# The 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal

## *Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916*

Óglaigh na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

ÉIRE | IRELAND | 1916 / 2016

Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain
*Centenary Programme*

## Foreword from President Michael D. Higgins
## Réamhrá ón Uachtarán Micheál D. Ó hUigínn

As President of Ireland, and Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces, I would like to congratulate all those who are being honoured today with the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal.

This is a well deserved accolade for the exceptional public service delivered by Óglaigh na hÉireann across each of the seven strands of the Ireland 2016 Programme. It is also, of course, a recognition of the spirit of commitment and selfless sense of duty which so defines Óglaigh na hÉireann in the eyes of Irish citizens.

Throughout this Centenary year our Defence Forces continued to make us proud, playing a pivotal role in our national commemorations while displaying at all times their customary dignity, pride and respect.

I wish each and every one of you success for the future as you continue to make your important and positive contribution to the lives of our citizens and to the cause of peace and security across the globe.

*Michael D. Higgins*
*President of Ireland*

Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann agus Ceannasaí Uachtarach na bhFórsaí Cosanta, ba mhaith liom comhghairdeas a dhéanamh le gach duine a bhfuil onóir á tabhairt dóibh inniu le Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916.

Dámhachtain dhea-thuillte é seo a bhronntar as an tsársheirbhís phoiblí a sholáthair Óglaigh na hÉireann i ngach ceann de na seacht snáithe de Chlár Éire 2016. Chomh maith leis sin, aitheantas atá ann, dar ndóigh, ar an tiomantas agus an dualgas neamhleithleach atá mar shaintréith d'Óglaigh na hÉireann i súile shaoránaigh na hÉireann.

Mar is gnáth, ba chúis bróid dúinn ár bhFórsaí Cosanta le linn Bliain Chomórtha seo an Chéid. Ghlac siad ról lárnach inár gcomóradh náisiúnta agus léirigh siad ag gach tráth a ndínit, a mbród agus a meas, faoi mar is gnách dóibh.

Guím rath ar gach uile dhuine díobh amach anseo fad a leanann sibh ag cur ar bhealaí tábhachtacha dearfacha le saol ár saoránach agus le síochán agus slándáil an domhain.

*Micheál D. Ó hUigínn*
*Uachtarán na hÉireann*

# The 1916 Medal
## Bonn 1916

The 1916 Medal was instituted on 24 January 1941 and was issued to persons with recognised military service during Easter Week 1916. This concerned the members of the Irish Volunteers, Irish Citizen Army, Hibernian Rifles, Na Fianna Éireann and Cumann na mBan, or their dependants, whose claim for service during the month of April had been recognised as "active service" under the Army Pensions Acts, 1923 to 1932 and the Military Service Pensions Acts, 1924 and 1934. Its design consists of a bronze circular medal approximately one and two fifth inches (38mm) in diameter, fashioned (after Óglaigh na hÉireann's crest) in the form of a circle of flame representing the sunburst on which eight points of a star are superimposed. Within the circle on the obverse is a representation of the death scene of Cúchulain (a legendary Irish hero who fought until his last breath), partially surrounded by an ancient warrior's sword belt. Again, this detail was based on the crest of Óglaigh na hÉireann, as first designed in 1913 and still in use for all members of the Defence Forces today. The scene was based on the iconic statue of Cúchulain by the artist Oliver Sheppard, which is still on display today at the GPO in Dublin. On the reverse appears the following inscription "Seaċtmain na Cásca 1916", which is translated "Easter Week 1916". The ribbon is green and orange in two vertical panels. The suspension bar from which the ribbon is suspended bears a Celtic interlaced design.

