed with wire to a pole is equal to a hay fork.

"Sometimes it will be possible to destroy a body of troops by a stone shot, from which a concentrated shower of great stones would be discharged from a height.

"Every firearm should be utilized; a volley of bird-shot in the face of a motor driver will wreck his car and stop any cars following it; so, too, will rook rifles and revolvers. Good rifles should be given to the best shots.

Supplies of Materials, etc.

"Additional strong boots, warm enough overcoats and the like should be laid in. Bicycles accessories should be procured in the largest possible quantities. Preserved foods should be procured in as large quantities as possible. Any not able to be secured should be destroyed—the same rule applies to arms of all kinds.

"Of other materials supplies of barbed and plain wire, nails and staples, hammers, saws, and axes would be useful for many purposes and stores of these should be laid in".

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THE HISTORY OF THE LIVERPOOL BATTALION AND THE STORY OF THE BURNING, IN 1920, OF THE LIVERPOOL DOCKS

by "IRON MIKE" (COLONEL M. O'LEARY)

I became associated with Sinn Féin at its inception in October, 1905, in Sligo.

I went to Liverpool in 1907. Then I became directly associated with the physical force movement, the I.R.B., in February 1908. The Centre was Liverpool and the man in charge at that time was Dan McCarthy. I attended all the meetings. The membership was roughly about 20, that is, taking in Bootle and Liverpool combined. Included in this number were a few men who had been associated with the '67 movement. One man I would like to mention in particular was the late James Murphy who marched on Chester Castle in the Rising of '67.



Col ("Iron Mike") O'Leary—1922

We had also visiting us there during that period O'Donovan Rossa, O'Meara and Condon.

The activities at that time were mainly concerned with the holding of meetings. One incident that I would like to record was when, on the death of King Edward VII, the United Irish League flew the Irish flag at half-mast. We objected to this and four of us set out to remove it.

We were beaten up and did not succeed in taking down the flag.

Back to Dublin

I left Liverpool in 1910 and returned first to Dublin. I reported to the Dolphin's Barn Centre where I met Dan McCarthy and Paddy Devlin, known as "the Celt". He was Secretary for the Leinster Centre. I met several other people who later, became prominent in the movement, including Joe Mc Grath.

I then went to Kildare as organiser for the I.R.B. I did not get many members but I devoted a good deal of time to the G.A.A. about 1912, formed a new club—hurling and football—at Athgarvan. This club afterwards became the centre of activities in that area when the Volunteers were established in November 1913.

Carson's Volunteers

During those years the I.R.B. did not enrol many new recruits as Home Rule had monopolised the mind of the nation. The I.R.B. did not oppose the Bill openly; in fact, they would have worked it and used it as a means to an end. When Sir Edward Carson saw he had the weak-kneed Asquith cornered by his threats, army mutiny and gun-running, he went one step further and founded the Ulster Volunteers. He armed them to carry out more threats and defeat Home Rule. He defied the Government and openly drilled and paraded his armed Volunteers through Belfast and the principal towns in Ulster, while Asquith and his Cabinet only looked on. The Irish Parliamentary Party was dumbfounded. It was then the I.R.B. took stock and saw their long wished-for opening. The dawn of a new era was on their horizon. Action was necessary.

The Irish Volunteers

Actually it was in November 1913 they founded the Volunteer movement. This movement—the work of a few just men—not only fanned the dying embers of the Fenian fires throughout the country but resurrected the dormant spirit of freedom in the hearts of the

young men of the country as well.

Redmond was shocked. Asquith furious, but having taken no action to suppress Carson's Volunteers, he could not then suppress the I.R.B. Volunteers. The Volunteer movement not only spread but quickly took root everywhere. This was the first light of freedom.

Bodenstown

Prior to the founding of the Volunteers, the Irish-Ireland movement was at a very low ebb and, as a proof of this, the Wolfe Tone Anniversary was unknown, and only a few I.R.B. men kept his memory alive. Tom Clarke, P. T. Ryan, Mrs. McCarthy (Dan's mother), the Dolphin Alarmers under Dan McCarthy and a few scattered I.R.B. men from Newbridge and Naas were the only people who paid tribute and laid a wreath on the grave of the immortal Tone. The late Jack Fitzgerald and I were the only two from Newbridge and Mick Kelly (editor of the "Leinster Leader") and the Pattison family, the Naas representatives.

