



# EVENTS IN IRELAND 1916 = 23



**ANTI-CONSCRIPTION  
PLEDGE.**

The following is a copy of the Pledge:-  
"Denying the right of the  
Government to enforce  
Service in this  
pledged  
on







# EVENTS IN IRELAND

1916 = 23





## UNIT 7

# THE EASTER RISING

### Ireland in 1916

Most Irish people supported Britain during World War I. It is estimated that as many as 210,000 men from the north and south of Ireland joined the British forces to fight in the war. About 35,000 of them died. Nationalists and unionists joined up. Despite a terrible war being fought in Europe, Ireland was peaceful. Home Rule was promised as soon as the war was over. There was no reason to expect a rebellion in 1916. However, there were small groups of people who believed the war had nothing to do with Ireland. James Connolly, the trade union leader and a founder of the Irish Labour Party, said 'We serve neither King nor Kaiser, but Ireland'.

### Irish Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.)

The Irish Volunteers was an armed force set up in 1913 to fight for Home Rule. A minority of its members (around 10,000) refused to support Britain in World War I. A small number of these belonged to a secret organisation called the Irish Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.). The aim of the I.R.B. was to set up an Irish Republic and it believed that an armed rebellion was the only way to achieve this. Now that Britain was busy fighting, the I.R.B. decided it was a good time for a rebellion.



LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN





THE G.P.O. AND SACKVILLE STREET, DUBLIN.

### Plans for a rebellion

Two of the most important leaders of the I.R.B. were Thomas Clarke and Seán MacDiarmada (McDermott). They made plans for a rebellion which they kept secret from the leaders of the Irish Volunteers. The rebellion or rising was planned for Easter Sunday, 23 April 1916. James Connolly agreed that the Irish Citizen Army would support the rising. The Irish Citizen Army was founded in Dublin in 1913 to protect striking workers.

### Sir Roger Casement

Sir Roger Casement, a former British civil servant, who was from County Antrim, travelled to Germany and organised a shipment of arms for the rising. A total of 20,000 rifles were shipped to Ireland on a German ship called the *Aud*. The Royal Navy captured it off the coast of County Kerry and escorted it to Cork harbour. The captain of the ship sank the *Aud* and the rifles ended up at the bottom of the sea. Casement was landed by U-boat at Banna Strand near Tralee, where he was arrested. He was executed in prison in



England after the rising. The arrest of Casement and the loss of the rifles caused confusion among those preparing for the Easter Rising. Eoin McNeill, the leader of the Irish Volunteers, learned about the plans of the I.R.B. He tried to cancel the rising but the I.R.B. decided to go ahead. With very few weapons and little or no chance of success, the organisers believed their actions would inspire others to fight for freedom.

### Easter Monday - March to the G.P.O.

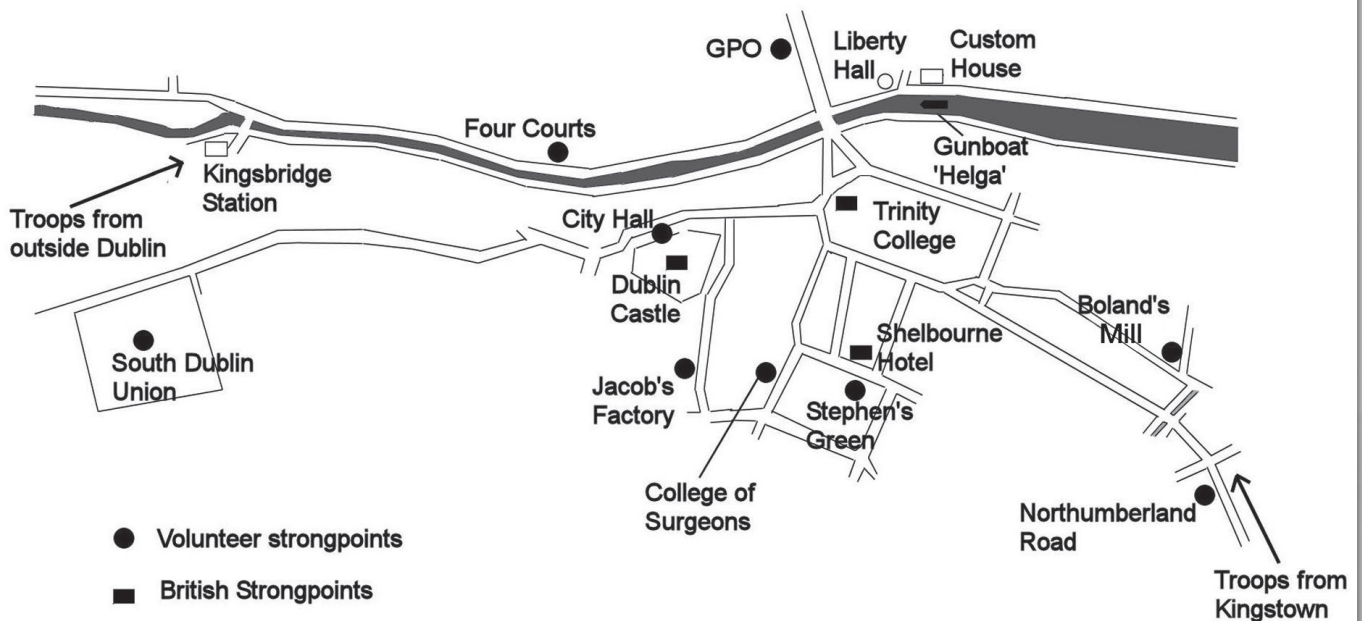
On Easter Monday 1916, a small group of men marched from Liberty Hall to the General Post Office (G.P.O.) in Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street). They were led by some of the Military Council that had organised the rising, and James Connolly the leader of the Irish Citizen Army. Cumann na mBan, a women's organisation, marched with them. Some wore the grey-green uniform of the Irish Volunteers and others wore the dark green uniform of the Irish Citizen Army. They were armed with rifles, handguns and shotguns, but they had very little ammunition.

### Easter Monday - The rising begins

When they reached the G.P.O. the rebels charged inside and barricaded the entrances. They hoisted up two flags on the building. One was a green, white and orange tricolour and the other a green flag with the words 'Irish Republic' written



# Easter Rising 1916



MAP OF DUBLIN.

on it. Patrick Pearse, a member of the I.R.B., read out the Proclamation of the Irish Republic in front of the G.P.O. Onlookers thought it was a joke and paid little attention to what was going on. Groups of men and women seized a number of buildings around Dublin City centre including Boland's Mill and the Four Courts. The Easter Rising had begun.

## The 1916 Proclamation

The General Post Office was a very important building in 1916. Most people wrote letters to keep in touch with each other because there were no computers or mobile phones. Telephones were quite new inventions at this time. In 1916 there were only a few telephones in the G.P.O. The leaders of the rising decided that it was important to let the people of Ireland and the world know their reasons for the rising. A proclamation is an important public announcement. The 1916 Proclamation announced that the people of Ireland had a right to:

- Own Ireland.
- Have freedom and equality.

The Proclamation also said:

- Ireland would be a republic.
- The people who signed the Proclamation were speaking for the government of Ireland.

- The people were now being called to the flag and to fight for freedom.

One thousand copies of the Proclamation were printed in Liberty Hall and were distributed throughout the city.

Seven men signed the Proclamation:

**Thomas Clarke:** I.R.B. treasurer and a shopkeeper.

**Seán MacDiarmada:** I.R.B. secretary and a journalist.

**Thomas MacDonagh:** I.R.B. Director of Training and a teacher.

**P. H. Pearse:** Commander-in-Chief, a teacher and writer.

**Eamonn Ceannt:** I.R.B. Director of Communications and an accountant.

**Joseph Plunkett:** military planner, poet and journalist.

**James Connolly:** leader of the Citizen Army and a trade unionist.

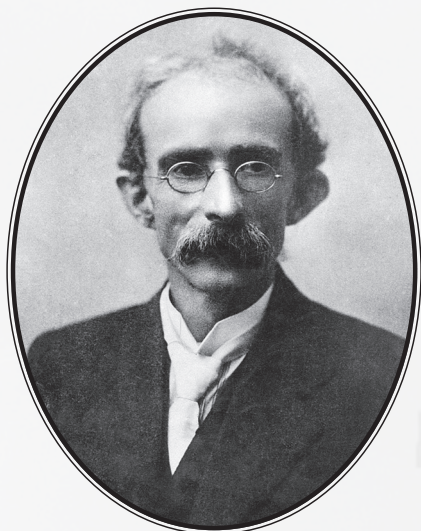
## Diary of the rising

### Tuesday, 25 April

The rebels took everyone by surprise. British soldiers took up positions in the city armed with machine guns and heavy artillery. The garrison at St Stephen's Green included men, women and boys as young as fifteen years of age. Countess



# SEVEN MEN SIGNED THE PROCLAMATION:



THOMAS CLARKE



SEÁN MACDIARMADA



THOMAS MACDONAGH



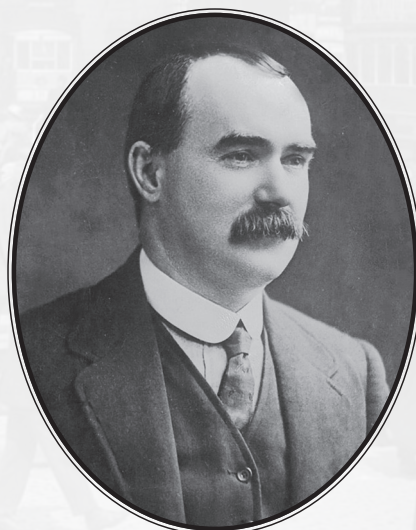
P. H. PEARSE



EAMONN CEANNT



JOSEPH PLUNKETT



JAMES CONNOLLY





THE G.P.O. AND SACKVILLE STREET, DUBLIN.

Markievicz was second-in-command. The British opened fire on the rebels, causing casualties. The rebels had to move into the Royal College of Surgeons nearby.

### **Wednesday, 26 April**

The British gunboat the *Helga* sailed up the Liffey and attacked Liberty Hall. British soldiers marching into the city from Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire) were attacked at Mount Street Bridge. There were 160 British casualties, including 26 men killed. The British began to attack the G.P.O. with heavy artillery and machine guns. Liberty Hall was destroyed.

### **Thursday, 27 April**

At 10am, the British began to bombard Sackville Street. By evening much of the street was in flames. James Connolly was seriously wounded on his way from Middle Abbey Street to the G.P.O. Intense fighting continued all day at the South Dublin Union on James's Street.

### **Friday, 28 April**

General Maxwell arrived from England to take command of the British forces. The roof of

the G.P.O. caught fire at 4.00pm and by 9.00pm the building was a burning ruin. The rebels evacuated the G.P.O. and went to Moore Street.