Rinneadh Bonn 1916 a thabhairt isteach an 24 Eanáir 1941 agus a eisiúint do dhaoine a thug seirbhís aitheanta mhíleata le linn Sheachtain na Cásca 1916. B'iad baill Óglaigh na hÉireann, Arm Cathartha na hÉireann, Raidhfilí Ibeirneacha, Na Fianna Éireann agus Cumann na mBan, nó a gcleithiúnaithe, a n-aithnítear a n-éileamh ar sheirbhís i rith mhí Aibreáin mar "sheirbhís ghníomhach" faoi na hAchtanna Arm-Phinsean, 1923 go 1932 agus Achtanna na bPinsean Seirbhíse Míleata, 1924 agus 1934 a bhí ina theideal. Bonn ciorclach cré-umha atá thart ar orlach agus dhá chúigiú (38mm) ar trastomhas atá ann, i bhfoirm chiorcal lasrach a léiríonn taitneamh na gréine agus a bhfuil ocht bpointe réalta a leagtha anuas air. Laistigh den chiorcal ar an gcúl tá léiriú de bhás Chú Chulainn (laoch finscéalaíoch Éireannach a throid gur tharraing sé a anáil dheiridh), agus crios claímh ársa gaiscígh thart air. Arís eile, bunaíodh é seo ar shuaitheantas Óglaigh na hÉireann, faoi mar a dearadh i dtosach báire é i 1913 agus úsáideann gach ball de na Fórsaí Cosanta an suaitheantas seo go fóill inniu. Bunaíodh an láthair ar dhealbh íocónach Chú Chulainn leis an ealaíontóir Oliver Sheppard, atá ar taispeáint go fóill inniu in Ard-Oifig an Phoist i mBaile Átha Cliath. Ar an gcúl, tá an inscríbhinn "Seaċtmain na Cásca 1916". Tá dhá phainéal ingearach sa ribín, ceann glas agus ceann oráiste. Tá dearadh comhfhite Ceilteach ar an mbarra óna gcrochtar an ribín.

*Figure 1: Dr. Brigid Lyons Thornton pictured alongside former President W.T. Cosgrave. Dr. Thornton received a medal for her service in 1916 and was the only woman commissioned into the National Army in 1922. Source: PC519 Military Archives.*

*Fíor 1: An Dr Brigid Lyons Thornton i dteannta an Iar-Uachtaráin W.T Cosgrave. Bronnadh bonn ar an Dr Thornton i ngeall ar a seirbhís i 1916 agus ba í an t-aon bhean a coimisiúnaíodh isteach san Arm Náisiúnta i 1922. Foinse: Cartlanna Míleata PC519.*

## Volunteer Joseph Dunne
## An tÓglach Joseph Dunne

Volunteer Joseph Dunne (1891-1967) seen here wearing his 1916 Medal, the Service Medal (1917-1921) and the Emergency Medal (1939-1946) showing his continuity of military service to Ireland from 1914 to 1946. On Sunday, 23 April 1916 Volunteer Joseph Dunne carried a despatch from the Irish Volunteers General Headquarters, Dublin to Enniscorthy, County Wexford. Following his participation in the 1916 Easter Rising Dunne was interned until December of that year.
Seo é an tÓglach Joseph Dunne (1891-1967) agus Bonn 1916, an Bonn Seirbhíse (1917-1921) agus Bonn na hÉigeandála (1939-1946) á gcaitheamh aige, a léiríonn an tseirbhís leanúnach mhíleata a sholáthair sé d'Éirinn idir 1914 agus 1946. Dé Domhnaigh, an 23 Aibreán 1916, d'iompar an tÓglach Joseph Dunne teachtaireacht ó Cheanncheathrú Ghinearálta Óglaigh na hÉireann, Baile Átha Cliath, go dtí Inis Córthaidh, Contae Loch Garman. I ndiaidh an pháirt a ghlac sé in Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916, rinneadh Dunne a imtheorannú go dtí Nollaig na bliana sin.

*Figure 2: Image supplied by Chris O'Donnchadha*
*Fíor 2: Íomhá curtha ar fáil ag Chris O'Donnchadha*

## 1916 Survivors' Medal
## Bonn Mharthanóirí 1916

The 1916 Survivors' Medal was issued to 968 1916 veterans in 1966, that were alive on the 50th Anniversary. Again, it was issued only to those who had recognised military service during that period. The design is of a silver gilt circular medal approximately one and two fifths inches (35mm) in diameter bearing on the obverse a reproduction of the same Cúchulain statue and similar to the original 1916 Medal, it takes its inspiration from the crest of Óglaigh na hÉireann. The reverse bears the dates "1916" and "1966" with the word "CÁISC", Easter in between. The ribbon is green with orange borders and a narrow white stripe down the centre. The suspension bar from which the ribbon is suspended bears a Celtic interlaced design.
Sa bhliain 1966, bronnadh Bonn Mharthanóirí 1916 ar 968 iar-shaighdiúir de chuid 1916 a bhí go fóill beo ag an gComóradh 50 Bliain. Arís eile, níor eisíodh é ach dóibh siúd a rinne seirbhís aitheanta mhíleata a sholáthar i rith na tréimhse sin. Bonn ciorclach óraithe airgid atá i gceist leis an dearadh atá thart ar orlach agus dhá chúigiú (35mm) ar trastomhas agus léirítear ar éadan an bhoinn athléiriú ar an dealbh chéanna de Chú Chulainn a léirítear ar Bhonn bunúil 1916. Bhí suaitheantas Óglaigh na hÉireann mar inspreagadh dó. Tá na dátaí "1916" agus "1966" agus an focal "CÁISC", idir na dátaí, ar chúl an bhoinn. Tá dath glas ar an ribín, tá teorainneacha oráiste air agus gabhann stríoc chúng bhán síos lár an ribín. Tá dearadh comhfhite Ceilteach ar an mbarra crochta óna gcrochtar an ribín.