To Kerry in 1916

In February, 1916 I took up a civilian appointment in Newry military barracks.

It was not until Easter Monday night that I learned that the Rising had taken place.

I failed to get to Dublin and I made for Kerry, my native county.

I was arrested and when released, went home and remained inactive for about two months.

I began organising for Sinn Féin. At this period I regarded Sinn Féin as the parent organisation for the recruitment of Volunteers. I formed a local Company at Kil-

garvan where I was appointed Captain. The organisation grew and we formed the South Kerry Battalion commanded by John Joe Rice. Sean O'Callaghan, a 1916 man, was Adjutant and I was Q.M.

I was arrested and sent to Tralee Jail and released after one week.

Anti-Conscription

In May 1918 meetings were held in all parishes throughout the country for the people to voice their feelings against the Conscription Act.

The upshot of those meetings was that the Volunteers in our area trebled themselves in number. We knew then that the Volunteer movement would succeed.

Sinn Féin 1918 Success

The results of the general election in December 1918 had openly issued a challenge to British rule in Ireland. The Irish Party was now "non est", only two members being returned. The British Government, Lloyd George and his satellites, were not only shocked but were also furious when the results were made known. The voice of Ireland had spoken. While the spirit was high and the Irish Parliament elected, the majority of the chosen candidates were the young men who had taken part in the fight against England's might in Dublin in 1916 but although having the Parliament and the men, our fighting supplies were very small and the means of securing them slow and uncertain. It was then left to us to devise the best plans and means of attacking the local R.I.C. barracks and capturing whatever arms were available in them.

Continued on page 13

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THE LIVERPOOL BATT.

"Iron Mike's" Story. Contd. from p. 12

Back to Liverpool

While these plans were under consideration, I got a sudden call to Liverpool in April 1919 to attend the funeral of my brother who had died there, which closed my chapter of activities and associations with the movement in Kerry.

A few days after my arrival in Liverpool, I met and contacted a goodly number of the old I.R.B. men, such as Neil Kerr, Stephen Lanigan, Phil Coyne, Tommy Cunningham, etc. I gave them my latest news from Ireland and they explained to me the position in Liverpool then. From them I learned the functions of the I.R.B. and also Sinn Fein, which seemed to me to be the only two bodies actively operating there.

Organising in Liverpool

As there was at that time a big influx of young Irishmen coming to Liverpool, it was suggested that a large number of those men might be members of the I.R.A. and Sinn Fein in Ireland and that some immediate steps should be taken to investigate the position. I was there and then asked if I would take over the job, as I seemingly had plenty of organising experience in Ireland. I said that there seemed to be plenty of room for organising and that, as far as I could see, the police authorities were not very aggressive. I told them that I was wanted at home in Ireland but they prevailed on me to remain over. After due consideration, I consented, although I had a return ticket in my

pocket, and helped to reorganise the Volunteers. This was some time about the middle of April, 1919.

It must be understood that before the Rising of 1916 there was a Company of Volunteers established in Liverpool, but before the Rising the majority went to Dublin and afterwards fought in the Rising. I think Frank Thornton, Tom Kerr, Joe Gleeson and Pat King could give all the information necessary on the activities of this Company.

Young Recruits from Ireland

Being a member myself, I needed no introduction to the I.R.B. Centres in Liverpool so I immediately joined the Sinn Fein Cumann and was glad to find that all officers were members of the I.R.B. They had two Sinn Fein Cumann in Liverpool and district and I saw that they had room for extension. Very soon after, I opened another Cumann in Great Howard Street, Liverpool, and subsequently one in Bootle. In this way, we were able to rope in a good number of young Irishmen who had recently come over and test them as to their suitability for admission into the Volunteers.