### **Saturday, 29 April - surrender**

The G.P.O. garrison, now in Hanlon's fishmongers on Moore Street, decided to surrender. The leaders of the rising wanted to avoid more civilian casualties. There were 485 people, including 40 children, killed and more than 2,000 wounded. Most of the dead were innocent civilians. Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell, one of three women with the Moore Street group, made her way up the street carrying a white flag. She met with General Lowe and the surrender was agreed. At 2.30pm Pearse was taken to see General Maxwell and he wrote out the surrender document. The following morning, the rebels were marched to Richmond Barracks. As they passed through the city they were pelted with rotten fruit and vegetables.

### **Women of the rising**

Women played a very important part in the rising. Cumann na mBan was the women's equivalent of the Irish Volunteers. Doctors, nurses, teachers,



office workers, shop assistants and many others took part. Some women organised soup kitchens in Dublin to feed hungry people. Others trained in first aid and cared for the wounded while a small number took part in the fighting. Among the best known were Dr Kathleen Lynn, who brought guns to Dublin, and Countess Markievicz, who was second-in-command of the College of Surgeons/St Stephen's Green group of rebels. Rosie Hackett helped print the Proclamation. Helena Molony was a member of the Irish Citizen Army and fought in the rising. Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell was in the G.P.O. Margaret Skinnider was wounded while fighting in Harcourt Street.

### **The aftermath**

The *Irish Independent* newspaper said the rising was 'insane and criminal' and the leaders deserved little compassion. General Maxwell said the rebels sided with Germany in the middle of a deadly European war and had therefore committed treason. It was a very unpopular

rebellion with most people. The leaders of the rising were court-martialled and 15 of them were executed by firing squad. Roger Casement was hanged in London in August 1916 for his part. After the executions, people began to speak about the rebels with respect, admiration and sympathy. Nationalism had new martyrs who were celebrated in ballads, books and poems. The rising was described as 'the triumph of failure'.

### **The rise of Sinn Féin**

After the rising around 1,800 men, mostly Volunteers, were sent to prison in Britain. Most of the prisoners were released by Christmas 1916 and when they returned home, they began to support Sinn Féin. Sinn Féin had been founded in 1905 by Arthur Griffith. In 1917, Eamon de Valera, one of the leaders in the rising, became the leader of Sinn Féin and the Irish Volunteers. The I.R.B. remained a secret organisation. The rising had weakened British rule in Ireland and major changes in Irish politics followed.



THE ROSIE HACKETT BRIDGE IN DUBLIN.





# ACTIVITIES

## A. Number these events in the correct order

- The *Helga* sailed up the Liffey.
- The rebels decided to surrender.
- The G.P.O. was destroyed by fire.
- Fifteen leaders were executed.
- Pádraig Pearse read the Proclamation.

## B. Crack the Code and find the name

B	C	I	M	O	P	H	J	V	Z	X	T	U	Q	F	N	W	E	D	Y	A	G	R	L	S	X
28	17	3	36	4	26	27	9	10	2	5	21	20	7	14	13	15	16	30	25	22	18	11	32	23	19

6+5	2+2	9+9	1+15	6+5					
6+11	12+10	11+12	9+7	13+23	8+8	24-11	10+11		

## C. True or false

- The *Aud* brought guns from Germany. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tom Clarke founded the Irish Citizen Army. \_\_\_\_\_
- Sackville Street is now O'Connell Street. \_\_\_\_\_
- Eamonn Ceannt read out the Proclamation. \_\_\_\_\_

## D. Complete each sentence correctly

- The rising was held in 1916 because (a) most people supported it (b) Britain was busy with the war (c) they had lots of guns.
- The rebels surrendered because (a) they ran out of ammunition (b) they wanted to avoid civilian casualties (c) they were all tired.
- James Connolly founded (a) the Labour Party (b) Sinn Féin (c) Fine Gael.

## E. Find the names hidden in the box

Clarke, Lynn, Connolly, Hackett, O Farrell, Plunkett, Pearse, DeValera, MacDonagh, Maxwell.

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



## UNIT 8

# LONGFORD PEOPLE IN THE 1916 RISING

The rising was intended to be nationwide, but due to a cancellation order by Eoin McNeill, it took place mostly in Dublin.

Definite news of the rising reached Longford town late on Monday, 24 April, with a train arriving from Dublin with people who attended the Fairyhouse races. The train had been delayed due to the rising. The Grand National on that day was won by 'All Sorts' ridden by John Lynn from Edgeworthstown.

Sixteen Longford people have been identified as participants in the rising on the nationalist side: eleven men and five women. There were other Longford people involved too: some served in the

British Army and in the police that were called on to deal with the rising. It is impossible to identify everyone involved.

Others tried to take part. John Cawley and Paul Dawson Cusack of the Granard Volunteers set-off for Dublin on Tuesday, 25 April, driven by Laurence Kiernan, owner of the Greville Arms Hotel in Granard. Their plan was to discover what was happening and get orders. However, they were turned back at Lucan. The only action taken by the Volunteers in Longford was the cutting of telegraph wires and the blocking of the road from Ballymahon to Longford. Micheal Drumm, another Granard man and two



THE CAR THAT WAS DRIVEN BY LAURENCE KIERNAN OF GRANARD, WHICH WAS RESTORED BY EAMON CREAMER. HERE IT IS SHOWN IN THE PARADE IN LONGFORD TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE RISING IN 2016. (COURTESY OF TOMMY REYNOLDS)



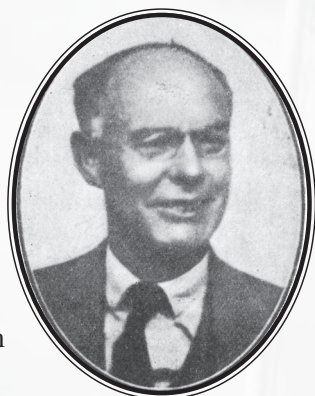
comrades, cycled to Dublin. Drumm was stopped by police in Talbot Street and kept prisoner for a few days. On his release he visited the shell of the G.P.O.

Most of the men who took part in the rising were members of the Volunteers and one, Alfred McHugh, was a member of the Irish Citizen Army. All the women were in Cumann na mBan. The Longford participants are listed below.

**Tom Bannon/  
Tomás Ó Banáin  
(1881-1936)**

Bannon was a native of Athlone but spent most of his life in Longford. He lived in Ward's Terrace in Longford town. He taught briefly in St Michael's Boys' N.S. and for many years in Killashee Boys' N.S.

Bannon was a founder member of a Gaelic League branch in Longford town in 1900 and later, was active in the Irish Volunteers.



*COURTESY OF  
THE LONGFORD LEADER*

On Tuesday, 25 April 1916, he accompanied Frank McGuinness and his niece Brigid Lyons to Dublin to take part in the rising. Bannon was attached to the 1st battalion of the Dublin Brigade of the Volunteers, commanded by Ned Daly, which occupied the Four Courts and some other buildings. Afterwards, he returned to Longford and was later arrested and imprisoned briefly.

**Patrick Belton  
(1884-1945)**

Born in Rathcline, Lanesborough, Belton lived in London where he became very friendly with Michael Collins. He was working in Dublin when the rising took place.



*COURTESY OF RICHARD BELTON*

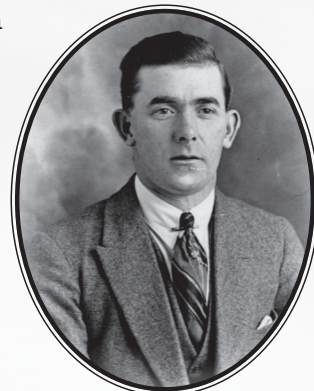
He was attached to the G.P.O. garrison for a couple of days. Then he was sent to act as intelligence officer for

Thomas Ashe, who commanded the garrison in Ashbourne, County Meath. For the remainder of the week Belton worked to get information and ammunition for Ashe. After the rising, he was suspected of involvement and investigated, but he managed to cover up his activities. Belton later served as a T.D.

**Patrick Connaughton  
(1890-1946)**

Connaughton was born in Ballymahon Street, Longford. He worked in Motherwell, Scotland for some time. On his return to Ireland, he met Tom Clarke who arranged for him to join the Volunteers.

Connaughton served in the 1st battalion of the Dublin Brigade and was in the G.P.O. throughout Easter Week. He was among those who surrendered on 29 April. He was imprisoned in England and then in Frongoch, Wales.



*COURTESY OF  
BRIAN CONNAUGHTON*

**Patrick Doyle  
(1896-1970)**

Patrick Doyle was a native of Kenagh. He moved to Dublin, aged 16. He attended the 1913 meeting at which the Irish Volunteers were founded and took part in the Howth gun-running in 1914.



*COURTESY OF TOM MESKELL*

Doyle served in the 3rd battalion of the Dublin Brigade, commanded by Eamon de Valera. On Easter Monday, he led three men to occupy a building close to Mount Street Bridge. He was in the battle fought there against the Sherwood Foresters, a British Army regiment, on Wednesday. After Doyle and his comrades were forced to abandon the building, they were captured by the military. He was later sent to prison in England and from there to Frongoch in Wales.



### **Ms Doyle**

One of Patrick Doyle's sisters (we are not sure which one) brought supplies to him and his comrades before the Battle of Mount Street Bridge.

### **John V. Joyce (1896-1964)**

Joyce was born in Longford town. He was educated at St Mel's College and St Enda's, Rathfarnham, Patrick Pearse's school. He joined the Volunteers in 1913 at their foundation.

In 1916, Joyce was studying medicine in U.C.D. He was a lieutenant in the 4th battalion, Dublin Brigade, under the command of Eamonn Ceannt. He was one of a group that occupied the South Dublin Union, a workhouse on the site of St James's Hospital. British troops attacked the garrison on Thursday but withdrew after some time. After the surrender, Joyce was imprisoned in England and then in Frongoch in Wales.

### **Brigid Lyons Thornton (1896-1987)**

Brigid Lyons was a niece of Frank and Joe McGuinness. After her mother died, she moved from her home in Roscommon to live with Frank and his wife Kate in Longford. She went to Galway to study medicine in 1915.



COURTESY OF MARIAN LYONS

Brigid accompanied her uncle Frank and Tom Bannon to Dublin on the Tuesday of Easter Week after it was confirmed that the rising had begun. She joined her uncle Joe and cousin Rose in the Four Courts and remained in that area for the rest of the week. When the surrender took place, she was briefly held in Richmond Barracks and then in Kilmainham Jail. Later, Brigid married Captain Edward Thornton.

### **Alfred MacHugh (1875-1919)**

MacHugh was born in Longford town. He worked as a journalist and sketcher or cartoonist with a few different newspapers. After being dismissed from *The Sligo Star*, he seems to have gone to England.

MacHugh returned to Ireland in the spring of 1916 to avoid conscription into the British Army. He served in the Irish Citizen Army using the name 'James McDonnell'. At the beginning of the rising, he was part of the contingent that occupied Dublin City Hall after trying to attack Dublin Castle, nearby. Later, he and three others occupied the *Dublin Evening Mail* office in Parliament Street. He was wounded and was briefly detained after the rising.