# The 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal
# Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916

The design of the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal takes its inspiration from both the 1916 Medal and the 1916 Survivors' Medal, while incorporating a design which is respectfully different to the original, in recognition of our forebears who fought in Easter 1916.

The obverse of the new medal is based on the crest of Óglaigh na hÉireann – the Irish Volunteers – an emblem which has remained unchanged since it was first designed for the Volunteers in 1913 and one which is still in use by Óglaigh na hÉireann today. Among those who designed the crest was the Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers, Eoin MacNeill, who was a Professor of Early Medieval Studies at University College Dublin, and was a key mover in the Gaelic revival movement that helped to inspire those who fought during the revolutionary period. Thus, the original crest of the Volunteers included the sunburst (representative of the Fianna of ancient legend), the warrior's belt and the eight-pointed star – all of which are replicated in the design of the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal.

In deference to the Veterans of 1916, the Cúchulain motif has been replaced with the original emblem of the Irish Volunteers/Óglaigh na hÉireann, including the 'FF' standing for Fianna Fáil – a reference to the legendary army of elite warriors who were sworn to defend Ireland. The addition of the 'IV' at the three and nine o'clock positions on the medal emphasises the historic connection with the Irish Volunteers in the same way that the buttons on a soldier's uniform today still bear the 'IV' logo.

The ribbon design matches the exact colour shade used in the original 1916 ribbon and incorporates a narrow white stripe down the centre, linking it to the 1916 Survivors' Medal. On the reverse of the medal is the logo of the Ireland 2016 State Centenary Programme in which Óglaigh na hÉireann played such a prominent role. The logo incorporates seven diamonds, which remind the wearer of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation as well as the seven strands in the Ireland 2016 Centenary programme of events.

Tá dearadh Bhonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916 bunaithe ar Bhonn 1916 agus Bonn Mharthanóirí 1916 araon, ach ag an am céanna tá sé éagsúil ón mbunbhonn, mar aitheantas dár sinsir a throid i gCáisc 1916.

Tá éadan an bhoinn nua bunaithe ar shuaitheantas Óglaigh na hÉireann – suaitheantas nár athraíodh ó dearadh é i dtosach báire do na hÓglaigh i 1913 agus atá in úsáid ag Óglaigh na hÉireann go fóill sa lá atá inniu ann. Ina measc siúd a dhear an suaitheantas, bhí Ceann Foirne Óglaigh na hÉireann, Eoin Mac Néill, a bhí ina Ollamh le Staidéar na Meánaoise Luaithe in Ollscoil na hÉireann, Baile Átha Cliath agus ina phríomhghníomhaire sa ghluaiseacht athbheochana Gaelaí a bhí mar spreagadh ag lucht troda na tréimhse réabhlóidí. Ar an ábhar sin, bhí taitneamh na gréine (a léiríonn finscéal ársa na bhFianna), crios an ghaiscígh agus an réalta ocht mbior ar bhunsuaitheantas na nÓglach – agus tá na gnéithe go léir seo le feiceáil freisin ar Bhonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916.

In ómós d'Iarshaighdiúirí 1916, in áit mhóitíf Chú Chulainn tá bunsuaitheantas Óglaigh na hÉireann, lena n-áirítear na litreacha 'FF' a sheasann do 'Fianna Fáil' - tagairt don arm finscéalaíoch de scoth na ngaiscíoch a gheall Éire a chosaint. Leis an uimhir 'IV' atá ag suíomh trí a' chlog agus naoi a' chlog ar an mbonn leagtar béim ar an gceangal stairiúil a bhí le hÓglaigh na hÉireann ar an mbealach céanna ina bhfuil 'IV' go fóill ar chnaipí éide shaighdiúra sa lá atá inniu ann.