Hughie Morris

When the Sinn Fein Cumann in Great Howard Street was opened, an old man and his wife joined up. This man was the late Hughie Morris who afterwards took a very important part in the fight for freedom. Some weeks after his joining, I had a conversation with him and he informed me that he was the man who drove the wanted

men from the Bishop's Palace to the landing stage in Liverpool where they sailed for America.

This was after the ambush of the van (the Manchester Martyrs). I need hardly say that I felt very proud at having discovered another very important link with the past, who had remained in seclusion and oblivion for over fifty years but who, when the call came again, threw his whole energy into the movement and rendered assistance and help of the greatest importance.

At this time he had a small shop with an annexe, in Boundary St. Liverpool, one of the main arteries leading to the Liverpool docks. Here he and his family lived. Directly opposite his shop was a flour mill, operating night and day.

The Dump

At that time we had plenty of sympathisers but we had very few who would expose themselves or their families to any risk by storing arms or ammunition. Hughie was approached and without a moment's hesitation he willingly placed

at our disposal the annexe already referred to, which in reality was an old hallway in the house. From that time until the signing of the Treaty, this was one of our chief dumps for the receiving and storing of arms and ammunition. It is hard to believe when I state that a lorry drove up to Morris's shop at 12 o'clock noon on a particular week day, stopped, the tarpaulin was thrown back and there were delivered into this annexe six machine guns which he took in himself, stored away and held in these stores until arrangements were made for shipment to Dublin. Hughie Morris is now dead, a great unknown, buried in oblivion! May he rest in peace!

Revival of Liverpool Volunteers

Early in May, 1919, active steps were taken to start a Company of Volunteers in Liverpool. The young members of the I.R.B., some recently returned members of the old Liverpool I.R.A. and myself set to work to form the nucleus of a Company.

*(Continued on page 14)***DISPLAY AIDS . . .**

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THE LIVERPOOL BATT.

"Iron Mike's" story continued
from page 13

Tom Craven was elected temporary Capt. About the middle of June we had sufficient numbers to form a Company. I was elected Captain, Tom Craven 1st Lieutenant and Phil Coyne 2nd Lieutenant. This Company, about 60 strong, embraced both Liverpool, Bootle and the surrounding districts, such as Birkenhead, etc.

I.R.B. Control

It was then realised that a unified control was imperative. I called the Company together and explained this to them, pointing out that there were in existence certain defined and well-established lines of communication, that we would only operate through those lines as a Company and that any man who transgressed in this direction would be severely dealt with. The lines referred to were those already established by the I.R.B., Neil Kerr, Steve Lanigan etc. In other words, this meant that we were taking such orders as concerned them (the I.R.B.), from a body unknown to the greater number of the Company. The Volunteers, it will be understood, made very good ground for recruitment in the I.R.B. afterwards and a good many of them became members.

There was only one incident where two members of the Volunteers raided and secured a few revolvers but, instead of passing them on through the channels referred to, they took them to Dublin and sold them. I had both men court-martialled and dismissed. This was early in the campaign and any weapons afterwards secured

by the Company were passed through the channels referred to.

I may add here that those channels remained open and active until the signing of the Treaty. Not even one round of ammunition was captured or lost, although machine guns, revolvers, explosives and ammunition were passing through those channels daily. This I think in itself was a record.

United Irish Societies

Now having unified the Volunteers and the I.R.B., there were other organisations in full sympathy with the fight for freedom, such as, Cumann na mBan, the Gaelic League, the G.A.A. and the Irish National Foresters, and to bring them under our control was our next move. There was in Liverpool a society known as the United Irish Societies of Liverpool whose functions up to then were very few. This Council was in existence for a number of years but very rarely functioned except in such cases as public meetings, public demonstrations, e.g., the Manchester Martyrs parades, etc., and of course during the war years (1914-1918), I am sure, never functioned at all. We realised that this Council, properly manned by trusted men, would enable us to organise all the existing various bodies, referred to, as well as prove a cover for the activities of the I.R.B. and I.R.A. who, by the way, were never associated with the Council in name, but at the same time manned and directed its functions.

All existing Irish organisations were communicated with and asked to affiliate with the Council and send delegates to represent them. But here great care was taken as to who the delegates should be

The I.R.B. and I.R.A. had roots (members) in those organisations, well known for their patriotic outlook and naturally these were the men selected. In this way, we were able to unite solidly all Irish organisations and speak as one body.

