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Identity Statement

Reference Code: IE GCCA /GS12/10

Title: Waldron, John, 'Some Notes on the Civil War in Ireland, 1922-23'

Dates: 1972 - 1985

Level of description Item

Extent: *c.* 72pp

CONTEXT

Creator(s): John Waldron, Tuam

Archival History

Donated by the Waldron family to Galway County Libraries in the mid /late 1990s, and transferred to the Archives section in 2010.

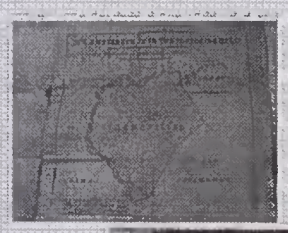
Archivist's Note

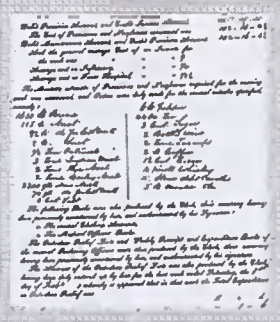
Listed by Patria McWalter, Archivist, 2012

Scope and Content

Small notebook with typed details complied by Waldron relating to military activities, such as ambushes, attacks on barracks and towns, and shootings during the Civil War, particularly in Tuam and the surrounding area. Includes some inserts, such as transcripts of letters written by men executed by the Free State prior to their deaths, newspaper clippings (1983), a letter telling of Miss Kathleen Talty's involvement in De Valera's escape from Lincohn Jail in 1919 and her connection to Frank Cunnane (1985), also includes a copy of the Proclamation of 1916 pasted into the front of the volume together with a page with commemorative photographs of the *'Great Men of 1916'*. Details include:-

- a list of the Irish Army Commands in March 1922 and their affiliations (i.e. pro or anti-Treaty);
- an introduction by Waldron in which he states *'In my notes I only give what the public were told of the day to day actions between the Free State Troops and the Republicans and probably the former's point of view, so to get the opposite point of view, an attempt should be made before it is too late to collect all*



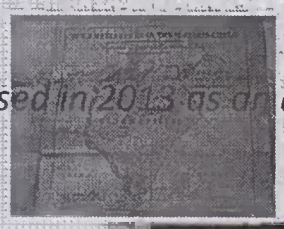


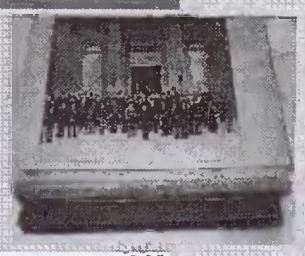
information from the members still alive of those who took part in the war of 1922/1923';

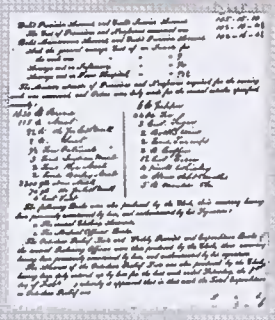
- Part of a reported interview given by Rory O'Connor to Mrs Clare Sheridan in the Four Courts, Dublin before it was attacked by Free State Troops in June 1922;
- Various comments and details, given chronologically, such as '*July 8th 1922 Tuam although completely in the hands of the Republican forces since the civil war began was peaceful'*, and *'July 29th 1922; On the morning of July 25th the Free State Army marched into Tuam and took over the Workhouse as their Military Barracks'*, Nov 18th 1922; *'A search party of troops visited Headford last week in a round up operation. About to search a house when a man was noticed running from the building. He was called on to halt and a Manuser*[1] *Rifle, four bombs and a quantity of ammunition was found in his possession...'*. and
- Details of the Raid at Cluid on 19th February 1923 and of the subsequent execution on 11 April of six men (namely Seamus O' Maille, Oughterard, Francis Cunnane and John Newell, Headford, John McGuire, Cross, Cong, Co. Mayo, Michael Monaghan, Clooneen, Headford, and Martin Moylan, Annaghdown) in Tuam Workhouse by the Free State following the Raid. Also includes transcript of the Tuam Town Commissioners resolution following the executions, and details of the *'Aftermath'*.

LANGUAGE: English

ALLIED MATERIAL See also Cunnane, Frank, Headford, Co. Galway, 1923, GS01/17







[1] Mauser was a German arms manufacturer of a line of bolt action rifles and pistols from the 1870s to 1995.

THE CIVIL WAR IN IRELAND
1922-23

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Came sorrow (said she) and bereavement,
Came grieving and pain and loss,
Till I cried aloud in my anguish:-
It is far too heavy a cross.

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE.

SEAN Mac DIARMADA. THOMAS MacDONAGH.

P. H. PEARSE. EAMONN CEANNT.

JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

We reproduce here a facsimile of the Proclamation of 1916

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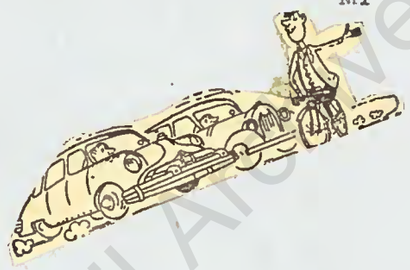
WITH

COMPLIMENTS

TO

Mr JOHN HENEHAN



ATHENRY ROAD

TUAM

CO. GALWAY

IN MEMORY

OF THE DAYS

WE ROAMED

TOGETHER

ON TWO WHEELS

ON

THE DUSTY ROAD

FROM ANNAGHDOWN CASTLE TO BALLYCURRAN CASTLE.

CO GALWAY.

J.J. WALDRON TUAM, OCTOBER 1972.

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SOME NOTES

ON THE

CIVIL WAR

IN

IRELAND

OF I922/ I923

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THEY

AREMOSTLY

APPLICABLE

TO

TUAM

AND

DISTRICT.

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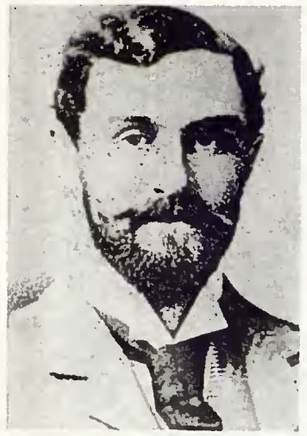
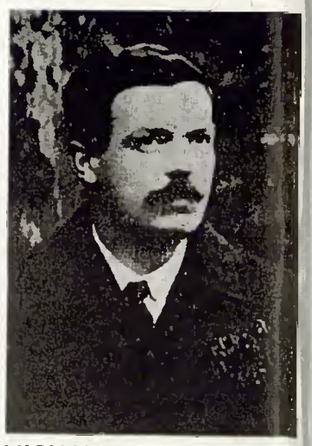
GREAT MEN OF 1916



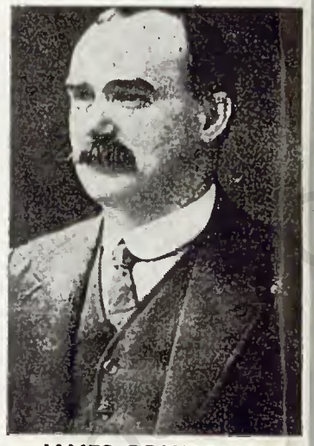
ROGER CASEMENT
Executed in London, 3rd August, 1916



MICHAEL O'HANRAHAN
Executed in Kilmainham Prison, 4th May, 1916

JOSEPH PLUNKETT
Executed in Kilmainham Prison, 4th May, 1916

SEAN J. HEUSTON
Executed in Kilmainham Prison, 8th May, 1916



JAMES CONNOLLY
Executed in Kilmainham Prison, 12th May, 1916

MAJOR JOHN MacBRIDE
Executed in Kilmainham Prison, 5th May, 1916

EDWARD DALY
Executed in Kilmainham Prison, 4th May, 1916

WILLIE PEARSE
Executed in Kilmainham Prison, 4th May, 1916

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The following is a list of the IRISH ARMY COMMANDS in March 1922 and their affiliations.

1st Northern Division	Donegal__Four Brigades Commandant Joseph Sweeney	PRO TREATY
2nd Northern Division	Tyrone and Derry Four Brigades Commandant Charles Daly	Anti Treaty
3rd Northern Division	Belfast ,Antrim,Nth Down Commandant Joseph McKelvey	Anti Treaty
4th Northern Division	Armagh ,West and South Down and North Louth Three Brigades Commandant Frank Aiken	afterwards Anti Treaty
5th Northern Division	Monaghan , East Cavan and South Fermanagh Commandant Dan Hggan	Pro Treaty
1st Eastern Division	MeathWestmeath,& Kildare Nine Brigades Commandant Sean Boylan	Pro Treat
Dublin No I Brigade	Commandant Oscar Traynor	Anti Treat
South Dublin Brigade	Commandant Andrew Mac Donnell	Anti TREATY
North Wexford Brigade	North Wexford & South Wicklow Commandant Joseph Cummin	Pro Treaty
South Wexford Brigade	Commandant Thomas O'Sullivan	ANti Treaty
Carlow Brigade	Commandant Liam Stack	Pro Treaty
Midland Division	Longford ,Leitrim ,and Fermanagh Commandant Sean MacEoin	Pro Treaty
1st Western Division	Clare and South Galway Commandant MichaelBrennan	Pro Treaty

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2nd Western Division — South Roscommon, South and East Mayo North Galway, — Anti Treaty

Commandant Thomas Maguire

3rd Western Division — North Roscommon, Sligo and part of Mayo — Anti Treaty

Commandant Liam Pilkington.

4th Western Division — North and West Mayo parts of Sligo and Galway — Anti Treaty

Commandant Michael Kilroy

Ist Southern Division — Cork, Kerry, and Waterford and West Limrick Ten Brigades

Commandant Liam Lynch — Anti Treaty

2nd Southern Division — Kilkenny, Limerickand part of Tipperary--Five Brigades — Anti Treaty

Commandant Earnan O'Malley

3rd Southern Division — Leix, Offaly, and part of Tipperary ---Five Brigades — Pro Treaty

Commandant MichaelMcCormack

(Eoin Nesson)

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THE CIVIL WAR

The first book published on The Civil WAR in Ireland was issued in 1966,the author was Eoin Neeson. This is not a detailed history ,it gives the particular phases ofthePro and Anti Treaty movements to the climax of the cease firewhen the order was given By Aikin on May 24th 1923. A safety Act was passed by the Dail in June and we know from present day experiences what that implied. A general election was mooted for August 27th and in that election the Pro Treaty party had a majority.Neeson asks how men who had just spent four years as comrades in arms , fighting side by side against the British came to turn the guns on one another?.It is quite evident that both sides made tragic blunders.

Neeson thinks that perhaps one important point that may have bearing on the delegation that metLlloyd George to discuss the Treaty was that they were already divided in opinion to such an extent that they travelled in two groups by different routes when going to London.

A member of the Provisional Government of the period named Blythe who is still with us (1972) has made the following Statement re the civil war "all countries must have civil war social or political in their evolution and the sooner the better". Inmy notes I only give what ~~the~~ the public were told of the day to day actions between the Free State Troops and the Republicanand probably the former's point of view,

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so to get the opposite point of view, an attempt should be made before it is too late to collect all information from the members still alive of those who took part in the war of I922/I923 .

Finally the beginning of the Civil War came about with the kidnapping of General J.J.O'Connell Chief of Staff of the National Army on the 26th of june I923.

He was held prisoner in the Four Courts where the Republicans had their headquarters.

At midnight on June 27th an ultimatum was delivered to the Four Courts demanding an end to the occupation.

When the time limit had elapsed the National Army proceded to bombard the building.

The operation was carried out by the Officers and men of Longford Brigade.

The decisionto bombard the Four Courts was not taken on orders from Churchill as is often said . The Government decidedto take action after careful consideration over a period i.e. afavourable election result and the detention of General O'Connell brought the issue to a head.