Tá an dath ceanann céanna ar an ribín is a úsáideadh i mbunribín 1916 agus tá stríoc chúng bhán síos an lár freisin, a cheanglaíonn é Bonn Mharthanóirí 1916. Ar chúl an bhoinn, tá lógó Chlár Comórtha Céad Bliain an Stáit de chuid Éire 2016 inar ghlac Óglaigh na hÉireann ról an-suntasach. Mar chuid den lógó tá seacht ndiamant, a mheabhraíonn don té a chaitheann an bonn seachtar sínitheoirí Fhorógra 1916 chomh maith leis na seacht snáithe i gclár imeachtaí comórtha Éire 2016.

*Figure 3: The 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal*
*Fíor 3: Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916*

# The 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal
# Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916

The 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal is being awarded to members of Óglaigh na hÉireann who served in 2016, to celebrate and commemorate the centenary year. The medal serves to honour the legacy of continuous service by Óglaigh na hÉireann to the State since its foundation and to acknowledge the central role of Óglaigh na hÉireann across all seven strands of the centenary programme throughout 2016. Each medal is contained in a presentation case, with a message to each recipient from Government, as follows:

*This medal is hereby awarded to you, a serving member of Óglaigh na hÉireann, in this centenary year of 2016. An Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain is a special token of our appreciation for the selfless service of the volunteer soldiers, sailors and aircrew of Óglaigh na hÉireann, who have served Ireland and the Irish people since the foundation of the State. In awarding you this medal, we commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising and we recognise the central role played by Óglaigh na hÉireann in the past and in this centenary year.*

*The Government of Ireland,*
*December 2016*

Tá Bonn Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916 á bhronnadh ar bhaill Óglaigh na hÉireann a d'fhóin in 2016 chun ceiliúradh agus comóradh a dhéanamh ar an mbliain Chomórtha Céad Bliain. Tá an bonn in ainm is onóir a léiriú ar leagáid na seirbhíse leanúnaí a sholáthair Óglaigh na hÉireann don Stát ó bunaíodh é agus chun aitheantas a thabhairt ar an ról lárnach a ghlac Óglaigh na hÉireann i ngach ceann de na seacht snáithe den chlár Comórtha Céad Bliain i gcaitheamh 2016. Ta gach bonn i mbosca taispeána ar a bhfuil an teachtaireacht a leanas do gach faighteoir ón Rialtas:

*Bronntar an bonn seo ortsa, comhalta atá ag fónamh in Óglaigh na hÉireann, i mbliain seo an chomórtha, 2016. Is comhartha speisialta buíochais atá sa Bhonn Comórtha Céad Bliain maidir leis an tseirbhís neamhleithleasach a thugann saighdiúirí, mairnéalaigh agus aerchriúnna Óglaigh na hÉireann, atá ag fónamh ar son na hÉireann agus mhuintir na hÉireann ó bunaíodh an Stát. Tríd an mbonn seo a bhronnadh ort, déanaimid comóradh ar chéad bliain ó Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916 agus aithnímid an ról tábhachtach a bhí ag Óglaigh na hÉireann i saol na hÉireann san am a caitheadh agus atá acu i mbliain seo an chomórtha.*

*Rialtas na hÉireann,*
*Mí na Nollag 2016*

*Back Cover: The National Flag is raised at a County 2016 civic ceremony, highlighting the role of Óglaigh na hÉireann in supporting ceremonial events across 33 local authorities.*

*Captain Peter Kelleher reads the 1916 Proclamation at the GPO on Easter Sunday 2016, while hundreds of thousands of citizens lined the streets of the Capital.*

*Personnel from the Army, Air Corps and Naval service visited over 3,300 schools across the Republic, educating some 500,000 children on the protocols associated with the National Flag.*

*Cúl: An Bhratach Náisiúnta á hardú ag searmanas pobail Contae 2016, lenar tarraingíodh aird ar ról taca Óglaigh na hÉireann i searmanais ar fud 33 údarás áitiúil.*

*Forógra 1916 á léamh ag an gCaptaen Peter Kelleher ag Ard-Oifig an Phoist Domhnach Cásca 2016, agus na mílte saoránach ar shráideanna na Príomhchathrach.*

*Thug Pearsanra ón Arm, ón Aerchór agus ón tSeirbhís Chabhlaigh cuairt ar bhreis agus 3,300 scoil ar fud na Poblachta, agus chuir siad thart ar 500,000 leanbh ar an eolas maidir leis na prótacail a bhaineann leis an mBratach Náisiúnta.*