MacHugh returned to England and died in Liverpool. He was buried in Ardagh and his headstone, in Irish, mentions that he served in the rising.

### **John McGrath/Seán MacCraith (1882-1950)**

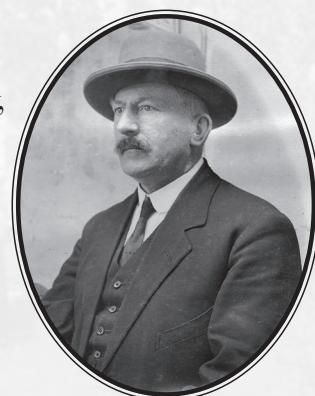
A native of Kenagh, McGrath immigrated to England as a young man. He was very active in Irish nationalist organisations in London. He arrived in Dublin just before the rising and served for a short time in the G.P.O. After that, he was out in Dublin gathering information for Michael Collins. He was imprisoned for some time after the rising, including in Frongoch in Wales. McGrath was a prominent republican in England for the remainder of his life.

### **Michael McGrath (1884-1966)**

Brother of Seán, Michael also lived in England. He came back to Ireland early in 1916 to avoid serving in the army. McGrath was one of those who formed the 'Kimmage garrison' which occupied a building in Kimmage, Dublin, where they made ammunition for the rising. He served in the G.P.O. throughout the week. Later, he was sent to prison in England and then to Frongoch in Wales.

### **Francis McGuinness (1867-1934)**

Frank McGuinness was born near Tarmonbarry, County Roscommon. He moved to Longford town as a young man and ran two shops on Main Street. He was very active in local politics and was at first a Home Rule supporter.



COURTESY OF THE MCGUINNESS COLLECTION



When he learned of the rising, McGuinness went to Dublin on Tuesday with his niece Brigid Lyons and Tom Bannon. He joined his brother Joe who was in the Four Courts garrison. Frank was slightly wounded in the leg. He returned to Longford but was immediately arrested. He was imprisoned in England for a couple of weeks.

Later, McGuinness served as a T.D. and then a senator.

### **Joseph McGuinness (1875-1922)**

Joe McGuinness, Frank's brother, worked in the drapery business and spent time in the U.S.A. On returning home, he lived in Longford where Frank was already settled. Joe then moved to Dublin and was a member of the Irish Volunteers



COURTESY OF  
THE MCGUINNESS COLLECTION

McGuinness served as a lieutenant in the 1st battalion of the Dublin Volunteers, which occupied the Four Courts and some outposts. He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for his part in the rising, but that was later reduced to three years.

He was released in June 1917. By then he had been elected an M.P. for South Longford in the famous by-election of May 1917. McGuinness served as a T.D. in the first Dáil in 1919.

### **Rose McGuinness (1887-1919)**

A Roscommon native, Rose lived with her uncle Frank in Longford before moving to Dublin. She was a member of Cumann na mBan and served in the Four Courts during the rising. She injured her hands when she fell on a broken bottle.



COURTESY OF  
THE MCGUINNESS COLLECTION

### **Áine Ní Riain (1887-1955)**

Áine was from Listreenagh, Legan. She worked in Tullamore before the rising and was active in Cumann na mBan. She visited her sister Eilís in Dublin on Holy Saturday 1916 and remained in the city rather than travelling home to Legan as she originally planned.



COURTESY OF LONGFORD  
COUNTY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

On Tuesday, she went into Reis's Chambers, Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) a building on the side opposite the G.P.O. Áine went from there to the G.P.O. on Wednesday. She left it on Friday when most of the women were evacuated. She was questioned at Broadstone Station and then released.

### **Eilís Ní Riain, Bean Uí Chonail (1891-1981)**

Eilís, sister of Áine, went to Dublin to work and joined both the Gaelic League and Cumann na mBan.



COURTESY OF  
THE MILITARY ARCHIVES

Early in the Rising, she served briefly in Reis's Chambers, across from the G.P.O. Then she volunteered to join the Four Courts garrison. While there, she served in the Fr Mathew Hall, Church Street. She escaped imprisonment after the surrender.

During the War of Independence, Eilís worked with Countess Markievicz, who was the first Minister for Labour.

### **John Sheridan (c. 1899-1918)**

John was from Main Street, Edgeworthstown. He was only about 17 years old when he took part in the rising. There is no information about where he was or what he did.





THE REMEMBRANCE GARDEN, GREAT WATER STREET, LONGFORD.

### Longford Remembrance Garden

The Longford Remembrance garden is located on Great Water Street opposite the Longford County Council offices. It was opened on 23 April 2016 to mark the centenary of the rising. County Longford Historical Society unveiled a memorial plaque at the garden inscribed with the names of the Longford participants. The sculpture called *Síol* is a key feature of the garden. This sculpture celebrates Longford town winning a prize for being Ireland's cleanest town in 2015. Written on the base of the sculpture is a quotation from Patrick Pearse.

**'It was a glorious summer day for our trip, the peace of the country was as remote as possible from the conflict taking place in Dublin. There was no sign of disturbance anywhere. We had no incident until we came to the city.'**

*Extract from an account by Brigid Lyons, describing her journey to Dublin on 25 April 1916.*

**'On Friday morning Patrick Pearse sent for all of us girls and he made a very nice speech to us. . . . I often regret I did not take down the speech in shorthand. He said he wished that everyone of us who was not qualified in First Aid should leave, as the fighting would get very severe and it would probably come to using bayonets to fight their way out.'**

*Extract from an account by Áine Ní Riain, describing what happened shortly before she left the G.P.O. on 28 April.*

#### Activity

Imagine you are one of the Longford people who served in the rising. Write a page in which you explain how you felt about taking part.



## UNIT 9

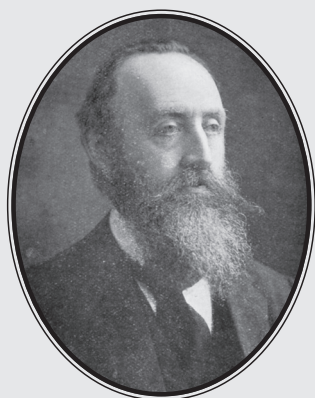
# IRELAND, 1916-18

### The growth of Sinn Féin

After the Easter Rising, the campaign for a fully independent state was conducted by a well-organised mass movement. Many people were impressed by the Easter rebels' military performance and outraged by the executions of the leaders. Support began to drift away from the Home Rule Party to Sinn Féin. The leading military and political figures on the republican side were imprisoned after the rising and by Christmas 1916 most were released. In 1917, a group of republicans decided to challenge the Home Rule Party in a by-election in North Roscommon. This was the first of four in that year where Home Rulers were defeated.

### North Roscommon, 3 February 1917

Sinn Féin was a political movement founded by Arthur Griffith in 1905. Its activities were largely confined to Dublin and by 1914 it was a party in decline. The Sinn Féin candidate chosen to stand in North Roscommon was Count Plunkett, who was a former director of the National Museum and the father of three participants in the Easter Rising. His son Joseph Mary Plunkett was one of the executed leaders of the rising. Plunkett seemed the ideal candidate to win a sympathy vote. Individually and in small groups, supporters made their way to Roscommon. Their enthusiasm, energy and discipline crushed the Home Rule organisation. The election was a great success for the new organisation. Many of those involved in the rising disliked politics, but this success showed them that there could be another way to convert people to the demand for full independence.



COUNT PLUNKETT

### South Longford, 9 May 1917

A by-election was called in South Longford when John Philips M.P. died, after an illness, in April 1917. The last contested election in Longford was 25 years before in 1892. The republicans who wanted a complete break from England felt confident to select a more radical candidate this time. They selected Joe McGuinness, a native of Roscommon, who had strong Longford connections. Joe took part in the Easter Rising in the Four Courts garrison. He was now serving a three-year sentence in Lewes Prison in England. Many of his colleagues also in jail opposed his selection as a candidate. They felt that if he failed to get elected it would look bad for Sinn Féin. However, supporters in Dublin and Longford rejected this advice. *The Longford Leader* newspaper was furious that Sinn Féin ran a candidate in South Longford.



JOE MCGUINNESS

Sinn Féin activists travelled to Longford from all over Ireland to campaign. Among those campaigning were Margaret Pearse, mother of Patrick and Willie Pearse; Kathleen Clarke, widow of Tom Clarke; and Michael Collins, who was becoming a leader in Sinn Féin. There was great excitement and tension on voting day, with many cars sent out to bring voters to polling stations. After a recount, Joe McGuinness won by 37 votes. South Longford was a decisive win for Sinn Féin because it proved that a candidate in jail, who took an active part in the rising, could win a seat.

The South Longford by-election was pitched as a referendum on the treatment and continued



detention of some of the Easter Rising participants. By June 1917, all the remaining prisoners were released and soon afterwards Eamon de Valera was chosen as the by-election candidate for East Clare.

### East Clare, 10 July 1917

This by-election took place because of the death of Willie Redmond M.P., brother of Home Rule Party leader John Redmond. De Valera campaigned in military uniform and he had parish priests preside over many of his meetings to appeal to the Catholic voters. The Volunteers campaigned in uniform, marched, imposed discipline and took over the functions of the Royal Irish Constabulary, which was the police force. The result was an over two-to-one victory for de Valera.



*EAMON DE VALERA*

### Kilkenny, 10 August 1917

This by-election was won by the Sinn Féin candidate William T. Cosgrave, who went on to become head of the government from 1922 to 1932. This was the fourth success in 1917 for Sinn Féin. It was clear that politics could produce results and that the Home Rule Party could be defeated nationally. Sinn Féin was now fashionable and it brought colour and excitement to life. Branches were formed in almost every town and village in nationalist Ireland.



*WILLIAM T. COSGRAVE*

### 1917-18

A mass political party was created almost spontaneously through 1917.

April 1917: 166 Sinn Féin clubs - 11,000 members.

October 1917: 1,200 clubs - 150,000 members.

Some of the new Sinn Féin members had been

in the Home Rule Party. The new group was a mixture of moderates and extremists, idealists and pragmatists. Their aim was to demand a republic, but they also stood for simple self-government. They wanted a voice for youth and women, an end to corruption and land for the landless. In October 1917, Arthur Griffith stood down as leader in favour of Eamon de Valera.

In 1918, Sinn Féin had some setbacks, losing three by-elections - South Armagh, Waterford and East Tyrone - to the Home Rule Party. This showed that Home Rule still had strong support in some parts of Ireland.

### Thomas Ashe

Thomas Ashe was born in Lispole, near Dingle, County Kerry in 1885. He was a primary school teacher and was active in the Gaelic League, the G.A.A., the I.N.T.O. (the trade union for primary school teachers), the



*THOMAS ASHE*

Irish Volunteers and the I.R.B. During the Easter Rising he led a successful attack on the R.I.C. in Ashbourne, County Meath. He was imprisoned until June 1917.