Overleaf there is a report of part of an interview given by Rory O'Connor to Mrs CLare Sheridan previous to the bombardment. Mrs Sheridan was wellknown in Galway in later years ,she lived at the Spanish Arch and and carried on her crafts thereof Artist and Sculptor.

J.J.Waldron
I972

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Part of a reported interview given by Rory O'Connor to Mrs CLARE SHERIDAN in the Four COurts Dublin before it was attacked by Free State Troops in June 1922. The interview waswritten for and published in the The New York Times.

Mrs C.S. to R.O'C.

I asked him if he believed he could make a successful Republic if he had it in his hands?.
"Yes " he replied "I dont see why a Republic Should'nt be easily a success'. I dont dream of an Ireland smoking with Chimney Stacks, Idont think factories bring conditions of happiness, but we could be a very prosperous rural peopleand could afford to buy what ships we needfor our export"".
At that moment the telephone bell rang and from what I could make of the one sided conversation he must have been answering a Press representative.
He said"No it is not customary to answer speeches of any British Ministers, they may say what they like, it makes no differences ===What is that ? they are going to blow us out of here, just say that when they come we are ready for them."and he rang off,
Isaid"surely you willnot stay here? they will blow the wall and roof down on your head, you havent an earthly chance."
HE shrugged his shulders "then I will go down in the ruins or flames" he replied.

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When we said good bye we looked at one another intently but did not speak our thoughts, I felt Iwas shaking hands with a man about to die. Alone I made my way back across the courtyard to the gate.

A ragged crowd as seen ina French REvolutionary film gazing through the bars. they made way for me to pass out and watchedme wonderingly as I walked theQuays by the Liffy. To one looking back at this beatutiful building with its central copper Dome andits defaced sand bagged windows, they seemed a heroic little band of rebels in the midst of a world of opposition.

In a few days the secret wasrevealed,

The Republicans were attacked but did not sufferany casualities, the civil authorities were the chief victims of the fight, as most of the Records in the building were burned. Rory O'Connor did not go down inthe ruins or flames and when finally an explosion filled the sky with fragmentary documents, Winston Churchillphilosoph= ically ,told the British people that" a state without Arc hives is better than Archives without a state".

(The writer was a cousin of Churchill and whenever her name appeared in a paper it was always tagged with his name, as if that mattered a thrawneen to us Irish)

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July Ist I922.

Much uneasiness is felt througho the country of the difference between the Pro and Anti Treaty followers.
Many are hoping that better counsels would prevail.
People generally await the outcome of the struggle with strained anxiety and all are hoping that through mediation or some good counsel peace may again be possible.

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July 8th I922

Tuam although completely in the hands of the Republican Forces since the civil war began was peaceful.
To the credit of the local Commandant be it said order was well kept, and with the exception of one unfortunate contretemp there were no disturbances.
Although goods were commandeered from several shops in town receipts were give . Immediately there was sign of the Railway closing down, a rush was made on the provision shops to procure supplies. Some not content with their supplies sought selfishly tocapture more. This move was countered yCommandant Dunleavy who saw to it that supplies were venly distributed and in one case a person seen carrying way 2 bags of flour was made to return one. A rumour went the ounds that the Barrack, andClonmore and Grange bridges were to be blown up but there was no truth in the rumours.

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July 8th I922.

The old R?I?C. Barracks in Tuam were vacated during the week by its former occupants . The latter were followers of the anti Treaty party and there were rumours around the town that the FreeState Troops were coming along to take possession of the Workhouse soon, to use it as a Military Barracks.

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July I5 th I922.

A sensation was caused in Tuam on Thursday when it was mooted that Brigade Officers and about 40 men of the 4th Western Division had resigned, No reasons were given for the resignations.

When the Police vacated the local Police Barrack some months a ago a local man Commandant Dunleavy was placed in charge there and had been Brigade Commandant for the district up to the unfortunate split in the army.

He and his Staff Officers joined the Replubican forces and have since held the Tuam Barracks and calm and quietness have reigned over the area during their occupation.

Commandant Dunleavy and his two brothers were on active service up to the truce in July last.

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" AN INTERLUDE"

We hear that Waterslade was the scene of great excitement on Tuesday evening when a young man was seen rushing over the Bridge in Shop St Tuam shouting "They're coming! They're coming! Hurrah!". The relief of Lucknow was nothing to it. Several of the inhabitants rushed out on the street, to see what it was all about, thinking the Free State Army perhaps had arrived, but they were evidently not in the know. The young man ran so recklessly that he ran over a poor' man's ass tied to a telegraph pole at the corner and bumped straight into the "Mahdi" putting his six foot six and twenty stone body sprawling on the ground. Fortunatly the Mahdi's rotund body just rolled along the ground and saved him from serious injury. He had a few bruises alright, but when some 'ZAM BUK' was applied they all disappeared.

The man with the mutton head was the cause of it all. He could not retain himself anyhow when he realised that the "Brown Stuff" had arrived from Galway at last, the only road open for supplies. So when he saw the two cart loads coming down Shop St, he had to give vent to his feelings of gladness, because soon his thirst would be quenched. The Macawber of the gang was the only sensible man in the crowd that night. HE recited the "Gander" in spirited style and everyone was so happy, forgetting the present troubles and of course the Mahdi forgot his ailments as well by the time he had let down two pints of his favourite Sarsaparella. If the relief had not come so opportunely, there would have been many cases for the County Home that evening.

July 1922.

July 29th I922.

ON the morning of July 25th the FreeState Army marched into tTuam and took over the Workhouse as their Military Barracks. It was'nt a pleasant morning to be on the road as a matter of fact it was raining cats and dogs all night ant the Troops seventy of them werelike drowned rats after a[redacted]t. marching all night. They had a hard time als removing the barricades they met with on the road .
The last of the English forces had left the Barracks about six months previously=they WERE The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. They had a jolly good time in Tuam,the only untoward incident during their stay was the execution of one of their Privates for disposing of parts of a gun to a party in a Headford Pub.He was courtmartialed in Headford and executed in England.
The Forces on their departure from Tuam headed by their band marched around Ballymote came down Bishop Street on the way to the station to entrain and kept the step to the tune "MARCHING TO GEORGIA".
"""""""""""""""""""
Castlegrove House was burned down July 25th ,the residence of Mr Tom Lewin.The I.R.A. werein occupation there after leavingTuam Barracks.They have disclaimed responsibility for the burning and it is rumoured that the act was an agrarian affair.

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August Ist I922

At ten o'clock on Tuesday morning Quarter Master J.J. Coakley of the Free State forces in the Workhouse Tuam, whilst in Dempsey's butcher shop in High St Tuam ordering supplies was suddenly surrounded by armed men and to put up his hands. He did not comply with the order and was knocked down disarmed and placed in a waiting car on the street.

The car then proceeded at a hot pace through Belclare Caherlistrane, and on arriving at Mossfort it broke down. The captive and his guards then walked to Headford where they commandeered a lorry and drove to the Ferry at Lough Corrib where a boat was procured.

The Captive and the six men crossed to the other side in the direction of Oughterard. After landing on the other side of the lake , they came to rest in a small village. Whilst the party were chatting near a farmhouse, one of the guard produced a bottle of potheen which Coakley was asked to share, but he declined . one of the men said "he could drink two bottles of the potheen without getting drunk. It was stated as a result of a bet made by Coakely that the man could not accomplish what he boasted he could, four bottles of potheen were produced and the six men proceeded to consume the contents.

The effort proved too much for them and after a brief period , we are told they departed to the land of Morpheus. In due course Coakley made his escape to Galway.

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where he reported to the Commanding Officer of the Free State Barracks and was driven back to his Headquarters in Tuam none the worse of his adventure.

Mr Coakley was formerly an assistant in the establishment of Messrs M.S. Walsh & Sons of High St. Tuam .

He was active in the cause during the period of the Black and Tansand was arrested ,afterwards when released he went on the run.

A younger brother of his in Claremorris was accidently shot whilst in Barracks after the Treaty.

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August 8th I922

The Pavilion of the Tuam Golf Club at Cloonacragh was burned on Tuesday night August 8th I922.

The burning was blamed on the Republicans but their O.C. Con Fogarty issued a notice to the effect that they were not responsible.

Many of those burnings at this period had an agrarian purpose not military.

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Perhaps the largest raid made so far by the Republicans on the town of Tuam took place on Satur day night

It was actually the first time that some members of both sides came to hand grips.

They appeared suddenly on the streets with Rifles, searched a number of peopleand ordered them along with unarmed soldiers into the ruins of the burned Town Hall.

A man named Whyte (Pappy) was driving a motor car down Vicar St. when he was called upon to halt.

Instead of doing so he put on speed even when shots were fired after him and escaped without injury.

There were several Free State Officers in the area dressed in civvies and on hearing the shots went to investigate. Two of them went in the direction of Cannys ruins and were immediately challenged to put their hands up, they refused to comply ,there were three other men behind them with Rifles so they were in a very dangerous situation. One of the Officers made a grab for the Rifle held by the man nearest to him And in the course of thestruggle a shot went off grazing the Officer's handand a second shot passed by his chin but still the struggle went on between the two combatants both being evenlymatched. They next found themselves across the road at Staffords Halldoor when the Officer with great exertion pushed his assailant from him and getting inside the hallway pulled out his revolver

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and fired several shots down to the street . His attacker returned the fire smashing Stafford's window after which he retreated to join his comrades.

Whilst this was happening the other Officer taking advantage of the excitement caused by the noise of the shot drew his revolver against the other assaliant who thinking he was being attacked from the rear retreated and took cover successfully despite some shots being fired after him.

The officer then made for his Barracks and secured extra men . Suspecting that some of the Republicans may be hiding in the Old Graveyard the Officer brought his men down High Street and shots were fired into it.

There was no return fire so they continued their search around the Mall to Vicar St , on coming to Wyates corner they noticed a motor car without lights or occupants.

They approached it cautiously and on searching it found inside a high explosive substance with a battery attached.

Hearing footsteps they immediately took cover behind the car and noticed threemen with Rifles approaching.

The Officer called out -Who goes there?-and a voice replied "Friend" and also gave his name(apparently the speaker wasleft to guard the car).

The Officer answered "You are the man Iwant" at the same time firing his revolver. It suddenly dawned on the Rhelemen that they were conversing with soldiers of the Free State Army so they beat a hasty retreat.Inthe meantime the soldiers drove the car to Walshes yard nearby to recover

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it later.

In their raid on the town the Republicans kidnapped an unarmed Free State soldier and brought him along when they retreated. Apparently when some distance from the town they received word that the Troops were in pursuit of them so they placed their captive in a farmhouse with instructions not to leave there until 8 a, m, next morning.The current report afterwards was that the real motive of the raid was to draw the FreeState Troops from their Barracks, as the Republicans had a large force stationed near the Railway Line on the Dublin Road opposite the Military Barracks waiting for the oppartunity to attack in order to release some prisoners held inside amongst whom was Mr Con Fogarty a prominint Republican arrested a short time previously.

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September 9th I922.

Two sections of the National Army were ambushed near Tuam on Friday evening when Volunteer Walsh was killed and Volunteer Cooney wounded.The casualities on the Republica side are not knownbut traces of blood were seen in the area and men were seen carrying bodies through the fields afterward whether they were wounded or dead is not known.
Five motor loads of the army travelling from Mountbellew to Tuam,stopped on the road at Lissa vally and dismounted within two feet of a landminetwo Officer members of the company named Lohan and Leahy placed their men each side of the road and immediately fire was opened on them by the Republicans who had been concealed behind some walls.There was a brief exchange of shots when the Republicans were seen to be retreating..They were followed by the army for some distance when the Commanding Officer of Republicans was captured with two of his men . A second mine was discovered and Brigadier General Fogarty and his two men were compelled to remove it from its position. The body of Volunteer Walsh was then conveyed to Tuam but on they way the party was ambushed .The Troops took cover and after about twenty minutes cross fire,the Republicans seen to be retreating leaving behind a pair of field glasses an overcoat and ten rounds of ammunition.