Lines of Communication

It may be asked—Why the control? Why the unification? Why the I.R.B. and the I.R.A.? I must make it emphatic that our first task and mission was the purchase of arms, explosives and ammunition and, as already explained, set lines of communication were laid down, manned by unrepenting Fenians like Neil Kerr, Steve Lanigan, Jim Murphy (Chester Castle) and Hughie Morris (Manchester Martyrs), etc., with efficient and trusted men on the boats (B. & I., Cork, Newry and Dundalk), such as, the late Eddie Kavanagh, Billy Vernon, Paddy Weafer, Larkin etc. Any attempt made to open up new lines of communication individually or collectively would, I am certain, prove disastrous and, I am also certain, would not meet with the approval of Headquarters, Dublin I.R.B. and I.R.A.

The above is only a short synopsis of the work done in organising the securing and purchasing of arms and ammunition and the channels of communication. But the I.R.A. activities did not rest here. Although primarily these were the main functions of the Liverpool Volunteers, other channels of supplies and communications had to be kept open before the above stage was reached.

Now that the I.R.A. and I.R.B. had got the United Society of Liverpool definitely under control, no individual body was allowed to carry out any public demonstration or other activity without the permission of the Council of Irish Societies.

General Secretary

In September 1919, after a meeting of the Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle in Liverpool I was appointed Gen. Secretary to the Sinn Féin movement in England. Our first task was to draft a Sinn Féin Constitution for England.

Art Ó Briain, who was President, Fintan Murphy of London, James Moran of Liverpool and myself set to work and drafted the Constitution, which was submitted to and approved by the Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle.

I visited Sinn Féin Headquarters at No. 6 Harcourt Street and prevailed on Arthur Griffith to come to a meeting in Liverpool and address it. We fixed a date in November for the meeting.

Griffith in Liverpool

The meeting was a huge success. There were at least 15,000 to 20,000 present. Arthur Griffith was very pleased with the reception he received. Ireland's trials and position were well and forcibly explained. An appeal was made, asking those present to link up with Sinn Féin or "Self-determination" in their areas. This they certainly did.

"Self-determination" Branches sprang up practically in every area like mushrooms. In a very short time branches were everywhere.

Church Door Collections

At the next meeting of the Comhairle Ceanntair Sinn Féin, held immediately afterwards, we decided to hold collections at every church door within the diocese of Liverpool in aid of the prisoners' dependants in Ireland whose breadwinners were either in jail or on the run. The response was great. From that time until the Treaty, these collections were carried out at each Mass every Sunday. The amount collected averaged £200 per week.

The Dáil Éireann Loan was opened about this time as well, to which Liverpool and district subscribed over £4,000.

Our next move was to bring the "Self-determination" branches directly under the control of the United Irish Societies.

We had to have at least one or two key-men in each branch. In order to do this, we had to fall back on the I.R.B., I.R.A. and Sinn Féin, or, in other words, to employ the physical force movement to control and guide. This meant extra work for the Volunteers but, if the unification of all Irish Societies was to be maintained, this was necessary and, in the end, paid some valuable dividends.

When the membership was increased, as in the case of "Self-determination" branches, valuable material was often the result. Some good material was lying latent and was now brought to active life. Information leading to sources, such as of arms and ammunition, was often received.

Training

The Volunteers, with all the resources, so to speak, at their disposal, never deemed it advisable to increase their strength beyond that of a full company, which was between 80 and 100 men. They met for training at least one night per week as well as on Sunday mornings, but our big snag was rooms. The weekly meetings were held as half-companies and on Sunday the full Company was brought together. I must say that the Foresters Halls were always at our disposal and acted as a very suitable alibi.

The majority of the Volunteers worked at the docks. They always had their eyes and ears open and they reported immediately anything important they saw or heard. Dockland became a kind of Irish colony, especially in the docks where cross-channel boats were discharged and loaded.

Also there were the coal-heavers who were practically all Irish, and who afterwards showed their strength and calibre when called upon.

(to be continued)

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