Ashe spoke at many meetings around the country, encouraging men to join the Volunteers and Sinn Féin. He and Michael Collins spoke at a rally in Ballinalee on 25 July. Ashe said that he would take part in another rising against the British and was later arrested as a result of what he said. He was imprisoned in Mountjoy Jail where he and others went on hunger strike. He died on 25 September as a result of being force-fed. His death led to widespread demonstrations across the country and an estimated 30,000 people marched to Glasnevin Cemetery in his funeral procession. The parish halls in Ballinalee and Newtowncashel were named after Thomas Ashe.

### The conscription crisis, 1918

As the First World War dragged on, the British needed more and more soldiers to fight in it. Since the Easter Rising, recruiting in Ireland had steadily declined. In April 1918, the government decided to extend conscription to Ireland, which



would mean forcing men of certain ages to join the British Army. There was widespread opposition to the idea from many different groups including the Home Rule Party, Sinn Féin, trade unions and the Catholic Church. The government had to abandon its plan.

## ANTI-CONSCRIPTION PLEDGE.

The following is a copy of the Pledge:—

“Denying the right of the British Government to enforce Compulsory Service in this Country *we pledge ourselves solemnly to one another to resist Conscription* by the most effective means at our disposal.”

THE ANTI-  
CONSCRIPTION  
PLEDGE TAKEN  
BY MANY  
PEOPLE IN  
1918

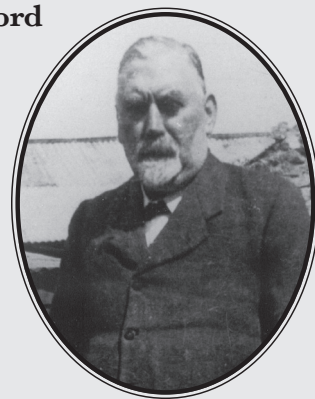
### The 1918 general election

The general election of 1918 was the first since 1910. All men over 21 and all women over 30, who were householders or married to householders, were allowed to vote. Women were also permitted to run for election and Countess Markievicz was the only woman elected. Many of the Sinn Féin candidates were in jail or on the run, and many of them could claim an association with the Easter Rising. The Labour Party, which was founded in 1912, decided not to run candidates in the election. Labour members felt they were unlikely to win any seats. The Home Rule Party was so demoralised that it did not fight the election in 25 constituencies that it previously held.

The results were that Sinn Féin won 73 seats, the Unionists took 26 and the Home Rule Party, only 6. The Irish electorate had voted by a massive majority to reject the Act of Union and Home Rule. They now wanted full independence. The aims of the Easter Rising had been endorsed but the British government was not impressed. Fresh from victory in the First World War, the British authorities were in no mood to compromise. Sinn Féin members refused to attend the House of Commons so what was going to happen now?

### The election in Longford

While many Home Rule Party members decided to withdraw from public life and not run in the 1918 election, J.P. Farrell of Longford did not. He took the fight to Sinn Féin in the new County Longford constituency with an enlarged electorate of 20, 449. Farrell, the sitting Home Rule M.P. for North Longford, was the founder and owner of *The Longford Leader*. He campaigned strongly against the ‘madness and folly’ of the young men of Sinn Féin. The result was like many contests throughout the country. Joe McGuinness polled 11,122 to J.P. Farrell’s 4,173. In 1914, the Home Rule Party was at the height of its powers and on the verge of bringing Home Rule to Ireland. By the end of 1918 the party was wiped out and it never recovered.



JAMES P. FARRELL

### Votes for women

The 1918 general election was a breakthrough for women in Ireland. Women were involved in all aspects of the election. One of the most striking images of the 1918 election was the sight of the republican Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, the unionist Anna Haslam and the Home Ruler Mary Sheehy-Kettle walking together to cast their votes. Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists had strong networks of female supporters within their organisations, but the Home Rule Party failed to harness women’s power. They had blocked membership of women to the party and campaigned against women’s right to vote. Countess Markievicz was the first woman elected to the British House of Commons despite having been in prison during the election. She was a prominent campaigner for feminism, socialism and republicanism and a leader of the Easter Rising.



HANNA SHEEHY-SKEFFINGTON





# ACTIVITIES

## A. Find the following words hidden in the box

Collins, Griffith, Longford, Sinn Féin, Redmond, Plunkett, Ashe, Home Rule, De Valera, J. P. Farrell.

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

## B. Choose the correct word or date to complete each sentence

1. Joe McGuinness won a by-election in South \_\_\_\_\_ .

Longford   Kerry   Clare

2. Sinn Féin was founded by \_\_\_\_\_ .

Michael Collins   Thomas Ashe   Arthur Griffith

3. Women first voted in the general election of \_\_\_\_\_ .

1916   1914   1918

4. Countess \_\_\_\_\_ was the first woman elected to the House of Commons.

Plunkett   Clarke   Markievicz

5. Thomas Ashe died \_\_\_\_\_ .

in World War I.   in the Easter Rising.   on hunger strike.



**C. Match the action to the effect**

By-election success	Led to widespread opposition
Death of Ashe	Huge losses for Home Rule Party
1918 general election	Brought new members to Sinn Féin
Conscription	30,000 at funeral procession

**D. True or false**

1. Michael Collins won a by-election. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Count Plunkett signed the 1916 Proclamation. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Joe McGuinness took part in the Easter Rising. \_\_\_\_\_
4. John Redmond was leader of the Home Rule Party. \_\_\_\_\_
5. J.P. Farrell founded *The Longford Leader*. \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Crack the code to find the words**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 20 8 15 13 1 19 1 19 8 5 made a speech in Balinalee. \_\_\_\_\_
2. William T. Cosgrave won a by-election in 11 9 12 11 5 14 14 25. \_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 14 14 1 8 1 19 12 1 13. \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES**

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## UNIT 10

# THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

### January 1919

January 1919 marked a turning-point in Irish history. Two significant events took place on 21 January. Twenty-seven Sinn Féin members, who were elected in the 1918 general election, met in Dublin's Mansion House to form the First Dáil Éireann. Most of the other Sinn Féin T.D.s were in prison or in hiding to avoid being arrested. The unionist and Home Rule M.P.s attended the Westminster Parliament from February 1919. Sinn Féin was determined to open the Dáil

before the Paris Peace Conference, which was meeting to discuss the settlement after the First World War. It was hoped that the existence of an assembly in Dublin would help Ireland's cause for independence.

The other key event that happened on 21 January was an ambush in Soloheadbeg, County Tipperary. Two policemen were shot dead as they escorted a load of gelignite to the local quarry. The attackers were members of the South



MEMBERS OF DÁIL ÉIREANN, 22 JANUARY 1919.



Tipperary Brigade of the Volunteers. Historians date the beginning of the War of Independence to that event.

The Home Rule crisis was seen by many as preventing the winning of self-government through parliament. Equally, the Easter Rising demonstrated that force alone could not succeed against the military might of the world's most powerful empire. The revolutionary movement that emerged after the rising was a combination of both elements.

### **The first meeting of Dáil Éireann**

The first Dáil met for two hours and all proceedings were conducted in the Irish language. No English was spoken until the Declaration of Independence was read out. That first meeting of the Dáil adopted four important documents.

They were:

1. The Constitution of Dáil Éireann. This gave the Dáil the power to make laws and provide for the election of a government.
2. The Declaration of Independence. This referred to the Proclamation of 1916 and the 1918 general election, which had been won by Sinn Féin.
3. Message to the Free Nations of the World. It called on those nations to recognise the Irish Republic and its right to recognition at the Paris Peace Conference.
4. The Democratic Programme. This document was drafted along with the Labour Party's leadership. It declared the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland. It promised to introduce policies to provide food, clothing, shelter and education for everyone. It contained promises to develop Ireland's natural resources, promote Irish industries and expand international trade.

A temporary cabinet was then appointed headed by Cathal Brugha who was called *Príomh Aire* (Prime Minister). A full Dáil cabinet was appointed in April and de Valera became *Príomh Aire*. The other members

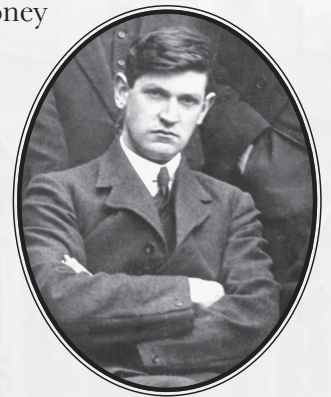


CATHAL BRUGHA

included Michael Collins, who became Minister for Finance and Countess Markievicz, Minister for Labour. The Paris Peace Conference ruled that the Irish question was an internal British problem in which it could not interfere. Eamon de Valera went to America in June 1919 to campaign for American recognition of the Irish Republic. Despite failing in this mission, he had a very successful fund-raising drive, raising over \$3 million.

### **The Dáil Loan**

When Michael Collins was appointed Minister for Finance in April 1919, the Dáil authorised him to raise funds through a Dáil Loan. The aim was to raise £250,000. People all over Ireland were asked to loan the government small sums, which they would be paid back later. The money was needed to fund the government departments being set up and later, the work of the Dáil courts. Funding was also needed for overseas diplomatic work. The Dáil was determined to prove to the world that it was capable of governing Ireland without the British. Banks and post offices could not be used to get the money back to Dublin. Instead couriers travelled the country promoting the loan, collecting money and issuing receipts. The British authorities searched and jailed couriers whenever they were caught with money.



MICHAEL COLLINS IN 1919.

As the money started to come in, a loan office was set up in No. 76 Harcourt Street, Dublin. The office was headed up by Dáithí O' Donoghue, a well-known figure in the Dublin financial community. Working closely with Michael Collins, he put plans and systems in place to record, control and safeguard the proceeds of the loan. Bank accounts were opened using false names or names of friends in banks where the managers were sympathetic to the nationalist cause. The office in Harcourt Street was raided by the Crown forces on numerous occasions so they had to come up with new plans to safeguard the money.

Subscriptions began to increase in early 1920 and by July, £371, 849 had been raised (about



1552  
No. 34239

This part to be detached at Head Office only.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC**  
5 per cent. Registered Certificates (1919-1920) (Internal).

Date 13 JUL 1920

RECEIVED from *Mr. John Kennedy (Jnr.)*  
of *France, Ballinacree Longford*  
the sum of *Ten* pounds, *ten* shillings, being  
the amount payable on application for £ *ten* pounds)

MICHAEL O COILEAIN, Minister of Finance.

Per *ef*

£ *10*

Preserve this Receipt carefully. It, together with further Receipts, will be exchanged in due course for the Definitive Certificate.

DAIL ÉIREANN  
13 JUL 1920

FULLY PAID

A RECEIPT FOR A PAYMENT TO THE DÁIL LOAN, 1920. (LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES)

€12.5 million in today's money). The loan was wound-up on 17 July 1920 as they now had 50% more than expected. This was an extraordinary feat because the greatest part of the donations came in small amounts from people with little or no money, living all over the country. It was one of the outstanding achievements of the Irish Revolution - being able to set up a counter-state under the eyes of a hostile government. The Irish people had backed a dream of self-government on a distant promise of future repayment. In 1924 the new Irish government began to repay the loan in full, with interest, to the subscribers.