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There were some important documents found on Fogarty, also the other articles captured in the first ambush were two bicycles ,one belonging to the Post Office ,two coils of wire,one Mauser Rifle,revolvers and ammunition.

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September 9th 1922.

On Friday night last some young men with picks and crowbars completely demolished what was left of Clonmore Bridge outside Tuam on the Galway Road.
It had been blown upthe week before and lefyt with a gaping h hole in the centre a death trap across the road, but now its theris nothing left.
The local people protested against its destruction and said "theBlack and Tans as bad as they were never did that" they got little heed, some shots were fired over their heads and were premonitory ordered indoors.

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September 12TH I922.

On Sunday last as the National Troops were searching the Ballinasloe area ,coming to Clonbrock they surrounded a house there and learned that the Republicans had been there and beat up the occupant an ex policeman named Scullyand took away his bicycle . The Troops followed the trail of the bicycle which lead to a Gamekeeper's house on the estate. They called on those inside to surrender. The terror stricken woman of the house came to the door and was permitted to leave. The callto those inside to come out with their hands up was met with a hail of bullets ,coming through the window of the house.The Troops tookcover and returned the fire. Ultimately a member of the attacking force named Goode an old I.R.A. man rushed the door and got into the kitchen and opened fire on those inside, After about a score of shots had been fired a prominent Republican named Jack Keogh walked from the house carrying a Webley Revolver in each hand fully loaded.

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Continued

There was also found in A search of the house a new service Rifle. Jack Keogh was in charge of the forces when the Free State Forces were bombed in Ballinasloe some time ago when one of their soldiers was killed and three wounded, he was the leader of the Republicans in South Galway.

Also captured with Keogh was J. Downey of Ahascragh who escaped from Portumna some time previous and Sean O'Neillof Tuam who had seen service since the Black and Tans times.

The Troops full haul was three Bicycles, three service Rifles, two WeblyRevolvers fully loaded, and twelve large Bombs.

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September I2th I922.

Fr Heany C.C. at Mass on Sunday denounced the theft of timber from Headford locality. He also availed of the occasion to refer to the action of certain girls in the area which he heard were carrying dispatches from campto camp for the Republicans and Parents should exercise proper control over their c chidren and conduct of this kind above all.

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September I6th I922. Mr Con Fogarty O.C.of the I.R.A. 2nd Western Division Western Division who was taken in an Ambush a week ago when Volunteer Walshwas killed was removed FROM Tuam to Athlone. He was arrested amongst others in Tuam in I920 by the Crown Forces and interned in Ballykinlar until the Truce. When released he joined the I.R.A. again and was in Tuam Police Barracks since its take over. On the resignation of Commendant Dunleavy he was appointed in his place and held Command until the approach of the Free STATEArmywhen they evacuted the Barracks. Owing to the intervention of Most Rev. Dr Gilmartin the I.R.A. left without burning the Barrackswhich Fogarty said was in contravention of orders from his headquarters. But he acceded to the Archbishop's request, because there wa wasdanger the fire spreading to adjacent houses. Beside the Barracks too were the ruins of Canneys'Drapery burned by the Crown Forces in I920.

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In the town during the week the National Army were on the alert for a susprise attack by the Republicans and searched all cars entering the town and ordered a ll Public Housesin Tuam to close at 9 + 30 P.M. each evening under a fine of £ 20.

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September 20th 1922. On Thursday night between 8 o'clock and nine a large force of Republicans made a lightening descent on The Town of Tuam . It was calculated that there must have been threeor four hundred of them , supposed under the Command of Commanders Mac Guire and Powell. They poured into Tuam from all directions ,on cars ,bicycles and on foot. They held up all pedestrians and made prisoners of all the FreeState soldiers they met with . These were herded into the nearest halls and houses and deprived of their legginsand any other equipment on them. Then an attack was made on the Workhouse Barracks one from the Race Course and the other on the Dublin Road above the Barracks. The attack was replied to vigoursly by the Garrison. The incessant firing was kept up for two hours and now andagain one hearda heavy detonation probably a bomb , firing died down only to be resumed again but with less intensity. At about 2=30 a.m. allwas quiet again and the Republicans took their departure but not before they had visited several houses in the town and carted away a lorry load of supplies without much regard for the the owner's feelings. Members of the various clubs in town were held inside rooms while the shooting lasted, and when firing died down they were allowed to go home. In all the excitement and shooting therewere no casualities except for the terror inspired amongst the women and children. Planks were commandeered from a business house in town to place over the damaged Cloonmore Bridge so that vehicles could be hauled over it .Prominent citizens are said to be brought along but released later. Next day a mine and ammunition was found outside the Workhouse wall.

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September 23rd 1922.

On Saturday night an attempt was made on the life of the sentry at theTuam Workhouse Barracks. Several shots were fired at him and somelodged in the wall quite close to him. the TROOPS rushed to the Barrack gate a and two men were observed running away, they gave pursuit. For three miles the was kept up, the Republicans turning at frequent intervals to fire at their purseurs. Nearing boggy land the men endeavoured to lead the Troops to a dangerou spot but were unsuccessful but eventually themselves were in difficulties and had to comply with the order of "Put themUP"! , they surrendered and were arrested. They were found in possession of loaded Webley revolvers.

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September 30th 1922

It was reported that their were some disturbances among the political prisoners held in Galway Jail.

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October 7th 1922. A Proclamation was issued by the Free State Government offering a pardon and amensty to all in arms against the State and who deliver up the weapons in their possession and cease to take part in armed oppositi on or before October 15th 1922.

The Notice was made up of four explanatory paragraphs and signed =======

Liam T. MacCoscraigh
President of Dail Eireann.

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October 7th I922. SUPRISE RAID

Another suprise raid was made by Republicans on Tuam on Saturday night last . About 36 of them took part appearingin the streets of the town about nine O'clock holdingup any pedestrians they cameacross and searching them for arms, then allowed them topass on.

Some of the rifle men then proceeded to several shops and commandeered goods. The whole preceedings was carried out with clocklike precision, only one or two shots were fired. When they were satisfied with their seizures , they left the town taking with them two motor cars, one however was returned that night.

Rumour says the prime object of the visit was to search for particular membersof the Free State Army. The next day Sunday, typewritten notices signed by General T. Maguire 2nd W.Division were posted on the pillars at the Cathedral entrance warning persons who repaired bridges or removed barricades that they would be fired on. The notices alsothreatened any persons giving information to the National Troops about the movements ofthe Republicans. On Wednesday last Cahergal and Grange Bridgeswere destroyed , they were only repaired the week previous. Vehicles now travelling from Tuam to Athenry to catch the Dublin train , willnow have to take the longest way round as the shortest way home. THE bridge destroyers must get "fed up" SOONER or Later with the futility of their efforts at self destruction.

Military Tribunals

October I4th I922.

After next Sunday the Army Council will begin to exercise the powers conferred onthem by the Government of setting up Military Courts.

By regulations made on October 2nd certain offences are punishable by death, penal servitude , inprisonment depottation, internment or fine according to the nature of the offence.

The amnesty expires the same day that these regulations come into force.

Commandant Tom McGuire

October 29th I922.

This week whilst the Troops were searching around Ballinrobe ,they captured the Commandant of the 2nd WesternDivision Tom McGuire and some of his men.

OCtober 29th I922.

Mr Pat Dunleavy Tuam,who was kidnapped some weeks ago has escaped . Whilst in the custody of the Republicans he was welltreated but was moved from house to house and in a different house each night. His brother Tim also kidnapped was released after a hunger strike of some days,

Oct. 29th I922
This week it was reported that Commandant Tom Maguire of the Western Brigade was captured with some of his men around Ballinrobe.

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Oct. 29 I922.
Mr P. Dunleavy Tuam who was captured (Kidnapped) some weeks ago has escaped whilst inthe custody of the Republicans . He was well treated and moved from place to placeand in a different house each night.
His brother Tim was also kidnapped but was released after a hunger strike of some days,

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Nov. 4th I922. THE CIVIC GUARDS arrived in town last Friday and took possession of the old R.I.C. Barracks now in a delapidated condition.Certain elements in our midst not actually criminals willbe none the worse for t the restraining influence of the Policeman.THE street brawlerneed to be more careful and Saturday's evening's pitch and toss school under the Cross in the Square will have to seek a more secluded venue and the all night Pubs may be tempted to close a little earlier for its own sake if not the customers's sake.One member of the force was heartly welcomed,he was Sergeant Roddy. One cant forget his action in July 1920,when a member of the R.I.C. refused to take part in the burning of the town.He then resigned force and was appointed Craner by the Commissioners,a position he held for a short time. He was visited one night at his residence and beaten up by masked men who threatened his life if he did not leave the town which he had to do for the sake of his family,now he is back in charge of the new force,

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Nov. IIth 1922

Some suprise mingled with indignation was evinced i in Tuam on Tuesday ,when four young menin the town were arrested by the Free State Troops.The reason for arrest is unknown and puzzles the man in the street.

The arrested men are Michael Loftus BishopSt, William Hans Naughton's Shop St.,P. Colleran Walsh's High St. Jim Burke and Tim McHugh Host's the Square, the latter house had to be closed temporary owing to their arrest.

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Soon after in Dail Eireann a question was asked of General Mulcahy concerning their arrest.

His answer was that Burke was believed to act as intelligenc Officer for the Republicans and Loftus as a carrier of dispa tches,information whichis held in grave doubt in the distric

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Nov. I8th 1922. A search party of troops visited Headford last weekin a round up operations. About to search a house when a man was noticed running from the building. He was called on to halt anda Mauser Rifle ,four bombs and a quantity of ammunition was found in his possession.

HE gave his name as O'Brien and believed to be from Tuam. ONthe way back to Galway the Troops wereambushed ontwo occasions but failed to find the ~~a~~ attackers and reached Galway without mishap.

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Dec. 2nd I922. Tuam again was the target for another raid by Republicans.At about 8 O'Clock last night they marched casualy through the town with the usual holdup methods. Some preceded to the Workhouseand soon machine gun and rifle fire was opened on the building to which the garrison replied. When the attackers felt they had the Troops bottled up,they started their usual Modus Operandi of commandeering supplies from several shops in town.
One unusual commandeer on this occasion wasfour or five motor cars from local garages as well two bicycles from the Civic Barracks. Other of the parties made an attempt to fire the signal cabin at the Station but it refusedto ignite. On their retreat they cut down several trees at the Plantation at the end of Galway Rd. to prevent pursuit This was confession night for the First Fridays and many people were caught in town from the Galway Rd. area but their fears were allayed when Fathers Walsh,King and Moane aaccompanied them through the danger zone.Itmust be said in justice that the people in question were treated with great courtesy and helped over the obstacles.
The whole affair lasted over an hour and when the invaders LEFT the whole town again SETTLED to its wonted somnolence.
INthe raids goods to the valueof£29 was taken from Cannys of Bishop St ,£28 from O'Malleys of HighSt,including some Trench coats, two sides of bacon value £ 7=I8,from M,S.Walsh & Sons Hight St.,Pat McHugh the Square Tobs. & Cigs. value £ 17,T.Waldron High St. goods £4=I7=6.

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Dec. 16th ARMY PROCLAMATION
1922. published on this date from

PORTOBELLO BARRACKS DUBLIN

That a conspiracy exists to assassinate the members of the nation's Parliament. It has already claimed two victims

Any person found in possession of Bombs ,Dynamite, Gelignite or other explosive substence,revolver,Rifle, Gun etc. or ammunnition willbe tried before any two members of the Army Council. In case the accused are found guilty such persons will suffer death or other proscribed.