### The Dáil courts

On 10 April 1919, the Dáil authorised a boycott of the Royal Irish Constabulary (R.I.C.), the police force. This gave official sanction to a policy that was already happening at local level. This boycott and attacks on R.I.C. barracks resulted in the police being unable to carry-out their normal duties. Police began to abandon the more isolated barracks and move to larger barracks usually in the towns.

Gradually, in some places (particularly in the west), courts were established to deal with disputes, especially concerning land. The British authorities were being undermined at every level by the Dáil, so in late 1919 the Dáil, Sinn Féin and the Gaelic League were all proclaimed illegal.

In June 1920, the Dáil set up a full courts system. The Dáil courts were widely used, trials took place and those convicted were punished. They were considered fair and some landlords and members of the Protestant community were happy to use them.

### The underground government

Despite being banned, the government continued to work. Sittings of the Dáil took place in private and government staff worked in houses around Dublin. The work of government departments was carried on in rented offices, some not far from Dublin Castle. Michael Collins, the Minister for Finance, recruited a team of accountants, lawyers and clerks to work in his department, and staff were employed in the other departments too. It was common to see Collins and others cycling to and from offices around the city.



DUBLIN CASTLE.





A BLACK AND TAN ON A DUBLIN STREET. (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)

### How the war developed

At the beginning of 1920, General Headquarters of the Irish Republican Army (as the Volunteers were then being called) agreed to attacks being carried out on R.I.C. barracks. By then, it was clear to Dublin Castle and London that the police force was in crisis. The British government could see that its authority in Ireland was being ignored. It decided not to use the army against the I.R.A. as that would give the impression it was fighting a war. Instead, the government planned to recruit a force to support the R.I.C. Members were mainly ex-soldiers from World War I. Due to a shortage of police uniforms they wore a mixture of army khaki and dark green R.I.C. uniforms. This is why they became known as the Black and Tans.

At Easter 1920, the I.R.A. launched a major operation to mark the fourth anniversary of the rising. Almost 300 R.I.C. barracks and many courthouses and income tax offices were burned. Many of the barracks were already vacated and now they were not fit to be used again. The

success of the Easter burnings improved morale and gained more support for the I.R.A.

In July 1920, the British government recruited another force. It consisted of tough ex-military officers who were to be sent into areas where the I.R.A. was very active. Known as Auxiliaries, they were heavily armed and mobile. The R.I.C., Black and Tans and Auxiliaries became known as the 'Crown forces'.

The Auxiliaries and the Black and Tans were known for their lack of discipline. Both forces carried out reprisals on the civilian population. Their behaviour got worse after they suffered attacks by the I.R.A. Among their most infamous actions were the burnings of Ballbriggan, County Dublin and the centre of Cork City in 1920. The campaigns of the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries were a military failure and a disaster for Britain because of the bad publicity they caused.



## Cumann na mBan

Women played an important part in the war. Cumann na mBan was the women's organisation that helped the I.R.A. Its members carried messages and weapons, cooked for the men and cared for those who were wounded or sick. This could be dangerous work. Generally, women were able to move around without being searched because the authorities did not suspect them of being involved. However, some were arrested and a small number were imprisoned.



CUMANN NA MBAN BADGE.

## Republican hunger strikes

Fasting in protest against imprisonment was another key tactic used against the British authorities. It was a way for prisoners to continue the fight while they were locked-up. They were on strike for better conditions and to be treated differently from ordinary criminals. They were also hoping to force their release. Throughout 1919, there were nearly 300 instances of hunger strikes reported in Irish prisons. The most famous hunger strike of the Revolution began in Cork in August 1920 and ended following the deaths of Joseph Murphy, Michael Fitzgerald and the Lord Mayor of Cork, Terence MacSwiney. MacSwiney died on 25 October in Brixton Prison in London in his 75th day without food. His hunger strike and death gained attention and great support for the republican cause at home and abroad. His statement 'It's not those who can inflict the most but those who can endure the most who will conquer' was proven true in the Irish Revolution.



TERENCE MACSWINEY AS A YOUNG MAN.

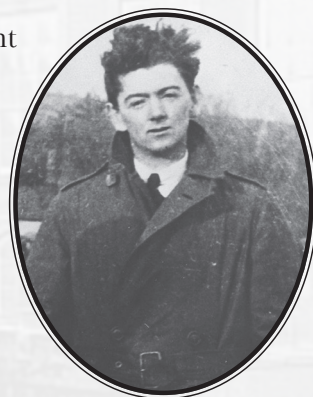
## Flying columns

By the summer of 1920, Crown forces were putting greater pressure on the I.R.A. around the country. Many I.R.A. members were captured and imprisoned. The I.R.A.'s response was to organise its most committed members into units of full-time guerrilla fighters known as flying columns. A flying column was a group consisting of between 10 and 100 men. The men camped in the countryside or stayed in 'safe houses' receiving food from sympathisers and moving at night to avoid detection. They carried out 'hit-and-run' attacks on Crown forces. Some columns undertook very successful ambushes such as those at Kilmichael, County Cork, Clonfin, County Longford and Dromkeen, County Limerick.

## November 1920

November 1920 was one of the most violent months of the conflict. The worst day was 21 November, when a total of thirty-two people died in Dublin on what became known as 'Bloody Sunday'. In the morning, the I.R.A. shot fifteen men, most of them suspected of being British agents. In the afternoon, fourteen civilians, including women and children, were shot by Crown forces in Croke Park while attending a football match between Dublin and Tipperary. In the evening, three men were shot dead in Dublin Castle.

The other famous incident to take place that month was the Kilmichael ambush in west Cork, on 28 November. Members of the I.R.A., led by Tom Barry, attacked a party of Auxiliaries and nearly all were killed.



TOM BARRY

## The costs of war

Throughout 1920 and 1921 there were arrests, escapes, shooting incidents and killings, often on a daily basis. The I.R.A. burned many of the 'big houses' owned by the remaining landlords and killed some people suspected of supporting the British government. The war damaged the Irish economy causing businesses to close and many jobs to be lost. Markets and fairs were banned.



Many creameries were attacked, and many bridges and roads were badly damaged.

### Partition

In 1920, the British government decided that it would partition (divide) Ireland by granting Home Rule to two parts of the island. In December, the Government of Ireland Act was passed by parliament in London. It created a state with twenty-six counties and a parliament in Dublin to try to satisfy nationalists in the south. It also created a state with six counties and a parliament in Belfast for northern unionists. Elections for both parliaments were held in May 1921. Sinn Féin members were returned unopposed in the twenty-six counties. The parliament of Northern Ireland met for the first time on 22 June 1921. King George V performed the opening of parliament. In his speech, he appealed for peace in Ireland.



*KING GEORGE V*

### The search for peace

The idea of a Home Rule parliament for twenty-six counties was not supported by many people. As the war continued, the British in particular were under pressure to find a solution. As British reprisals increased against the civilian population, General Crozier, commander of the Auxiliaries, resigned in disagreement with the government's policy.

The I.R.A. had succeeded in making the normal government of Ireland impossible, but it could do no more. It had just 3,295 rifles and was very low in ammunition in July 1921, when the fighting stopped. At that time, there were about 50,000 British troops in the country. After King George's speech in Belfast, discussions began about ending the fighting. On 11 July, a truce between the two sides came into force.

Despite being heavily outnumbered by the Crown forces, the I.R.A. had managed to fight on without surrendering. It was a half-trained citizen army with whatever weapons it could capture or buy abroad. Its strength lay in its organisation. It was a mass movement with many civilian supporters.



THE CUSTOM HOUSE IN DUBLIN AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY THE I.R.A. ON 25 MAY 1921. IT HOUSED BRITISH GOVERNMENT OFFICES.





# ACTIVITIES

## A. Fill in the blanks using words from the box

session, attend, unionists, present, hours, general, attend, Mansion, Rule

Sinn Féin won four by- elections in 1917 and 73 seats in the 1918 \_\_\_\_\_ election. The Home Rule Party won 6 seats and the \_\_\_\_\_ won 26 seats in the election. The Sinn Féin T.D.s decided they would not \_\_\_\_\_ the parliament in Westminster. Instead they set up a Dáil or parliament in Dublin which met on 21 January 1919. They met in the \_\_\_\_\_ House and the \_\_\_\_\_ lasted for two \_\_\_\_\_. Twenty-seven T.D.s were \_\_\_\_\_ on the day. The unionist and the Home \_\_\_\_\_ Party members did not attend.

## B. Match each action to its effect

Eamon de Valera went to America.	Farming was disrupted.
A Truce was agreed.	Many went on hunger strike.
Creameries were burned.	Fighting stopped.
Prisoners were jailed.	Fundraising took place.

## C. Crack the code about the First Dáil

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
11	15	26	13	9	16	8	4	21	24	14	6	2
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
22	1	7	25	3	17	23	5	12	19	20	10	18

- a. Ireland was declared a 3 9 7 5 15 6 21 26 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 2 21 22 21 17 23 9 3 17 \_\_\_\_\_ were appointed.
- c. 5 22 21 1 22 21 17 23 17 \_\_\_\_\_ did not attend.
- d. 4 1 2 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 5 6 9 \_\_\_\_\_ members did not attend.





**D. Match each word to its meaning**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Treaty          | Ceasefire       |
| Negotiations    | Discussions     |
| Truce           | Agreement       |
| Flying Columns  | Ambush          |
| Surprise Attack | I.R.A. fighters |

**E. Put these events in the order they happened**

1. Eamon de Valera went to America.
2. The First Dáil met in January 1919.
3. The Dáil was proclaimed illegal.
4. The Treaty was signed.
5. Balbriggan was destroyed.
6. The Parliament of Northern Ireland met in Belfast for the first time.
7. A Truce took place.
8. 'Bloody Sunday' took place in Dublin.

**F. Name the person**

Appointed Príomh Aire in April 1919: \_\_\_\_\_

First Minister for Labour: \_\_\_\_\_

He set up the Dáil Loan: \_\_\_\_\_

Lord Mayor of Cork: \_\_\_\_\_

The king who opened the parliament in Belfast: \_\_\_\_\_

# NOTES

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## UNIT 11

# LONGFORD AND THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

## Timeline

### 1919

**27 April:** two Volunteers, Matt Brady and Michael McNally, wounded while trying to disarm policemen near Aughnacliffe.

**7 November:** Seán MacEoin, I.R.A. leader in Ballinalee, sent to prison in Sligo for advertising the Dáil Éireann Loan.

### 1920

**5-6 January:** attack on Drumlish R.I.C. barracks.

**April-May:** burning of empty R.I.C. barracks in Ballinalee, Newtownforbes, Larkfield (Mullinalaghta), Ballina (Newtowncashel), Smear (Colmcille), Killashee, Lisryan, Abbeyshrule and Kenagh.