Signed 7th Dec. 1922
ON behalf of the ARMY COUNCIL
Risteard Ua Maolcacha

General Commander in Chief

The two victims mentioned above were Padraic O'Maille and Sean Hales both T,D's shot whilst travelling on a Side Car through Dublin. The former was wounded the latter was killed.
Messrs Liam Mellows , Rory O'Connor,McKelvey,and Barrett prisoners in Mountjoy Jail were executed as a reprisal.

Dec. 30th 1922. Troops from Tuam and Ballinrobe operating in Headford area captured 9 prisoners including T O'Grady and Vincent Corcoran. The next day at Shrule district at Caherlistrane captured 7 more when they surroundedQueall's public house.

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January I3th I923.

On Thursday night last Castle Hackett House was burned down.It was one of the finest Mansions around Tuam. Itcontained many historic articles owned by the Kirwan family,now gone up in smoke and irreplaceable.

They had a very fine library with volumes going back 200 years.Perhaps their most precious loss felt by the family was the head of their famous race horse "TheFriar" who saved the family estates on whom they were bet by winning his race.

It is estimated TØST the total loss will be in the region of £80,000 a remarkable high figure for the period,

It happened on Thursday night last at ten o'clock when 30 armed men surrounded the house and called on the caretaker to open the door.

His wife who answered the call was told to clear out and take refuge in the Steward8 house.

They were allowed time to remove their clothes and furniture.

The reason theygave for the burning was that they expected the Free State Army was going to occupy it.

They also said they had no ill feeling against Col.Bernard the present owner as he was a good man to the people in the locality.

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January 27th.I923 EXECUTIONS

Eleven men were executed on Saturday last == five in Athlone == four in Tralee and two in Limerick and three on Monday in Dundalk.

They were found guilty of being in possession of arms and wereimplicated in attacks on the Railway and other offences.

In Limerick ?? the four men executed were from the Headford district and named as follows ===

Michael Walsh Derrymore Caherlistrane.

Hubert Collins Kickeen HEadford .

Stephen Joyce Derrymore Caherlistrane.

Martin Burke Caherlistrane.

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Feb. 3rd I923

On Saturday last a young man named Geddes was arrested in his father's house Bishop St Tuam and brought to the Military Barracks.

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On January I6th I923

Free State Troops searche the villages ofCloonfush , Barnaderg, Cloonthu, Lisavally ,and cleared theroads of obstruction. In Barnaderg in one house they seized a pile of drapery goods including blankets, books,knitting thread, men's suit lengths,and 8½ doz of handerchiefs etc. but nobody was arrested.

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During the week things werevery intense during the hours of darkness in the town of Tuam.The army had set up many fortified positions throughout the town against the Republicans. Many of the positions were attacked but the Military were unable to locate the attackers.

After all the disturbances during the night the only casuality was a bullet hole through Naughton's Drapery Shop in Shop St..

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Sometime later a column of Free STATE TROOPS were refreshing themselves in Mrs O'Donnell's premises in Miltown after a long march when suddenly a crowd of men arrived with revolvers cocked entered unobserved and held up the soldiers and disarmed them.They gathered both their small and large arms including a Lewes gun.

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[redacted] DEC:17th 1921

Mr Martin Joe Nohilly the popular Master of the Tuam Workhouse was released from Galway Jail last Saturday after serving a sentence of nine months inprisonment by a Military Court for being alleged to have a gun in his possession whilst master of Tuam Workhouse.

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Febnnary 3rd I923.

The Free State Army took over possession of the Hibernian Hall in Vicar St. last week and erected a sandbagged shelter outside on the path.The situation controls the P.O.and the Railway Station and is near the Guard's Barracks. Military Patrols also parade the town at night. This is looked on as a method of defence and protection for the town in case of furthur raids.

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Michael Loftus Junr. whohad been detained in Athlone Barracks was released on Friday last.

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Feb. IOth I923.

The Military operating from Claremorris made some important captures in Miltown Co Galway during the week end. They first of all surrounded a farmhouse an d took three prisoners and then went in the direction of Dunmore. They returned to Miltown by another route and suprised a party of men engaged in demolishing the local Barracks and arrested them.

The names of the prisoners are not given ;they are alleged to have taken a gun (Lewis) about six weeks ago.

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The following escaped from Military custody in Claremorris John and Dan Mc Cormack Liskeavy and Peter Bourke Knock Miltown.

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Week of March 3rd 1923.
IN the round up from Tuam Barracks , the following were arrested ------

Joe Donnellan Ryehill, Thos. Concannon Lavally, John Newell Belclare, Wm. Fahy Feigh Ballyglunin, Mal Higgins Ballyglunin Ml. McDonagh Barna, Michael Leonard Belclare, Matt and Michael Garvey Sylane TUAM, Peter Canney Belclare, Thomas Connolly Russeltown Miltown, James Hynes Barnaderg, James Burke Rye hill.

In allabout 200prisoners detained in Tuam Barracks were removed last week.(probably to Athlone)

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Week of May 10th 1923.

Troops searching the Headford district captured a well known Republican Mr Martin Kyne of Caherlistrane.

In his house they discovered dispatches, field_-glasses Trench coats and many other articles of use to the Republic an forces.

In the home of another Republican Martin Rooney they collected a shot gun, cartridges, together with a quantity of cigarettes and tobacco and he was arrested also.

Inthe same district three other Republiccans from Barrack St. Tuam were arrested namely Edward Hawes, John Conry and Luke Reilly.

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The week of April 3rd I923.

This week there was a sensational escape from Galway Jail of fourteen prisoners .there is no information as to their identity but it is reported that some of them are men serving a sentence. Searching enquiries are being made by the authorities and disciplinary action is threatened to be taken against any persons who are found responsible. This could mean the authorities think this escape was an inside job.

Civic Guards from Tuam in charge of Sergeant Roddy searched Shops in Headford on the 22nd Ult. and seized potheen found on the premises of Thady McHugh wrapped up in a clothes in a box ,one gallon of the liquid. There was also some small bottles of the stuff found in the house of Patrick Reilly.

Troops report that whilst operating between Headford and Galway they sent on ahead a motor with soldiers as a decoy. AS they proceeded, suddenly the Republicans appeared each side of the road and surrounded the motor, when the larger section of the troopsput in appearance, the Republicans had to retreat, but not before fifteenwere captured.

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Attack at Headford on April 9th I923.

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A large scale attack by Republicans on the Military Post in Headford took place early in the morning of April 9th I923 and lasted nearly an hour.

It started at I I5 a.m. when the Republicans came across the Corrib in boatsfrom Oughterard direction.They took up positions in Thady McHugh's publichouse which is opposite the Barrack formerly the National Bank and also the house of the local Minister nearby.

Two of the attackers in stockinged feet crossed the road and laid a mine on the wire entanglement in front of the Barrack door.When the bomb exploded it blew in the door and broke many windows in the area.

Shooting started from both sides immediately and the Military Gunner Sergt. Major Carty brought his machine gun into action in the direction of Mac Hugh's house.

The first fatality was on the Republican side when a young mannamed MC Cormack was badly wounded,having a part of his leg and arm torn away by a bullet.

After some time the firing ceased and during the calm a shout was heard calling on the troops to come out and fight.

Captain Nugent who was in charge immediately stepped out on to the road followed by Lieut. Burns and Gunner Carty with his machine gun .

They were not fully dressed as they were taken unawares and had not been long in bed.

Shooting started again and thefirst casualty was Sergt.

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Major Carty was hit by a bullet ,and died later in Galway Hospital. After some time it was noticed that the Republican forces were gradually retreating towards the Corrib. Captain Nugent got his men to make a thorough search of the areaand they came across numerous patches of bloodon the ground,following the trailthey found a dead body in a nearby yard .It was the body of a well known Tuam Republican John Higgins whom in pre_ Treaty days took an active part against the British.

Directing that the body be brought to the Barracks the Capt. continued the search through the Demesne ,meeting up with about sixteen of the Republicans which they attacked but the machine gun jammed in the hands of the assistant gunner who himself was wounded and died the next day.The Republicans gotclear away with their wounded leaving behind five rifles ,twenty bombs, a batteryand seven large cable wires, some coats and boots,they were all evidently in their stockinged feet.

It was stated that the Republicans intended planting a second mine but when the engineers were called they did not respond no explanation was given ,the mine was found afterwards by the troops.

Capt. Nugent's forces had five wounded and two deaths the latter from wounds,hemust be given credit as a brave man for defending his post, a Clare man he was an experienced fighter in the old days especially in the ambushes against the British.

Lieut.Burns a native of Clarenbridge rushed out at first

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call in his bare feet.

Both Dr Golding and Fr Daly gave all the comfort and assistance they could to the wounded.

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The body of Lt John Higgins was brought to the Military Barracks Tuam and later handed over to his Relatives and after Requiem HIGH Mass in the Cathedral was buried in the family plot in Kilbannon Graveyard.

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The injured Republican soldier was Lieut. Daniel Mc Cormack of Miltown Co Galway.

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Week June IIth 1923

It is rumoured that Mr Tom Maguire T.D. the leader of the Mayo Republicans has escaped from AThlone prison with Tommy o'Grady and a man named Pender an active Republican from Ballinasloe with twelve or fourteen others.

The ruse adopted to effect their liberty was by getting possession of Armyuniforms.

Maguire was arrested in Headford about six months ago.

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Week June 25th

It is stated that things are coming back to normal in the area of Headford and its surroundings after its disturbances for some time past. Business is rapidly improvingin the town.

THE traders suffered severly with the shootings and riots.

The only Bank in Town the National had to close down when its premises wasdestroyed but now they are carrying on from a temporary site.

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"The Raid at Cluide

At 3 a,m, one morning during the week of Feb. I9th I923,Captain MacElligott set off from Galway Barracks with thirty men under his charge.
They were skirmishing in the fields near Cluide at 6p.m. whilst the country was still in darkness intensified withcold showers of sleet.
The howling of the storm prevented any sounds of their movements being heard.
The troops moved with caution and noticed about 200 yards from them some shadowed figures moving around a group of four houses.
Having encircled the buildings and men before the latter we were aware of what was happening,Captain MacElligott then delivered a loud challenge.
Immediately therewas a dash for cover in the houses and thebright flashes of fire from the army rifles.
One section of the men took refuge in an old barn so Captain MacElligott called on them to come forth but there was no answer to the challenge.
There was a bomb then thrown on the roof of the barn and the troops awaited further develop ements.
After a short time the eight men inside seeing there wasno other alternative ,as they were surrounded by superior forces but to surrender.
They appeared at the small door of the barn with a

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white flag ,hands raised above thier heads all wearing new trench coats.

Their Leader admitted that they were completly taken by suprise never expecting to be disturbed at such an early hour .

Thecorden then gradually drew closer to the farm houses, when it was noticed that one man was trying to escape making a furious dashto get through the lines.

The Captain called on him to halt and fired a shot over his head but he continued to run notwithstanding,another shot was fired direct at him and he was seen to fallmortally wounded.The remaining ten then surrendered and were thereupon marched into Galway a distance of I5 miles where arrived about three o'clock in the afternoon.

The equipment captured included I5 Lee Enfield Rifles, three Mauser Rifles,a large land mine,a numbers of bombs,revolvers, new trench coats and leggings& Sam Brown Belts,.

All the arms were well oiled and in excellent condition.

The men had been billeting in the small group overnight.

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The following are the prisoners captured at Cluid.

John Newell Headford.
Pat Farragher Kilmaine Co Mayo.
Michael Joyce Headford Co Galway.
James Craddock == ===
Martin Moylan Farmerstown Annaghdown.
Patrick Jennings Miltown Co Galway.
Thomas Madden Caherlistrane.
Edward Dooley Headford Co Galway.
Michael Sweeney Seefin Claremorris.
Batty Canavan Mossfort.
John Hession Turlane Caherlistrane
Michael Connolly Hollymount Co Mayo.
Michael Monaghan Headford.
Francis Cunnane Headford.
John Maquire Cross,Cong
Joseph Collins Kilkeel,Headford.
Peter Brennan Miltown Co Galway.
SHEAMUS O MALLEY OUGHTERARD

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The following report was issued from Army Headquarters Pottobello Barracks the day after the engagement ==

Troops operating in North Galway captured a column of Republicans eighteen strong, all of whom werefully armed. A short engagement preceeded the capture in the course of which one Republican was mortally wounded.

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SIX EXECUTIONS IN TUAM

SEQUEL TO THEFIGHT AT CLUIDE NEAR HEADFORD

FEBURARY 1923.

The following notice was issued on Wednesday morning from C.H,Q.

"JAMES O'MALLEY OUGHTERARD" Buried Oughterard
"FRANCIS CUNNANE" KILCOONA HEADFORD." Donoghpatrick
"JOHN NEWELL" WINEFORT HEADFORD"
"JOHN McGUIRE CROSS CONG." Buried in Cong
"MICHAEL MONAGHAN CLOONEEN HEADFORD". Donoghpatrick
"MARTIN MOYLEN FARMERSTOWN ANNAGHDOWN" Donoghpatrick

All the above were charged with having possession of a Rifle and ammunition at Cluide on the 2Ist Feburary 1923 without proper authority. Note. ? date

All six persons were found guilty. The findings were confirmed in each case and the prisoners were sentenced to death.

The executions were duly carried out in Tuam Military Barracks (Workhouse) on the morning of Wednesday April IIth 1923.

Note date

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The men were executed in partiesof three and met their death bravely as Christains and were resigned to the will of God,for proof of that fact , read the lsst letters from some of them written before their execution to relatives and friends.

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They were attended during the night by two priests from the Tuam Ppesbytery and in the morning they all attended Holy Mass at which two of them served.

The priests were with them to the lastand as each fell they were the last rites as they fell.

The bodies were interred in the garden nearby.

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TUAM

The report of the six executions carried out in Tuam cast a gloom over the town.So unexpected and tragic and indeed it can be said by one who was a resident of the town at the time that every single person felt the greatest sympathy for the Families and Relativesof the executed men.

Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam

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RUMOUR

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One wonders why the executions were carried out in a small town like Tuam instead of some of the larger centres. The answer may have been on account of the late events in Headford as several of the executed men were from that area.

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At a meeting ofthe Tuam Town Commissioners held on April I7th I923 the following resolution was proposed by Mr John Burke T.C.----

"That we hereby record our disapproval of, and sorrow at, the executions carried out in this town on Wednesday morning last, and we equally condemn attacks on the National forces, and reprisals, by whomsoever committed That we respectfully request his Grace the Archbishop of Tuamand through him the other Bishops of Ireland to use their influence with the FreeState Government to have a stop put to such executions in future, as already enough blood has been spilt and young lives sacrified in this unholy war.

Furthur that we join with other public bodies in the suggestion that Monsignor Lugio the PapalEnvoy be invited to act as intermediary betweenthe two contending partiesto negotiate an honourable peace and thus bring to an endthe horrible condition now existing, which are a disgrace to the name of Ireland.

THat we tender to the bereaved parents and relatives of the deceased young men our heartfelt sympathy and we are of opinion that as Liam Lynch one of the leaders was accorded a public funeral this week, the bodies of the executed menshould be given over to their relatives for interment.

That copies of this resolution be sent to the Archbishop, the Ministers of Dail Eireann ,and the T.D.s for this County.

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Mr Burke in proposing the rsolution said -----
The people of Tuam were shocked and pained at these terrible executions. They heard a great deal nowadays of the old Gaelic civilisation and building up a Gaelic State . If the Gaelic State could only be built up by the execution of young Irishmen, he feared it would have a poor foundation. He was no supporter of republican attacks on the peoples Government or violence in any shape or form.
Inseconding the resolution Mr James Moran T.C, said
It was a most painful duty for him as he knew most of the parentsof the boys executed --parents who brought up children asCatholics and patrotic as were brought up in any place in Ireland.Little he thought honest parents would meet with such a fate as seeing their children in the prime of life taken from them at the hands of their own country men. To the parents and sisters (one of whom is a nun in the Mercy Convent Tuam)of the deceased they tendered their deepest sympathy to all.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

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THE following was sent to the Tuam Town Commissioners by Most Rev Dr Gilmartin Archbishop of Tuam commenting on resolution passed by them at a meeting on April I7th I923.

Dear Sir

In reply to yours resolution ,I have to say I have already expressed my sympathy with the people of Tuam in the horror we felt at the Tuam executions and the deaths which preceded them. I wish to join with your body in offering to the parents and relatives of all deceased May all their souls rest in peace Amen.

As in the past I hope to use whatever influence I possess to put an end to allthe violence and counter violence, as there is a constitutional way of composing our discords, existing conditionsare a disgrace.

I join with you in praying Mgr. Luzio's mission may be crowned with success.

YourVery Faithfully

+ T. P. Gilmartin

Archbishop of Tuam.

SYMPATHY
==========

At a meeting of the Tuam District Council held in April 1923 in the Court House , the following resolutions were passed

No 1 A vote of sympathy with the relatives of the prisoners recently executed in Tuam.

No 2 A vote of condolence with their colleague Mr Martin Higgins whose brother was killed in action against the Free State Army at Headford.

Mr T. Costello D.C. referring to the Tuam executions said, that was the first time since the days of Cromwell that executions were carried out in Tuam. He did not know why the men were taken to Tuam, for execution except it was to make the volleys ring in the ears of the Archbishop of Tuam or perhaps the Free State meeting held a few days ago was such a failure that it became necessary to bring something into the town to strike terror into the people. The sword would never succeed in this country. It had been tried by Englandfor 800 years, she had also tried the gibbet , the jack and the rack and alland each failed, and to day she was like PontiusPilate, she had washed her hands out of the Irish trouble. Ireland could not afford to lose the men who had been sacrificed on both sides and he thought it was their duty to call then theirrepresentative s to resign , as they had not the consent of the people to carry out execution

THE AFTER MATH

The day came when the Military vacated the Tuam Workhouse and returned to their Headquarters Athlone, taking with them the exhumed bodies of the executed men and later re interring them in Athlone.

In the meantime the policy of the thenGovernment wasto abolish most of the Workhouses,which included the one in Glenamaddy which catered for the children.

The latter were eventually transferred to Tuam. They were under the care of the Bon Secours Sisters and the Sister in charge was one of the finest nuns I have ever met named Mother Hortens

She did a marvellous job in renovating the Tuam Workhouse and in twelve months the children had a home from home.

She did a very charitytable act too in marking the site where the Republican boys were executed in I923 and later had a glass protection erected around it and a beutiful Wood Crucifix placed on the wall. She was also responsible for the founding of the present fine hospital in Vicar St Tuam which down the years has expanded beyond all expectations.

In the meantime as the days passed , the relatives of the executed men were demanding the return of the bodies of the young men to be buried in their parish, They eventually succeeded in their demand and one day the relatives and friends had the satisfaction of bringing them back and having them interred in Downpatrick Graveyard in acommunal grave.

Today if you visit ther you cant help noticing a tall

++

continued

granite Pillar with a Cross over their grave and their names inscribed on a plaque underneath . This was placed there by their comrades and friends to show to the world that thoughthey have departed to a better world, they will never be forgotten. The design of the monument was suggested by two Republican comrades , first by Mr John Henehan of Athenry Road Tuamandlater carried out by Mr Mick Martin B.E. of Taylor's Hill Galway.

Since these events previously narrated took place, its fifty years ago. Unbelievable changes have taken place in our country , its face has been lifted as it were and signs of prosperity appear all around us. The old Workhouse is gone with its jaillike surrounding walls. And its place houses are appearing where people will dwell, and the happy cries of children will be heard in play and so life carries on. At the request of of the special organizing committee the County Council has assented to leave the Oratory standing to be turned into a community centre andwill carry out some necessary repairs on it.

Another item is, also , that Archbishop of Tuam has given permission for an annual Mass to be said for the souls of the executed men and those that died there during the Famine.

Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anamacha

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((

It is of historic interest to look back and read the list of claims made by the Landlords of the period for the burning of their Mansions etc. during the Civil War. It gives one some idea of the size of their property and value , they held 50 years ago. Most of it now is divided up amongst the tenants.

These were the claim amounts at the Quarter Sessions in September I923. The value to day would probably be three times the claim. The combined total amounts to £I53,779 =I4=4.

Col. Lewen Castlegrove House & Lodge	£65,839 :I4.4
Col. Bernard Castlehackett House &Lodge	£56,358 :::::
James GREATED Lydican Castle,ClareGalway.	£8,I92:::: :
Bodkin&Hoade Annagh House Ballyglunin.	£3,790 : ::
Meldon Coolarne Athenry.	£I,647:::
Concannon&St George Tyrone House.	£4,000
McDonnell Bally keeran Lodge Glasson	£I,660
Gleeson Dunmore Damage to Courthouse	£(590.
Gilmore Glenamaddy Sawmill at Patch	£I,400
O'Mally Dunmore Car,petrol,etc.	£540 £
Kirwan Dalgin Motor Car	£300
O'Driscoll Tuam, damage to R?I.C. Barracks Mountbellew	£2,660
Rooney Tuam damage to cars &Bicycles	£723
O'Rorke Clonberne Motor Car	£400

££

))

THE LETTERS

Overleaf is a replica of the pathetic letters of two of the men executed in Costume Barracks Athlone on Saturday January 21st 1923.

Martin J. Burke Caherlistrane
has written two letters.
and
Stephen Joyce Derrymore Caherlistrane.
has written one letter.

There were two other companions executed with them.

++++++++++++++++++++++

There were two men also executed in Tuam Military Barracks. on May 30th 1923. They also left a letter to be published of which I have a copy. I have a hazy recollection of the execution and I think those men were not natives of theTuam area.

~~In any case~~

ARTÁN

Nollaig O Gadhra

Normally people in Ireland of the '80s remember General Liam Lynch in terms of hot and controversial commemorative speeches by somebody like Síle de Valera, at the spot where the Chief of Staff of the I.R.A. during the Civil War is buried near Fermoy, Co. Cork, and the impact such incidents are alleged to have had on the political fortunes and ultimate fall from power of Mr. Jack Lynch. Which even in these narrow terms, is bad history. Fianna Fáil did not try to phase out Mr. Lynch nationwide, until his own beloved people in Cork gave him one thumping kick in the pants in two by-elections in the autumn of 1979. This is usually seen as some type of party back-lash for the poor showing in the local and European elections, the previous June and there may be something in all that. But a good friend or ours, a professional historian and regular contributor to current political debates in the media, assures us that the crucial factor which turned the people of Cork against Jack was the simple fact that he failed to ensure a visit by the Pope to Cork in the course of the visit by the Holy Father to Ireland. "Not only did the Pope fail to come to Cork", we were told, "but, far worse, His Holiness did stop over in Limerick!" And that as Churchill might say, is something up with which they could not put!

All of which is by way of introduction to a comment on the marvellous bit of television interviewing which Aindreas Ó Gallchóir conducted with Dr. C. S. ('Tod') Andrews on RTÉ at the week-end. In actual fact, the interview was conducted some years ago, but it appears Dr. Andrews did not allow RTÉ to broadcast it until this time — 60 years after the death of General Lynch to whom Andrews was deputy on 10 April, 1923. By then, the Civil War was entering its final horrible stages, and General Frank Aiken, who succeeded Lynch as Chief of Staff of the I.R.A., issued the joint call, with Éamon de Valera, then President of Sinn Féin, to cease hostilities and dump arms. Thus the clear distinction between Sinn Féin as a political organisation and the I.R.A. as a volunteer army, was clearly understood and operated ever before Mr. de Valera and Mr. Aiken left these organisations to found Fianna Fáil and go on to other pastures.