**10 June:** attack on Ballinamuck R.I.C. barracks.

**18 August:** raid on Longford artillery barracks ('upper barracks' on site of Pearse Park).

**19-20 August:** attack on Ballymahon R.I.C. barracks.

**27 August:** ambush at Gaique Cross, Ballinamuck, in which Const. John Mullan was killed (first death in action in Longford).

**26 September:** attack on Arva R.I.C. barracks (Longford I.R.A. action).

**31 October:** shooting of D.I. Philip Kelleher in Greville Arms Hotel, Granard.

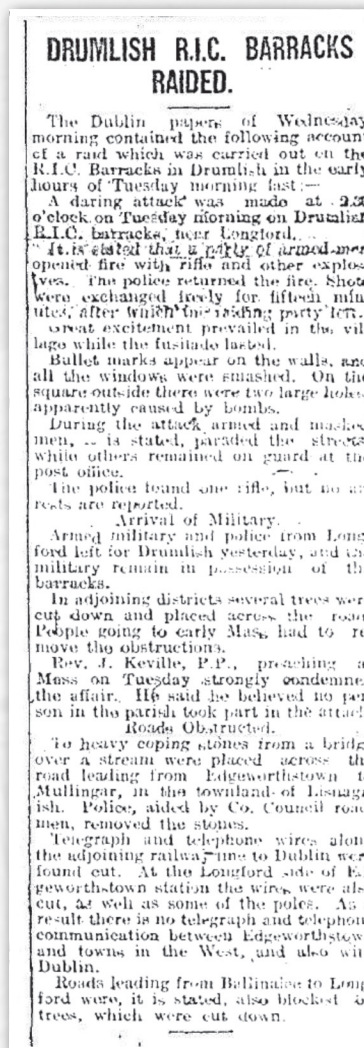
**1 November:** shooting of Const. Peter Cooney near Ballinalee; formation of North Longford Flying Column.

**2 November:** burning of Temperance Hall, Longford; attack on Granard foiled.

**3-4 November:** burning of Granard by Crown forces.

**4 November:** Battle of Ballinalee in which Crown forces withdrew.

**10-13 December:** action in Ballinalee. Crown forces moved back into the village; they were attacked; one policeman killed; some buildings were burned in reprisal.



COVERAGE OF THE ATTACK  
ON DRUMLISH RIC BARRACKS.  
(THE LONGFORD LEADER, 10 JANUARY  
1920)



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# 1921

**7 January:** MacEoin's escape from Martin's cottage, near Ballinalee, during which D.I. Thomas McGrath was killed. MacEoin was accused of his murder.

**15 January:** ambush at Terlicken, near Ballymahon.

**2 February:** the Clonfin ambush; four Auxiliaries died.

**2 March:** MacEoin was captured at Mullingar Railway Station and seriously injured in attempting to escape.

**12 March:** Seán Connolly died of wounds from ambush at Selton Hill, near Mohill on 11 March.

**27 April:** ambush at Ballybrien, near Granard.

**1 May:** ambush at Fihoragh, Moyne; two policemen killed.

**17 May:** ambush near Lanesborough; one policeman killed.

**20 May:** ambush at Kelleter, Killoe; two policemen killed.

**14 June:** MacEoin was court-martialled for McGrath's murder and received a death sentence.

**19 June:** Thomas Kelleher, I.R.A., killed in Drumlish.

## A high level of activity

Between January 1920 and July 1921, Longford experienced the second highest level of I.R.A. violence of all the counties in Ireland. Only Cork was higher. Longford was the only county in the midlands in which there was a very active I.R.A. campaign. It had a republican tradition going back to the actions of the United Irishmen at the Battles of Granard and Ballinamuck in 1798.

The strength of the I.R.A. in the county in 1919-21 owed a lot to good organisation, brave Volunteers and strong leadership, as well as support from ordinary people. I.R.A. activity was



BALLINAMUCK RIC BARRACKS (*THE MILITARY ARCHIVES*)



mainly in the north of the county, with there being very little activity in the south.

### **Barracks attacks**

There were seventeen R.I.C. barracks open in Longford at the beginning of 1919. Isolated barracks in Abbeyshrule, Ballina (Newtowncashel), Killashee, Smear and Larkfield were abandoned in December 1919. In 1920, there were attacks on well-protected barracks in Drumlish, Ballinamuck and Ballymahon. The police left all of them. By January 1921, the only barracks still open were in Balinalee, Granard, Longford town and Lanesborough.

### **Attacks on Granard and Ballinalee**

On 31 October 1920, District Inspector Philip Kelleher was shot dead in the Greville Arms Hotel in Granard. The next day, Constable Peter Cooney was shot dead near Ballinalee. Also on 1 November, Seán MacEoin set up the North Longford Flying Column, which was a full-time group of about 30 men. They aimed to fight a guerrilla war against the Crown forces.

On 2 November, St Joseph's Temperance Hall in Longford town was burned in reprisal. On the night of 3-4 November, a large party of Crown forces, including police and soldiers, burned many houses and buildings in Granard as a major reprisal. On their way back to Longford they were engaged by a small group of I.R.A. Volunteers led by Seán MacEoin in the village of Ballinalee. Eleven lorries were forced to retreat after a gun-battle, which became known as the Battle of Ballinalee.

Crown forces returned to Ballinalee on 10 December and occupied Farrell's house and shop. They were attacked by the local I.R.A. on 13 December and a policeman was killed. The Crown forces then burned several houses and shops in and around the village.

### **The Clonfin ambush**

Clonfin is a townland on the road between Granard and Ballinalee. It was there on 2 February 1921 that the North Longford Flying Column



THE RUIN OF THE TEMPERANCE HALL, LONGFORD. (LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES)

ambushed two tenders carrying Auxiliaries. After a lengthy gun-battle, two Auxiliaries were killed, two more were fatally wounded and eight others were injured. Weapons and ammunition were seized after the Auxiliaries surrendered. Seán MacEoin had a brief conversation with the Auxiliary leader, Francis Worthington Craven, who was dying on the roadside. MacEoin promised to care for the injured men and Craven wished him luck. The flying column was praised for helping the wounded and sending them back to Longford. Following the ambush, Crown forces searched many houses and farms in the area and shot dead an elderly farmer.



SEAN MAC EOIN

### **The war continues**

There were several deaths in County Longford in the period from January to June 1921. Five members of the Crown forces were killed in ambushes after Clonfin. Four men (William Charters, William Elliott, John McNamee and Thomas Byrne) who were accused of





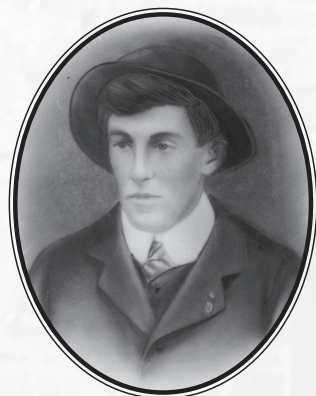
MEMBERS OF THE NORTH LONGFORD FLYING COLUMN, 1921 (*THE MILITARY ARCHIVES*)

being spies or informers were shot by the I.R.A. John Murphy was shot by the Crown forces, though they blamed the I.R.A. for his death. In Granard, Margaret Grehan died from a bullet wound she received accidentally.

The only I.R.A. member to be killed in fighting was Thomas Kelleher. On 19 June, he and a comrade were involved in a gun-battle in Drumlish and Kelleher died there. He is commemorated by a memorial in the village. Fighting came to an end in Longford when the Truce was called on 11 July 1921.

### **Seán Connolly**

Seán Connolly was born near the village of Ballinalee in 1890. He was active in the Volunteers and later the I.R.A. He led the attacks on Drumlish and Ballinamuck R.I.C. barracks in 1920. In October of that year, I.R.A. headquarters in Dublin, aware of his leadership ability,



SEÁN CONNOLLY  
(*COURTESY OF COUNTY  
LONGFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY*)

moved him to north Roscommon to organise the I.R.A. there. Later, he was moved to Leitrim to do the same job. He was fatally injured by Crown forces during an ambush at Selton Hill, near Mohill, on 11 March 1921. He died the following day. Connolly was due to take over command of the North Longford Flying Column after Seán MacEoin's arrest.

### **Seán MacEoin**

Seán MacEoin was a blacksmith living a few miles outside Ballinalee. He was known as 'The Blacksmith of Ballinalee'. He commanded the first battalion of the Longford Brigade of the I.R.A. and was also the deputy head of the brigade. In late 1920, he became a member of the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.), which was a secret organisation. He worked closely with Michael Collins.

MacEoin formed the North Longford Flying Column and led in the actions in Ballinalee and Clonfin (see above). In an incident at Martin's cottage near Ballinalee, in January 1921, he was accused of murdering District Inspector Thomas McGrath. MacEoin was arrested in Mullingar on 2 March and badly wounded while trying to



escape. He was taken to Dublin and later tried by court-martial for McGrath's murder. MacEoin's arrest and the death of his intended replacement Seán Connolly weakened the I.R.A. in the county.

At his trial, MacEoin was found guilty and sentenced to death. By then, he was a T.D. He was later released so he could attend a meeting of the Dáil to discuss peace negotiations with Britain. He supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty and fought in the Civil War in 1922-23. He later became a senior army officer in the Irish Free State.

MacEoin resigned from the army and served as a T.D. from 1929 to 1965. He was a member of the Cumann na nGaedheal party and later of Fine Gael. He was Minister for Defence and Minister for Justice in the 1950s. MacEoin also ran for election as President of Ireland twice, but was not successful. He died at the age of 80 in 1973.



SEÁN MACEOIN AND JOE MCGUINNESS ARRIVING FOR A MEETING OF THE DÁIL, 17 AUGUST 1921.  
(NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)

B6113/02/1

## DAIL EIREANN.

TRADE DEPARTMENT.

*May 5th, 1921.*

### Importation and Sale of British Goods Prohibition Order No. 3.

In accordance with the powers conferred on the Ministry by Dail Eireann at its Session in March, 1921, it is hereby ordered that on and after May 26th, 1921, the importation and sale of **BRITISH-MADE MARGARINE** is prohibited.

Every loyal citizen of the Republic is expected to give active support to the Government in making this Order absolute.

Signed, EARNAN DE BLAGHD,  
Minister of Trade.

#### PREVIOUS ORDERS.

No. 1—Prohibits the importation of British-made  
Binders    Mowing Machines    Horse Rakes  
Ploughs    Swathe Turners    Hay Trolleys  
Harrows    Corn Drills    (Rick Shifters)  
Root Cutters  
as from March 31st, 1921.

No. 2—Prohibits the importation and sale of British  
Biscuits, Boot Polishes, and Soap  
from May 14th, 1921.