WORKHOUSE TRAGEDY

April, 1923, was also a sad period here in Galway, especially because of the execution of six Republicans in the old workhouse in Tuam, on April 11th, 1923 — the day after Lynch was mortally wounded.

The relatively small numbers of people in Galway who now pay annual tribute to their own fallen martyrs in this sad story is only one other clear indication of the degree to which the realities of our past are now effectively hidden from a younger generation. In that context, the decision of the Fianna Fáil Cumann in Oughterard to remember Séamas Ó Máille, one of the six shot in Tuam, on this 60th anniversary, is welcome, if only because it may entice members to study more deeply the circumstances and the philosophy which form the background of the sacrifice and outrage which such killing of prisoners caused at the time.

Commemorations do run the risk of stirring up old bitterness, especially if organised on a partisan basis, but the failure of many to honour the memory of the dead does not mean that others then have to abandon their attempts or, in particular, to be used as an excuse for trying to bury the memory of the ideals and sacrifices which are clearly worth study.

In Tuam, the faithful also turned up at Sunday lunch-time for a brief and dignified tribute on the actual site of the executions in the old work-house in the town.

All Galway Repubicans, indeed all Galway people, owe the same debt of gratitude, and have to make up their own minds about the obligation they feel to remember the sacrifices of those brave young men of 60 years ago, whose efforts are the foundation-stone of whatever degree of political progress we inherited in this generation.

THE TUAM SIX

The Tuam Work-house site is particularly inspiring, if only because so much has changed since. The work-house itself, like all such institutions of the era, is no more. In its place a big housing development has grown up, with many young families, throbbing with life and hope, and playing ball on the play-courts of what was, presumably, once a work-house square. All that remains in this new, more hopeful Tuam, of the sadness of 1923 is the gable-end wall against which the young soldiers of the Republic were shot by fellow Irishmen wearing the green uniform of the "National Army". The site has been preserved, thus far, and it is good to know that plans are afoot, in conjunction with Galway County Council, to erect a more permanent and fitting monument on the site, hopefully before this 60th anniversary year is out. This is especially good news at a time when the County Council is dominated by the Fine Gael party, political successors of the Government which initiated and pursued the policy of executing prisoners with such vigour in those dark old days of 60 years ago. It might, perhaps, have been expecting too much, but had some of the more enlightened politicians of that tradition turned up to pay tribute to all who were caught up in those terrible events, almost two generations ago, it would have been one of the most dramatic gestures of political maturity, and a desire for genuine reconsiliation, that Connacht has yet seen. If Young Fianna Fáil can pay tribute to Michael Collins in Béal na mBláth, or if Cork Fine Gael Mayor Hugh Covmony can attend Liam Lynch's commemoration, then surely this 60th year of the blood-letting in the Tuam Work-house should be able to call forth some public gestures from Galway politicians that might more accurately reflect the realities of political disagreement in this day and age.

For the record, the six men who gave their lives for Ireland in Tuam, on April 11th, 1923 were: Séamas Ó Máille, Oughterard, Francis Cunnane and John Newell, Headford, John McGuire, Cross, Cong, Co. Mayo, Michael Monaghan, Clooneen, Headford, and Martin Moylan, Annaghdown. Moyland and the three others from the Headford area are all buried in Donoghpatrick, Ó Máille is buried at Kilcummen, Oughterard, while McGuire is buried with his family in Cong, Co. Mayo. Solas na bhFlaitheas go raibh acu. Because of the commemorations, further information has come our way about the whole Tuam incident which, hopefully, can be shared with readers — if they are interested?

ARTÁN

Nollaig O Gadhra

No doubt about it, and contrary to what many of your official market-research people will have you believe, there is an extraordinary interest in the course of the Irish fight for freedom and the Civil War in places like Galway, even two generations after the events, in spite of the reluctance of officialdom to get involved in the realities of the situation, and even though the intervening sixty odd years have ensured that not many of the people who participated in these events are still with us.

We are still waiting for confirmation of the name of the "one Republican" killed in the course of events described here last week. As for the exact location of Cluid, it is perfectly obvious from the telephone calls (from people as wideranging in profession as Parish Priest and Detective in the Special Task Force!) that nearly everybody else who reads this paper was amazed to find that a person could have lived in Galway for so long and still be so unfamiliar with the townlands of Annaghdown parish, once a fully-fledged Diocese in its own right, apparently, and popularised to the present generation by the continuation of the Raftery poem Eanach a' Dúin (or Eanach a' Chuain?) on the Irish poetry courses.

EAST CORRIB VIEW

Several further pieces of information about the whole Civil War period in that strongly Republican area along the East Bank of the Corrib have come to light, as a result, and some arrangements have been made to visit and talk and witness and walk these historical locations on the outskirts of our city which are a closed book for so many and especially for the next generation. There have been corrections and variations of the stories too, including some of the more basic facts as already outlined here.

Mar shampla, ar an mbealach go Caisleán an Bharraigh dúinn maidin Dé Domhnaigh seo caite, cé casadh orainn sa tSráid i gCo. Mhaigh Eo ach Tomás Mac Udhir, T.D. agus Ceannfort Dara Rannán an Iarthair d'Arm Phoblacht na hÉireann, an duine deireanach de mhuintir na Dara Dála nach bhfuair cead teacht le chéile arís riamh tar éis bhriseadh an Chomhaontaithe idir De Valera agus Micheál O Coileáin, go roinnfí an chumhacht sa rialtas arís tar éis an toghcháin sna 26 chontae a tionóladh i lár an Mheithimh, 1922, agus a cuireadh ar ceal dár le forógra an Rialtais Shealadaigh ar an 26 Meitheamh 1922 — dhá lá sar arionsaigh Arm nua an tSaorstáit na Ceithre Cúirteanna agus ceithre lá roimh an 30 Meitheamh a bhí leagtha amach le fada mar dháta nuair a thiocfaidh an Dáil 32 chontae le chéile arís. Ní amháin nár ceadaíodh an Dáil sin a thabhairt le chéile, ach níor tugadh lucht na Tríú Dála (26 chontae) féin le chéile sa deireadh, go dtí an 9 Meán Fómhair, tar éis é a bheith fógartha i dtús ama, don lú Iúil, ach gur chuir an Rialtas Sealadach siar é ó sheachtain go seachtain agus ó choicíos go coicíos le linn na míomma te teasaí úd i lár shamhradh na bliana 1922, nuair be léir gur ó bhairillí ghunnaí airm an tSaorstáit a tháining cibé údarás a bhí taobh thiar de cibé dlí a bhí i bhfeidhm. Os rud é gurb é Tomás anois an t-aon duine atá fós beo den scata Poblachtach sa Dara Dáil nár thréig a móid don Phoblacht riamh, is féidir an bonn a bhíonn leis an dream magaidh a deir gurb é, de réir réasúin sin, "an t-aon rialtas dleathach atá fágtha sa tír" — a fheiceáil más ceadmhach dul thar fóir leis an scéal. Mar sin féin, is suimiúil an seasamh atá aige i stair na hÉireann agus i stair na Poblachta, agus is breá linn go bhfuil sé beo beannaíoch i gcónaí, cé go bhfuil sé breis is ceithre scór bliain ag an bpointe seo. Bhí a dheartháir, Seán, ar dhuine den seisear a cuireadh chun báis i dTuaim, agus cé go ndúirt muid cheana féin go raibh sé curtha lena mhuintir i gConga, Co. Mhaigh Eo, deir tomás linn, gur cuireadh é i nDomhnach Phádraig. Tugadh taisi an tseioir amach as Tuaim go Baile Átha Luain, de réir cosúlachta, nuair a chúlaigh Arm an tSaorstáit amach as Teach na mBocht, ar ais go dtí Ceannáras Chathlán an Iarthair i mBaile Átha Luain, i 1924. Níl mé cinnte cén uair ina dhiaidh sin a tugadh na taisí ar ais lena n-adhlacadh i nDomhnach Phádraig? AríS, fáilte roimh aon eolas. Tel. 69454.

THE CLUID PRISONERS

According to the notes referred to last week the following is the list of prisoners captured at Cluid: John Newell, Headford, Co. Galway. Pat Farragher, Kilmaine, Co. Mayo. Michael Joyce, Headford, Co. Galway. James Craddock, Headford. Martin Moylan Farmerstown, Annaghdown. Patrick Jennings, Milltown. Thomas Madden, Caherlistrane. Edward Dooley, Headford. Michael Sweeney, Seefin, Claremorris. Batty Canavan, Mossfort. John Hession, Turlane, Caherlistrane. Michael Connolly, Hollymount, Co. Mayo. Michael Monaghan, Headford. Francis Cunnane, Headford. John Maguire, Cross, Cong. Joseph Collins, Kilkeel, Headford. Peter Brennan, Milltown, Co. Galway. Séamus O'Malley, Oughterard.

Coinníodh na daoine seo faoi ghlas i dTuaim ó lár mhí Feabhra, 1923, go dtí an úair a roghnaíodh seisear acu lena gcur chun báis i mí an Aibreáin. Tugadh ainmneacha an tseisir mar seo a leanas ag tús ar ráitis ó G.H.Q.: "James O'Malley, Oughterard; Francis Cunnane, Kilcoona, Headford; John Newell, Winefort, Headford; John McGuire, Cross, Cong; Michael Monaghan, Clooneen, Headford; Martin Moylan, Farmerstown Annaghdown

"All the above were charged with having possession of a rifle and ammunition at Cluide, on the 21st February, 1923, without proper authority. All six persons were found guilty. The findings were confirmed in each case and the prisoners were sentenced to death. The executions were duly carried out in Tuam Military Barracks (Workhouse) on the morning of Wednesday, April 11th, 1923".

The tone of the statement is as interesting as the dates. Especially the point that "The findings were confirmed *in each case*". This was to emphasise the fact that such executions had official approval from G.H.Q. and were not local revenge initiatives.

Costume Barrick's
Athlone
Jan 20th 1923.

Dear Sister Julia

Just a few lines bidding you the last farewell on tomorrow morning my self M Walsh M Burke H Collin's Thomas Hughs will meet our death at the hands of Irishmen still we are quite happy and contented we have been to see a Priest we will hear them in the morning and receive the body and Blood of our saviour Tomorrow morning at 8 a.m it will be the happiest hour of my life I know this will come as a terrable shock to you I fear your heart will break ~~your he~~ I ask you not to greive for me for it must be gods holy will that I should sacrifice my life for Ireland It had been the dreams of my earliest youth The music of the rifles have always been ringing in my ears since the day Ltd L Darcy handed me his revolver and said hold this rather than part it loose you life first this I was determined to do as you know the consequences now. Tell mother and father not greive for me for all I ask now is to pray for me I would not like to hear ye crying when I am among the dead tell all my companions to pray for me Julia I ask you to wear those medals in memory of your dead Brother God Bless and protect you from all danger good bye now until I meet you in Heaven

From your loving Brother.
Stephen.

9

Austin Bk
Letter.

Friday Night —

Dear Kathleen,

I suppose you heard my fate before this reach you it would not be without writing to Ballinafoart the spot I love best But I bid it Good bye for the last time on New years Eve. But Goodbye Uncle, Aunt Delia, Nora, May Jack and Poor Patrick I'm happy for we got a fair chance we had Priest — and we'll hear mass in the [illegible] I'll see you reading this I'll be hanging with the angles when you are reading it. I am enclosing my Beads as a Keepsake for you. Don't cry for my sake for I am happy as I write this I hope you will Remember me in your Prayers. Remember me as the wild boy of the family

Good bye all

From your dying cousin

M. J. Clark

Executed 28 - 1923.

Costume Barrack
Athlone
Friday Night
Jan 20th, 1923

To dear Jim, Just a few lines before I pass away from this world for ever. I suppose my time has come. So dont cry for my sake Life is sweet but we are getting a good chance of preparing for tomorrow

Poor Tom Hughes is by my side a soldier to the last. Stephen Joyce Mick Walshe and Collins are going before God in the morning. I think with Gods help I'm prepared to die I dont know where this will find you but I will direct it to the spot I loved best.

Kilbeacon

Poor old Dad this will give him a blow, but its a chance for a happy death So Good Bye until we meet in that happy land beyond the Skies.

Good Bye From Your
Loving Brother
Martin J Burke

To. John Burke

LAST LETTER WRITTEN BY FRANK CUNNANE PREVIOUS TO [illegible]

~~IN THE RECEPTION WARD~~ ~~[illegible]~~ 1923

WORKHOUSE TUAM, 11th DAY OF APRIL, ~~[illegible]~~ 1923

Dear Mother,

You are aware perhaps by now that I am one of the destined by God, to swe the roll of that martyred band who died for Ireland. I am going to my grave dying as I lived, believing that I did the best for my country and that the sacrifice will atone for anything left undone by me; that I have conscientiously done everything for the better interests of my country, according to my lights. I have no dread, therefore it is with composure I accept my sentence bearing no hatred against any living soul. To all my friends too numerous to mention, give them my best and sincerest love. For their many kindnesses during and after my intercourse with them, I am more than grateful and I trust that God will in some way repay them as I intended doing. But now that I am leaving them for a happier exchange, I am debarred from fulfilling my desire in this world of sorrows. Well Mother, I know my death will shock you and all at home, but my dying wish is that no grief or sorrow be unnecessarily displayed by any of you for the end must come some time and is as welcome now as at any future date. And perhaps when I am no better prepared than now, I hope God will accept my sacrifice for any faults I may have committed during my life on this earth. My death is a glorious one, and I am unworthy of it. There may be some who think our line of action a hopeless and foolish one, but the voices of Pearse and Plunkett and those who died for the same cause in 1916 inspired me to follow on their footsteps and I am confident the vindication of the sacred cause will come in some generation or another. Cheer up, Mother Dear, I shall meet you in Heaven in the near future, though I hope your life on this earth shall be long and happy so much so that you will be recompensed in some small measure for your past and present worries. Give to all my neighbors and companions of my childhood my dying wishes for their future welfare, and to my loyal comrades a fond farewell. And let no act of vengence mar the cause for which I die. Let that sanctified flag be borne aloft, unstained by the son of Cain, so that the world will see we are not waging a war of Bolshevism of which the I. R. A. are accused. I am sending you a few souveniers, including a pair of Beads I got from Cissie during the Black and Tan regime. In them find consolation and do not worry.

Now I must conclude finally and eternally in this side of the grave. So I send you Father, Cissie, Tessie, Bertie, Gerald, Willie, John, Tommie, Martin, Charles, Joe and Vincent my blessing and good wishes. May God bless you all and may we all meet in Heaven, is the sincere wish of your dutiful and [illegible] son,

Mrs Elizabeth M White
82 Farland Drive
Newberry Park
California 91320

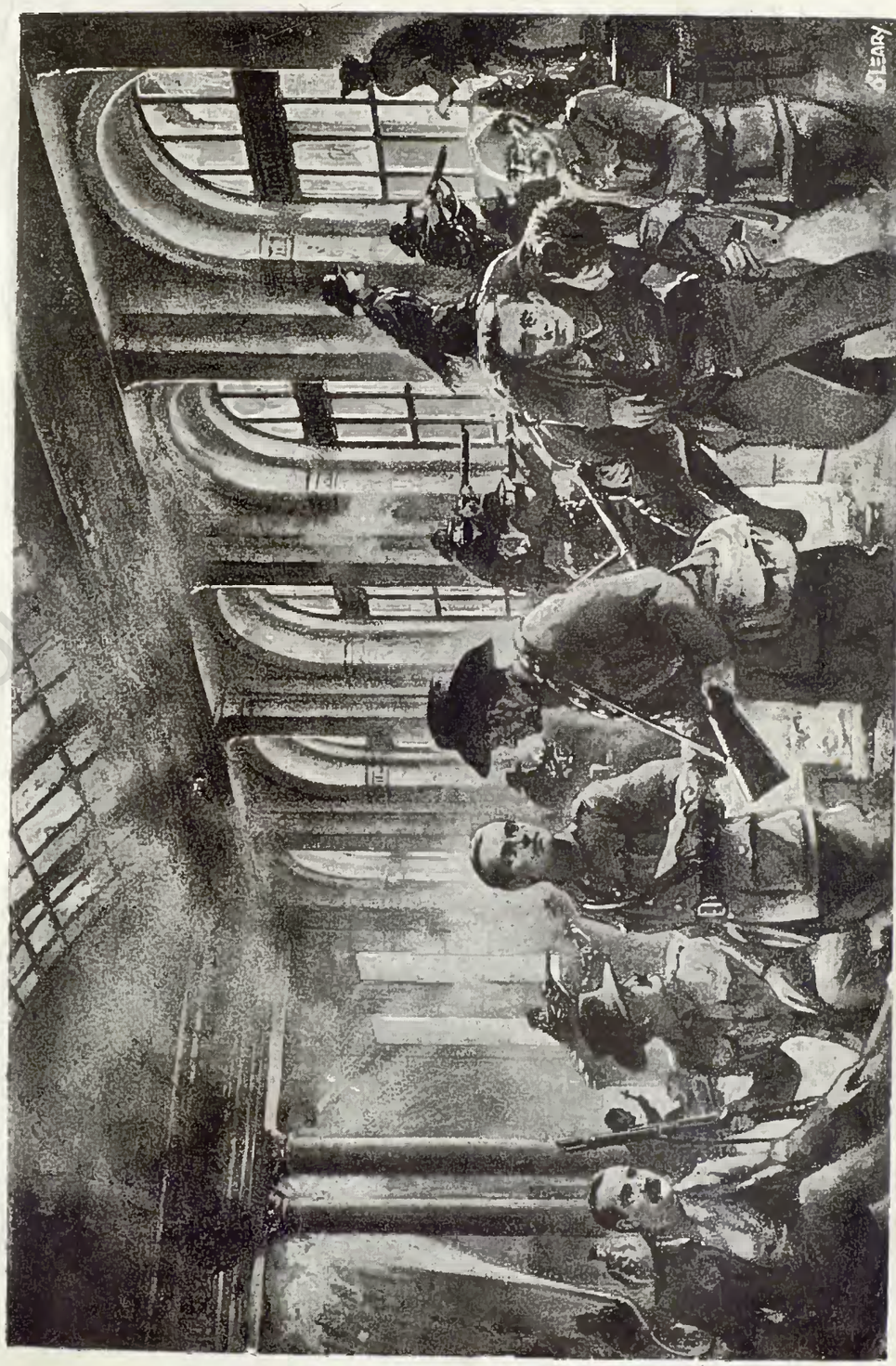
Executed in Tuam Workhouse they were members of I.R.A. flying Columns

PROINSIAS Ó CONNAIN CEANN CATA
MARTIN Ó MAOILEAIN ÓSLAC
SEÁN Ó TNUTAIL LEAS CAIPTÍN
MICEÁL Ó MANACÁIN ÓSLAC
SEÁMUS Ó MÁILLE OSLAC
SEÁN MAC SUIBIR LEAS CAIPTÍN

They were captured in Cluid Feb 19 1923
There were 18 in number
There were 6 of those young men charged with having Rifles and amunition at the village of Cluid on Feb 19-1923
They were charged on the 21st Feb 1923
They were executed by Irish freestate troops in the old workhouse in Tuam on Wednesday April 11-1923

The attack on Headford freestate Barrick and on freestate troops April 9th 1923

AR ÓEIS LÁIM DE 30
RAIÓ A N-ANAMACA



An artist's description of inside the G.P.O. during the Rising of Easter Week, 1916 (Le caoinchead "Our Boys")

Above: CON COLBERT, executed in Kilmainham Prison, 8th May, 1916.
At left: Arrest of armed man in then Sackville Street, Dublin.

Above: THOMAS KENT, executed at Cork, 9th May, 1916.
Centre: A cavalry picket on duty in Dublin during 1916.
Below left: British military outpost guarding the G.N.R. main line at Clontarf.

GS 12/10 (2)

39 Park Drive,
Rathmines,
Dublin 6
25th November, 1985

Mr. Frank Glynn, M.C.C.,
Milltown,
Co. Galway.

Dear Mr. Glynn,

While holidaying in Carrigaholt, Co. Clare, during the summer, I read (I believe in the Clare Champion) a note about your having published a booklet entitled "Eleven Galway Martyrs". I am not sure whether you were the Author as well as Publisher, but in either event I am sure you will be interested in the following.

You probably have heard of Miss Kathleen Talty from Rahaniska, Kilkee, Co. Clare, who baked and/or brought the famous cake containing a key, in to Limerick Jail, thus assisting in no small way in the escape of "Dev" in 1919. After her retirement from teaching in Manchester, Miss Talty spent her last years with her niece, Mrs. Thomas Morrissey, at Tarmon, Kilkee. Tom is my cousin, and I got to know Kathleen quite well, although at that stage her memory was not good. After her death, her niece showed me two documents which were found among her possessions - one a tribute from Dev. in 1919, the other a "prisoner's letter" written from "The Reception Ward, Galway Gaol", dated April 10th 1923, and signed "Frank". I greedily took possession of these documents and did some research on them, and eventually lodged both with Mr. Pádraig Ó Snodaigh in the National Museum. Dorothy Macardle's book "The Irish Republic", at Appendix II, Page 1023, discloses that Frank Cunnane was one of the six Republicans executed in Tuam on April 11th 1923. I think there can be no doubt but that

the letter found among Miss Talty's possessions was written by Frank Cunnane.

I enclose herewith a photo-copy of this letter. As you can see therefrom, the original was in a dilapidated condition, probably having been folded up in a handbag for many years. I believe I have deciphered it accurately, and I got a young son of mine to type it out on his "toy" typewriter! I also enclose photo-copy of the typed version - I hope you can read same.

My cousin, Tom Morrissey, has suggested that Frank Cunnane was friendly with Miss Talty, possibly even what is now called her "boyfriend"! I know that she was acquainted with many of the men in the "movement", including Liam Mellowes, whom, I believe, she also assisted to escape to the U.S.A.

I would be interested to hear if you have any information about Frank Cunnane (R.I.P.) or his connection (if any) with Miss Talty. "Dev." stayed with Kathleen and her sister Susan (Mrs. Liam Mc. Mahon) at the latter's house in Manchester for 7 days after his escape from Lincoln Jail. I wonder if Frank Cunnane spent any time in England, or how where he met Kathleen? Frank would appear from the letter to have had 12 brothers & sisters - I wonder are any of them still alive?

Yours sincerely,
Pádraig de Bhaldraithe.

The Recepation Ward Galway Gaol
April 10th 1923.

My Dearest Mother,

You are aware perhaps by now dear mother that I am one of those destined by God to swell the roll of that martyred band who died for Ireland. As I write to my Mother I die as I lived believing that I have done the best for my country; and I trust that my sacrifice will atone for anything that has remained undone by me. That I have conscientiously done everything for the better interests of my country, according to my lights, I have no doubts, therefore it is with composure I accept my sentence bearing no hatred or malice against living souls. To all my friends too numerous to mention, give my best & sincerest love, for there many kindness during & after my intercourse with them. I am more than grateful, & I trust that God will, in some way repay them, as I intended doing, but now that I am leaving them for a happier exchange I am debarred from fulfilling my desires in this world of sorrows. Well, mother dear, I know my death will shock you & all at home, but my dying wish is, that no grief or sorrow be unnecessarily displayed by any of you, for the end must come sometime, & is now as welcome as at any future time when perhaps I should not be half as well prepared to meet

Him who sent me, & I know he will accept my sacrifice for any forgotten faults which I may have committed during my lifetime. The death is a glorious one, & one of which I am unworthy. There may be some who look upon our line of action as being a hopeless & foolish one, but the voices of Pearse, & Plunkett & those who died for the same cause in 1916, inspired me to follow in their footsteps & I feel confident that vindication of this Sacred cause will come in some generation or another. Cheer up, mother dear, I shall meet you in Heaven in the near future, though I hope your life upon this earth will be long & happy so much so that you will be recompensed in some small measure for any passed & present worries. Give to all my neighbours & companions of my childhood my dying wishes for their future welfare & let no act of vengeance mar the cause for which I die — let the Sanctified flag be borne aloft unstained, uncleansed with the sin of Cain, so that the world can see we are not waging a war of Bolshevism of which the I.R.A. is accused.