THIS ORDER WAS ISSUED  
BY DÁIL ÉIREANN IN 1921.  
IT ASKED PEOPLE NOT  
TO BUY BRITISH-MADE  
MARGARINE.  
(LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY  
AND ARCHIVES)





# ACTIVITIES

## A. Answer the following questions

1. Why was Seán MacEoin imprisoned in 1921?
2. When was Ballinamuck R.I.C. barracks attacked?
3. When was the burning of Granard?
4. What I.R.A. leader died on 12 March 1921?
5. When was the North Longford Flying Column established?

## B. Choose the correct word to complete each sentence

1. The main area of I.R.A. activity during the War of Independence was in \_\_\_\_\_ Longford.  
a. south    b. north    c. west
2. In October 1920 D.I. Kelleher was shot in \_\_\_\_\_  
a. Ardagh    b. Granard    c. Ballymahon
3. At Clonfin the I.R.A. attacked the \_\_\_\_\_  
a. Black and Tans    b. Auxiliaries    c. the R.I.C.
4. The Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ took place on 4 November 1920.  
a. Drumlish    b. Lanesborough    c. Balinalee
5. Seán MacEoin was sentenced to \_\_\_\_\_  
a. life imprisonment    b. death    c. exile

## C. Match the event to its effect

District Inspector Kelleher was shot in Granard.	Thirteen R.I.C. barracks in County Longford closed down.
Attacks on R.I.C. barracks in 1920.	Seán MacEoin was released from prison.
Truce declared in July 1921.	Town of Granard was burned.

## D. True or false

1. Drumlish barracks was attacked. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Temperance Hall was burned. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I.R.A. forces were defeated at Battle of Balinalee. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Seán Connolly died in prison. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Thomas Kelleher was killed in Drumlish. \_\_\_\_\_

## E. Crack the code

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	W	X	Y	Z	K	J
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26				
L	K	O	M	N	P	R	Q	T	S	U				

24	8	5	22	5		10	1	25		1	20					
1	19	2	26	25	8		1	24		3	16	18	20	6	9	20

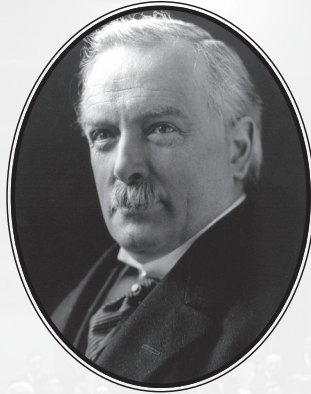


## UNIT 12

# FROM TRUCE TO TREATY

### The war ends

'We shall have to negotiate someday with the men who represent Ireland', Prime Minister David Lloyd George told his ministers as early as October 1918. There had been some attempts to end the war, but they failed. Ulster unionists used their influence with the British government to make sure the parliament of Northern Ireland was set up under the Government of Ireland Act. After this, three leading men who had fought hard for unionists, Edward Carson, Andrew Bonar



DAVID LLOYD GEORGE,  
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER  
1916-22.  
*(LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)*

Law and Walter Long, retired from politics. There was a longing for peace in Britain and Ireland, but nothing was to be forced on the unionists. Once the Northern Ireland parliament was up and running, the talks about ending the war began between Lloyd George and the leaders of Sinn Féin.

The Truce of 11 July 1921 was followed by discussions between Dáil Éireann and the British government that would continue for most of the rest of the year.



DÁIL ÉIREANN MEETING IN AUGUST 1921.



## Negotiations, July to December 1921

**July:** four meetings took place in London between the Irish and British.

The Irish delegation, led by Eamon de Valera, included Austin Stack, Erskine Childers, Robert Barton and Arthur Griffith. Lloyd George offered them dominion status within the British Commonwealth. Partition was to remain and Britain was to have the right to have naval and aircraft facilities in Ireland. These proposals were rejected by the Irish leaders and the Dáil voted against them.

**August - September:** de Valera and Lloyd George corresponded about the setting up of a conference in London.

At this stage de Valera proposed the idea of 'external association'. Ireland would agree to be associated with the British Commonwealth and accept the king as the head of that association. Britain did not agree to this.

**11 October – 6 December:** an Irish delegation was in London to negotiate a treaty that would settle the conflict.

To everybody's surprise de Valera, President of Dáil Éireann and a good negotiator, decided not to go. A number of reasons have been put forward for this decision.

- He did not want to be associated with anything less than a republic.
- By staying in Dublin, he would be able to judge what was offered more clearly.
- By staying in Dublin, he would be able to control the militant republicans who wanted to keep fighting.

The delegation was given the authority to sign an agreement. Arthur Griffith was chosen as the leader of the delegation. He was joined by Michael Collins, Robert Barton, George Gavan Duffy and Eamonn Duggan. Arthur Griffith was reluctant to go and Michael Collins said he was a soldier not a diplomat. Formal talks began in Downing Street on 11 October 1921.

Britain would not agree to an independent Irish republic because it would encourage the break-up of the British Empire. The British were also worried that in a future war Ireland could be used by enemies of Britain as a base for an invasion. That is why they wanted to control some Irish deep-water ports.

The British also insisted that the treaty should include an oath of allegiance that would be taken by members of the Irish parliament. It would recognise the British monarch as the head of state.



NO. 10 DOWNING STREET, THE HOME OF THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, WHERE SOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE IN 1921.





A GROUP INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE IRISH DELEGATION WHO SIGNED THE TREATY. (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)

### 3 December 1921

On that day, the Irish delegation returned to Dublin with a draft treaty. Griffith was in favour of accepting it, but other ministers were opposed to the oath of allegiance. The cabinet was also against other terms of the treaty. Griffith was convinced no more could be gained from the British. There was hostility between some cabinet members, which made things more difficult.



ARTHUR GRIFFITH

### The Treaty and its terms

The delegation returned to London and at 2 am on 6 December 1921, the Treaty was signed. It included the following terms:

- Twenty-six counties to be known as the Irish Free State.
- Ireland was to have the same dominion status as Canada, New Zealand, Australia and

South Africa.

- The king's representative in Ireland to be known as the Governor-General.
- The parliament of the Irish Free State would consist of two houses: the Dáil and Senate.
- Members of the both houses were to take the oath of allegiance to the king.
- The ports of Berehaven and Queenstown (Cobh today) in County Cork and Lough Swilly in County Donegal would be controlled by the British government.
- A boundary commission would be established to decide on the border with Northern Ireland and make changes if necessary.

The Irish delegation signed the Treaty without referring back to Dublin. Many reasons have been given for this including:

- Griffith as leader of the delegation felt it was time to sign and the cabinet had been informed of the situation on the visit to Dublin on 3 December.
- Collins the top military man in Ireland believed that no more could be gained by



armed struggle. He was supported in this view by General Richard Mulcahy the chief of staff of the I.R.A. at the time.

- The delegation had the authority to sign and they believed nothing was to be gained by further delay.
- The delegates were aware that the Dáil still had the final say in ratifying it.

The delegates were in no doubt that problems would await them in Ireland and many would oppose it. Michael Collins said of the Treaty, 'Think what have I got for Ireland? Something she has wanted these past 700 years. Will anyone be satisfied at the bargain? Will anyone? I tell you this I have signed my death warrant'.

### **The Treaty debates**

On 8 December, after hours of argument the cabinet ministers voted four to three to accept the Treaty. De Valera refused to accept the final verdict. The press, the Catholic Church and public opinion in general supported the Treaty. People in business wanted to see a return to normality which would restore the economy. Many were encouraged by the prospect of the release of political prisoners which was a benefit of the Treaty being accepted. After the cabinet meeting, de Valera issued the following statement: 'I feel it my duty to inform you that I cannot recommend the acceptance of this Treaty either to Dáil Éireann or to the people'. The I.R.A. was divided, but many members were willing to follow

Collins. The I.R.B. issued a statement in support of the Treaty.

### **Against the Treaty**

Those who were opposed to the Treaty made key points:

- The delegates had no right to sign it.
- The delegates had betrayed the Republic.
- The oath of allegiance was totally unacceptable.

### **In favour of the Treaty**

The key points were:

- There was no alternative to signing and the delegates wanted to avoid renewed warfare.
- The Treaty was a realistic approach allowing the freedom to gain more freedom.
- In signing, the delegates had acted within their rights as outlined in the meeting in Dublin on 3 December.

### **The vote**

Between 22 December 1921 and 3 January 1922, the Dáil was in recess for Christmas. During the break, public opinion came out strongly in favour of acceptance. In Collins's final speech to the Dáil on 19 December, when urging people to decide he said, 'Let us take responsibility ourselves and let us in God's name abide by the decision'. Dáil Éireann passed the Treaty by 64 votes to 57 votes on 7 January 1922.

## MICHAEL COLLINS AND KITTY KIERNAN

All through the Treaty negotiations, Michael Collins wrote to his girlfriend, Kitty Kiernan, who lived in Granard. Writing to Kitty, on 16 October 1921, Collins wished he was in Granard:

'...and how I wish I were there now - on the Moat.

Last time I was on the Moat, early morning. Do you remember? I looked across the Inny to Derryvaragh over Kinale and Sheelin ... to Mount Nugent and turning westward saw Cairnhill where the beacons were lighted to announce to the men of Longford that the French had landed at Killala.'



KITTY KIERNAN (COURTESY OF MARGO GEARTY)





# ACTIVITIES

## A. True or false

1. The Government of Ireland Act became law in 1920. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Truce came into operation on 11 July 1921. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The first Irish delegation to discuss a treaty was led by Arthur Griffith. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Eamon de Valera signed the Treaty. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Dáil voted in favour of the Treaty. \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Put these events in chronological order. Number them 1 to 5.

- The Truce came into operation. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Government of Ireland Act became law. \_\_\_\_\_
- Arthur Griffith led the Treaty negotiations. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Dáil voted on the Treaty. \_\_\_\_\_
- The cabinet voted in favour of the Treaty. \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Match each event to its effect

A Truce was agreed in July 1921.	This was a major surprise to everyone.
The Government of Ireland Act became law in 1920.	The 26 counties were to be known as the Irish Free State.
Eamon de Valera decided not to negotiate the Treaty.	Fighting between the British and the I.R.A. stopped.
The Treaty was signed on 6 December 1921.	Ireland was partitioned.

## D. Match A and B

A	B
Michael Collins	British Prime Minister
Arthur Griffith	Signed the Treaty
Lloyd George	Led the Irish in Treaty negotiations
Eamon de Valera	Port of Cobh
Queenstown	Met Lloyd George in July 1921



### E. Crack the Code

Crack the code and find out what Lloyd George said in 1918.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	F	J	B	G	K	C	H	L	D	I	M	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	U	O	V	P	W	Q	Y	R	Y	S	Z	T

19	13		24	8	1	9	9		8	1	17	13		26	16
14	13	5	16	26	11	1	26	13							
24	16	12	13	10	1	21		19	11	26	8		26	8	13
12	13	14		19	8	16									
22	13	18	22	13	24	13	14	26							
11	22	13	9	1	14	10									

## NOTES

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## UNIT 13

# THE CIVIL WAR

**A**fter the vote in the Dáil approving the Treaty, Eamon de Valera resigned as its president, along with his cabinet supporters. He then walked out of the Dáil with the others who opposed the Treaty. Arthur Griffith was elected as president. The thing that those who were against the Treaty were particularly unhappy with was the oath of allegiance. It would have to be taken by members of the Dáil and Senate.

### **The Provisional Government**

By approving the Treaty, the Dáil had, in a way, voted itself out of existence and agreed to be the parliament of the twenty-six counties. It

created a new type of government. A Provisional Government was formed in January 1922. It was elected by the pro-Treaty members of the Dáil and Michael Collins was appointed as its chairman. Its main task was to oversee the transfer of power from Britain to Ireland. Secondly, it was responsible for drawing up a constitution which would be acceptable to Britain and Ireland. Finally, it had to try to regenerate the economy which had been badly disrupted by years of war.

### **I.R.A. reaction to the Treaty**

Richard Mulcahy was determined that the army would remain the army of the Irish Republic



ANTI-TREATY I.R.A. MEMBERS IN APRIL 1922.



and be loyal to the Provisional Government. The reality was that the I.R.A. was split. On 20 March, the I.R.A. held an army convention but only the anti-Treaty members attended. They elected their own leaders and made Liam Lynch chief of staff of the anti-Treaty I.R.A. Those members of the I.R.A. who supported the Treaty wore a new green uniform and became known as the National Army or the Free State Army. The anti-Treaty I.R.A. were called 'Irregulars' by some people.

### **The taking-over of the Four Courts**

In March, de Valera organised his supporters into a political party called Cumann na Poblachta. On 14 April, Rory O'Connor led a group of anti-Treaty I.R.A. troops into the Four Courts in defiance of the Provisional Government. De Valera did not support this action. No action was taken to remove them from the Four Courts. In May 1922, Collins and de Valera came to a pact or agreement before the general election. They agreed that a coalition government with people who were for and against the Treaty would be

formed after the election. Rory O'Connor and the republicans rejected it as did the British.

### **General election, 16 June 1922**

There were 128 seats in the Dáil and the results of the election were:

Provisional Government	58
Anti-Treaty	35
Labour	17
Independents	7
Farmers	7
Trinity College Dublin	4

The results of the election showed there was widespread approval of the Treaty with support in the region of 70%. People wanted to return to normal living. Their main concerns were peace, law and order and jobs.

### **Civil War**

Britain began to pressurise the Provisional Government to end the Four Courts occupation. On 26 June, General J.J. 'Ginger' O'Connell,



THE FOUR COURTS ON FIRE.



deputy chief of staff of the National Army was kidnapped by some of the Four Courts garrison. On 28 June, after a failure to release him the National Army attacked the Four Courts. The Irish Civil War had begun.

After three days of bombardment of the Four Courts with artillery, borrowed from the British, the garrison surrendered. The anti-Treaty forces occupied strategic buildings in Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) as in 1916. This, as in 1916, was a disastrous tactic

and they were forced out into the open. Cathal Brugha died from wounds he received, and Eamon de Valera took part in the fight as a private. On 12 July, Collins became commander-in-chief of the National Army. Liam Lynch became leader of the anti-



HARRY BOLAND  
(IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM)

Treaty forces and they controlled the south and the west of Ireland. By late July, they had been forced out of Limerick city and later, they lost many of their strongholds in the south. Collins's close friend Harry Boland, who took the anti-Treaty side, died of wounds on 1 August.

The Civil War divided friends, brothers and families. This is well portrayed in the movie 'The Wind That Shakes the Barley'. In August, the National Army attacked the remaining anti-Treaty areas in Cork and Kerry from the coast. By the end of August, the anti-Treaty cause was largely lost and men retreated to the mountains and the woods as in the War of Independence.

On 12 August, Arthur Griffith died in a convalescent home where he was recovering from a stroke. On 22 August, Michael Collins was killed in an ambush by the anti-Treaty forces at Béal na mBláth, near Macroom, County Cork. The death of Collins was a great loss to the new state. He masterminded the War of Independence, organised the Dáil Loan, was a



THE FUNERAL PROCESSION OF MICHAEL COLLINS IN DUBLIN. (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND)



major negotiator of the Treaty and the key person in the new government. He was only 32 years of age at the time of his death. He was succeeded as commander-in-chief by Richard Mulcahy.

### The two armies at war

The National Army or Free State Army had a number of advantages during the Civil War:

- It had better weapons and more ammunition.
- It controlled shipping and was able to attack from the coast.
- It had the support of most people in the countryside.
- Members knew the countryside well and so the anti-Treaty I.R.A. had less chance to hide away.

It has also been said that generally, anti-Treaty troops did not have the same passion or vision that the I.R.A. had in the War of Independence. Their aim was to stop the Treaty from working.



RICHARD MULCAHY  
(UCD ARCHIVES)

### The war continues

On 9 September 1922, the new Dáil met. W.T. Cosgrave replaced Arthur Griffith as president of the Dáil. In late September, the Dáil voted to set up military courts with the power to impose the death penalty on those found in unauthorised possession of arms. Among those executed under this act were Erskine Childers, Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Dick Barrett and Joseph McKelvey.



ERSKINE CHILDERS  
(UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK  
LIBRARY)

By the end of January 1923, over fifty anti-Treaty soldiers were executed, but the fighting continued. By the spring of 1923, the anti-Treaty side was clearly losing as the Irish Free State functioned with increasing ease. The turning point came on 10 April, when Liam Lynch was fatally wounded in the Knockmealdown Mountains. De Valera

tried to secure a ceasefire on favourable terms. When this did not happen, he announced that the anti-Treaty I.R.A. was dumping its arms. Frank Aiken, who had taken over from Liam Lynch, ordered all I.R.A. units to stop fighting on 24 May 1923. The Civil War was over.



LIAM LYNCH  
(UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK  
LIBRARY)

### The Civil War in Longford

Most members of the I.R.A. and Sinn Féin in Longford supported the Treaty. This was mainly because leaders like Seán MacEoin and Joe McGuinness did so, and they persuaded people to follow them. However, there was an anti-Treaty minority, including a small number of members of the North Longford Flying Column. Some men formed a small flying column of their own.

The anti-Treaty I.R.A. carried out some attacks in 1922-23 including raids on barracks and ambushes of the National Army. They also burned Currygrane House, near Ballinalee (the home of the Wilson family), and tried to burn Castleforbes, Newtownforbes, and Ardagh House. These houses were the homes of landlords.

While there was little violence in Longford, sadly, the Civil War divided some families and caused people to feel bitterness towards those who disagreed with them.

### After the war

In August 1923, there was a general election which was the first one under the Irish Free State. As in June 1922, there was a large majority in favour of the Treaty. The pro-Treaty party was by then known as Cumann na Gaedheal. Anti-Treaty Sinn Féin, led by Eamon de Valera, refused to take their seats in the Dáil because they would not take the oath of allegiance. This meant that the opposition to the government was small and included the Labour Party, the Farmer's Party and others. In 1926, de Valera founded a new party named Fianna Fáil and it entered the Dáil the following year.



# Timeline of the Civil War

## 1922

- 14 January:** Provisional Government formed.
- 16 January:** formal handover of power in Dublin Castle.
- March:** De Valera set up Cumann na Poblachta. The anti-Treaty I.R.A. held an army convention.
- 14 April:** anti-Treaty forces took over the Four Courts.
- 20 May:** Collins - de Valera pact.
- 16 June:** general election results reflected widespread support for the Treaty.
- 26 June:** General J.J. O'Connell kidnapped by the anti-Treaty I.R.A.
- 28 June:** Four Courts shelled and the Civil War began.
- 12 July:** Michael Collins became leader of the National Army.
- July-August:** the National Army attacked anti-Treaty forces in the south.
- 12 August:** Arthur Griffith died.
- 22 August:** Michael Collins killed.



ANTI-TREATY LEAFLET. (COURTESY OF THE IRISH CAPUCHIN ARCHIVES)

- 19 September:** new Dáil met and W.T. Cosgrave was elected its president.
- 28 September:** setting up of military courts.
- 24 November:** Erskine Childers was executed.
- 8 December:** Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Dick Barrett and Joe McKelvey were executed.

## 1923

- 10 April:** Liam Lynch was killed.
- 24 May:** Frank Aiken ordered I.R.A. units to stop fighting.

### The effects of the Civil War

- It created a bitter atmosphere in the early years of the Irish Free State.
- Many people were killed and wounded, and families were divided.
- The country lost many of its talented leaders such as Collins, Griffith, Brugha, Boland, O'Connor, Mellows, Childers and Liam Lynch.
- Political issues were taken up by pro- and anti-Treaty sides, rather than them focusing more on social and economic issues.
- Anti Treaty T.D.s elected in 1923 refused to enter the Dáil which was a major problem for democracy.
- The Civil War hardened the resolve of the Ulster unionists to remain outside the Free State.



CUMMAN NA nGAEDHEAL ELECTION POSTER, 1923.





# ACTIVITIES

## A. True or false

1. The Dáil voted in favour of the Treaty in 1922. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Liam Lynch became chief of staff of the anti-Treaty I.R.A. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Rory O'Connor and supporters took over the G.P.O. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Civil War began on 28 June 1923. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Arthur Griffith was killed in an ambush. \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Put these events in chronological order, numbering them 1 to 5.

- The Civil War ended in May 1923. \_\_\_\_\_
- Anti-Treaty forces took over the Four Courts. \_\_\_\_\_
- Michael Collins was killed. \_\_\_\_\_
- Erskine Childers was executed. \_\_\_\_\_
- There was a general election in August 1923. \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Match each event to its effect.

The Irish people wanted peace.	The anti-Treaty I.R.A. soon stopped fighting.
Liam Lynch was killed.	W.T. Cosgrave became president of the Dáil.
Arthur Griffith died.	He was a great loss to the new state.
Micheal Collins was killed.	The Irish people backed the Treaty.

## D. Match each person with their role.

Arthur Griffith	Leader of Four Courts garrison
Frank Aiken	Free State general
Rory O'Connor	President of the Dáil
Michael Collins	Chief of staff of anti-Treaty I.R.A.
'Ginger' O'Connell	Commander of the National Army

## E. Crack the code and find out the names of these people

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	C	E	D	B	F	H	I	K	G	J	L	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	P	T	R	O	Q	S	U	X	Y	Z	V	W

12 8 1 13      13 3 12 12 18 26 20 \_\_\_\_\_

26 16      2 18 20 10 17 1 25 3 \_\_\_\_\_

6 17 1 14 9      1 8 9 3 14 \_\_\_\_\_





THIS MONUMENT IS ON THE CARPARK NEAR ST MEL'S CATHEDRAL IN LONGFORD. IT COMMEMORATES ALL OF THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE VOLUNTEERS AND I.R.A. IN COUNTY LONGFORD IN THE PERIOD FROM 1916 TO 1923.





An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
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