I am sending you a few souvenirs, including a pair of beads I got from Cissie during the B.&T. regime. In them find consolation & do not worry.

Now I must conclude, finally & eternally, on this side of the grave so I send you & Father, Cissie, Jessie, Bertie, Eddie, Gerard, Willie, John, Jimmie, Martin, Charlie, Jr., & Vincent my blessing & good wishes. May God bless you all, & may we all meet in Heaven is the sincere wish of your dutiful & loving Son

"Frank."

The Reception Ward Galway Gaol
April 10th 1923

My Dearest Mother,

You are aware perhaps by now dear mother that I am one of those destined by God to swell the roll of that martyred band who died for Ireland. As I go to my maker I die as I lived believing that I have done the best for my country and I trust that my sacrifice will atone for anything that has remained undone by me. That I have conscientiously done everything for the better interests of my country according to my lights I have no doubts, therefore it is with composure I accept my sentence bearing no hatred or malice against living souls. To all my friends too numerous to mention, give my best and sincerest love, for there many kindness during and after my intercourse with them, I am more than grateful and I trust that God will, in some way repay them as I intended doing, but now that I am leaving them for a happier exchange I am debarred from fulfilling my desires in this world of sorrows. Well mother dear I know my death will shock you and all at home, but my dying wish is that no grief or sorrow be unnecessarily displayed by any of you for the end must come sometime, and now is as welcome as at any future time when perhaps I should not be half as well prepared to meet Him who sent me, and I know he will accept my sacrifice for any forgotten faults which I may have committed during my lifetime. The death is a glorious one, and one of which I am unworthy. There may be some who look upon our line of action as being a hopeless and foolish one, but the voices of Pearse and Plunkett and those who died for the same cause in 1916 inspire me to follow in their footsteps and I feel confident that vindication of this sacred cause will come in some generation or another. Cheer up, mother dear, I shall meet you in heaven in the near future, though I hope your life on this earth will be long and happy so much so that you will be recompensed in some small measure for any past and present worries. Give to all my neighbours and companions of my childhood my dying wishes for their future welfare and let no act of vengeance mar the cause for which I die. Let the sanctified flag be born aloft unstained, unstained with the sin of Cain, so that the world can see we are not waging a war of Bolshevism of which the I.R.A. is accused. I am sending you a few souvenirs including a pair of beads I got from Cissie during the B&T regime. In them find consolation and do not worry. Now I must conclude finally and eternally on this side of the grave so I send you, Father, Cissie, Tessie, Bertie, Eddie Gerard, Willie, John, Tommie, Martin, Charlie Joe & Vincent my blessing and good wishes. May God bless you all and may we all meet in Heaven is the sincere wish of your dutiful and loving Son,

"Frank"

Names.

Left to Right:
Back Row: M. Kilroy, T. Ketterick, E. Moane, J. Gibbons, J. Walsh, P.J. Cannon P. Lambert, J. Kelly, J. Doherty, B. Malone, J. Rush, J. Ring.
Middle Row: M. Naughton, J. Hogan, J. Hearney, D. Simmon, J. Keane, J. Connelly, R. JOyce, P. McNamara, W. Malone.
Front Row: D. Gavin, T. Heavey, J. Duffy, J. McDonagh, P. Kelly, J. Moran, J. Flaherty, R. Cryan, M. Staunton.
In Front: Dr. J.A. Madden.
~~Inset (Left to Right): Top: P. Duffy, J. Baker. Bottom: M. Gallagher, T. Ainsworth.~~

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SIX EXECUTIONS IN TUAM.

SEQUEL TO FIGHT NEAR HEADFORD

The following official report was issued on Wednesday night from G.H.Q. :—

"James O'Malley, Oughtcard, was charged before a Military Tribunal with having a rifle and ammunition in his possession, without proper authority, at Knocklabard, Co. Galway, on 21st February, 1923.

"Francis Cunnane, Kilcoona, Headford, was charged before a Military Tribunal with having possession of a rifle and ammunition at Claide on 21st February, 1923, without proper authority.

"Michael Monaghan, Clooneen, Headford, was charged before a Military Tribunal with having possession of a rifle and ammunition at Claide on 21st February, 1923, without proper authority.

"John Newell, Winsforth, Headford, was charged before a Military Tribunal with having possession of a rifle and ammunition at Claide on 21st February, 1923, without proper authority.

"John McGuire, Cross, Cong, was charged before a Military Tribunal with having possession of a rifle and ammunition at Claide on 21st February, 1923, without proper authority.

"Martin Moylan, Farmerstown, Annaghdown, was charged before a Military Tribunal with having possession of a rifle and ammunition at Claide on 21st February, 1923, without proper authority.

"All six prisoners were found guilty. The findings were confirmed in each case, and the prisoners were sentenced to death.

"The executions were duly carried out at Tuam on Wednesday at 8 a.m."

A correspondent says that the men were executed in two parties of three. They met their death bravely and unflinchingly and fully reconciled to the Will of God. They had been attended during the night by two of the town priests, and in the morning heard Mass, at which two of them served. The priests were with them to the last. Their bodies were subsequently interred in the barrack grounds.

CAPTURE OF ARMED PARTY

On February 21, National troops operating from Galway Tuam, and Claremorris carried out an extensive sweep of North Galway, as a result of which 61 prisoners were taken. A party of 28 soldiers who left Galway about 3 a.m. were advancing across the fields about Claide, some distance from Castlehackett, about 6 a.m., when they observed figures about some farmhouses. They surrounded these, and, on being challenged, some men opened fire on the troops and dashed into the barn.

After a bomb was thrown in by an officer eight men came out and surrendered.

Further skirmishing took place about the farmhouses, and one man was killed and ten others were rounded up in twos and threes. The eighteen were members of an armed party operating in that district who had been much sought for. They were well armed and equipped, and much munitions were captured with them.

TUAM OLD GRAVEYARD.

At last meeting of the Tuam District Council the following was read :—

On Thursday, 22nd March, 1923, Messrs Michael Dwyer, M.C.C; Dr. T. B. Costello, John Quinn, Solicitor; M. C. Stunn, Martin J. Walsh, and James Daly, members [illegible]

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E-mail: books@mercier.ie
http://www.mercier.ie/mercier

MERCIER PRESS

New from Mercier Press

Publication date: 28 July 1999

Civil War in Connacht 1922 - 1923
Nollaig Ó Gadhra

Most debates about the Civil War and the establishment of the Irish Free State concentrate on the struggle in Dublin, the 'Munster Republic' or partition. Nollaig Ó Gadhra's new book is unique in that it deals with the realities of the war in the west through the eye of authentic notes compiled by the late J. J. Waldron. These notes were collected in a scrapbook in the early 1970s, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Civil War, but they were never made public.

Civil War in Connacht is a fascinating insight into the Civil War as seen through the eyes of the people on the ground in Connacht while at the same time adding a national context. There is an account of the return of the bodies of the executed Republican Martyrs from Galway and Mayo to their families in October 1924 and a chapter on the ongoing opposition to the Free State in Galway through the new Fianna Fianna Fáil organisation from 1927 to the 1937 general election and to the adoption of a new Bunreacht na hÉireann by the people of the twenty-six counties.

It is a challenging and comprehensive book which also contains unique photographs of the period, including memorial cards of Reggie Dunne and Joseph O'Sullivan, Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Dick Barrett and Joe McKelvey; pictures of the Western IRA Flying Columns in Mayo and Connemara, taken just before the Truce; the IRA group who took over Renmore Military Barracks from the British in February 1922; Liam Mellows' last public appearance at the grave of Wolfe Tone in Bodenstown in June 1922; a group photograph of the historic all Ireland Second Dáil Éireann still in session with a full quorum at Easter 1928.

Civil War in Connacht has eighteen appendices and contains many documents that have been out of print for years. These include the text of the 1919 Declaration of Independence by Dáil Eíreann, the 1921 Articles of Agreement for a Treaty, the Craig–Collins Pact of March 1922 and a management chart of 'who was who' in IRA general headquarters during the Black and Tan period.

For further information please contact Eilís O'Donoghue
tel: (01) 6615299; fax: (01) 6618583
e. mail: books@marino.ie

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GS12/10(9)

OIFIG AN ARD AIGHNE
(Attorney General's Office)
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
(Dublin 2)

29ú Iúil 99.

A Nollaig, a chara,

Gabh mo leithscéal nár scríobh mé chugat

más maith. Níl do bhí a lan le déanamh ar

chúrsaí reachtaíocht sa fhiosrú seo.

Go raibh maith agat as ucht do litir

Bhrian mé an tathnaíocht as. Ba mhaith go mór liom

cóip den leabhar seo a fháil – comh luath agus go

foilseofar é.

Níl an lá ach, lámhadh mo uncail Brian

ag Throbh Bein Bulben i ith an ogaidh mhóilta –

Thóg mo mhathair, Eileen, an bráthair a bhí air i

coffin agus lá a chuaadh é, díreach déanaí. Agus tá

sé mar mhéan agam é a "frame-áil" agus á

thaispeánt sa bhaile.

Bí cinnte go bhfaighfidh tú roinnín ón fhaolge

ón dúfaig seo faoiléir, mar ba chóir. Níl ionsa an liofa

as fhaolge nach déanann mo dhíchéall cúnamh faoithin

a chur ar an cúrsaí faolge atá agam.

Tá sé tríúr mac ag freastail ar Scoil Bhríde anseo so i mBaile Átha Cinth - scoil Léo Gaelach in a raibh mé roimhe seo. Éilís mar dalta freisin. Iníon a bhí sí ina cailín óg.

Tabhairfaidh sé Teachtaireacht do Éamon O'Chuiv chun an dhá rud a chur i bhfeidhm. B'fhéidir go caismar le cheile go luath.

Go dtí sin

Beir bua,

Is mise

Micheál Mac Giolla Phádraig.

GS12/10(10)

Custume Barracks
Athlone
Jan. 20th 1923
Friday Night

Dear Kathleen

I suppose you heard my fate before this reaches you. I would not die without writing to Ballinapark the spot I love best. But I bid good bye for the last time on New Year's Eve. But good bye Aunt Delia, Nora, May, Uncle Jack and poor Patrick. I am happy for we got a fair chance; we had the Priest and will hear Mass in the morning. Ill see you reading this Ill be singing with the Angels when you are reading this. I am enclosing my Beads as a keepsake. I am happy as I write this, I hope ye will remember me in your Prayers. Remember me as the wild boy of the family.

Good Bye All

From you dying cousin

M.J. Burke

Executed Jan 20th 1923

+ Sen. (3)

Bridie | Willie Douglas
6 Murroughs Park
Glenoran
Renmore
Galway
153768
+ Antony Lennon 6 0055 071.

Paul Duffy.

(3) Sinks. Paul Douglas.

Bawnmore,
Claregalway,
Co Galway
20-1-99
Tel: 091-798023

Dear Mr. O'Gadhra.
Enclosed are letters as promised Re. Hubert Collins RIP

Yours sincerely
May Walsh.

Sligotele
~~021-14500~~
021-60055.
Author deceased.