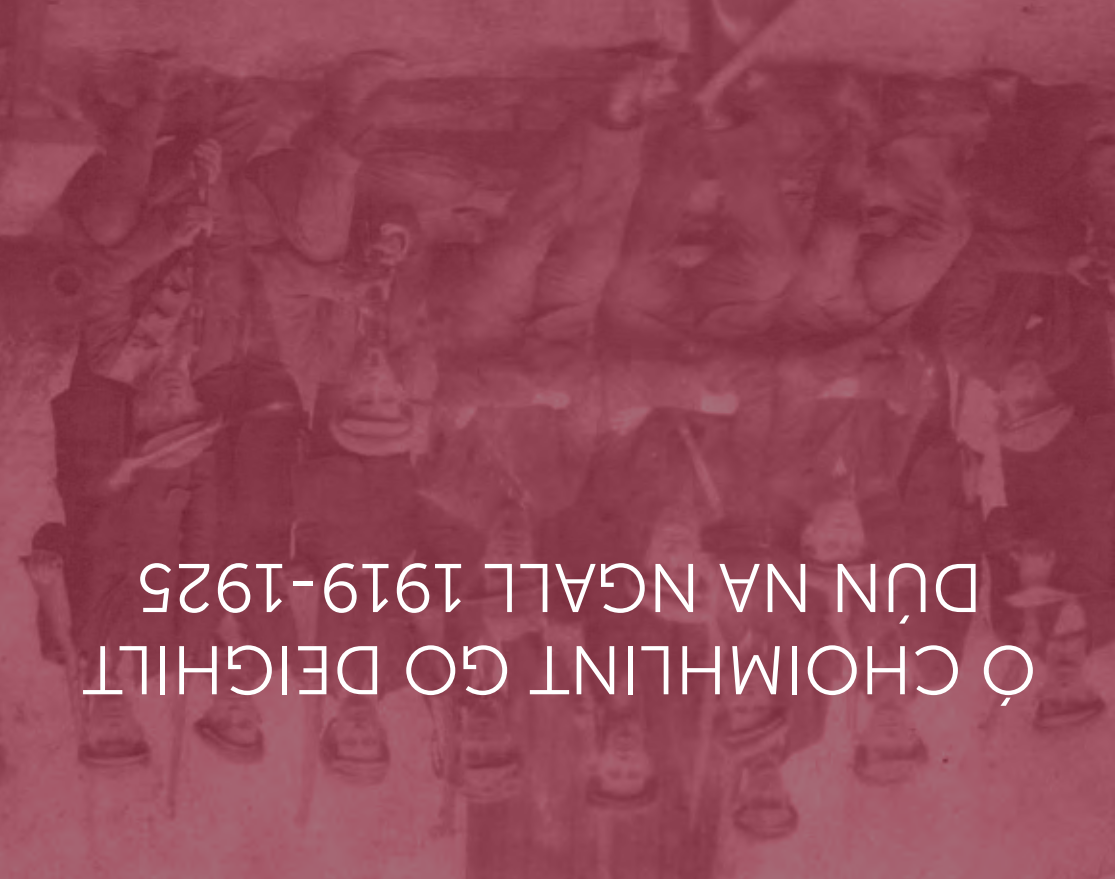


# FROM CONFLICT TO DIVISION DONEGAL 1919-1925

FROM CONFLICT TO DIVISION - DONEGAL 1919-1925

5261-6161 TTAGN AN NÚD LTHIGIÉD OG INTLHIÓHO Ó

Ó CHOIMHLINT GO DEIGHILT  
DÚN NA NGALL 1919-1925



# Introduction

The period 1912 – 1923 is perhaps one of the most important in Irish history. The events that occurred during this decade transformed the island of Ireland and have had a lasting legacy on Irish politics and society up to the present day.

In the years leading up to the First World War, tensions between those who wanted to remain in the Union and those who wanted independence for Ireland increased. Two opposing forces were formed – the Ulster Volunteer Force and Irish Volunteers - and the stage was set for civil war in Ireland. The onset of the War delayed any possible conflict but the ongoing issues had not been resolved.

While the First World War was being fought, those who saw this as Ireland’s opportunity, organised themselves to secure Ireland’s independence. The Easter Rising of 1916 was initially unsuccessful but the actions of the British in the aftermath of the Rising and in particular the executions of the leaders swung public opinion round to support the rebels.

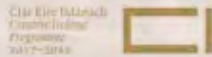
A General Election took place on 14th December 1918. Support for the Sinn Féin party had increased following the Rising and also as a result of their anti-conscription campaign. Sinn Féin won 73 seats, the Unionists won 26 and the Irish Parliamentary Party won 6. The Sinn Féin MPs refused to take their seats in Westminster. A new path was being set which would ultimately lead to the War of Independence and the Civil War.

This booklet was written and edited by Caroline Carr and Judith McCarthy, Donegal County Museum, Culture Division, Donegal County Council.

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An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



# Réamhrá

B'fhéidir go bhfuil an tréimhse 1912 – 1923 ar na tréimhsí is tábhachtaí i stair na hÉireann. Rinne na heachtar a tharla le linn na mblianta sin athru ó bhonn ar oileán na hÉireann agus d'fhág siad lorg buan ar pholaitíocht agus ar shochai na hÉireann suas go dtí an lá inniu.

Sna blianta roimh an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda tháinig méadú ar an teannas idir an dream a bhí ag iarraidh fanacht san Aontas agus an dream a bhí ag iarraidh níos mó neamhspleáchais d'Éirinn. Bunaíodh dhá fhórsa a bhí in éadan a chéile – Óglaigh Uladh agus Óglaigh na hÉireann – agus bhí céim tugtha i dtreo cogadh cathartha in Éirinn. Le tús an chogaidh cuireadh móil ar choimhlint ar bith a d'fhéadfadh tarlú ach ní raibh na ceisteanna leanúnacha réitithe.

A fhad is bhí an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda ar siúl chonacthas do dhream daoine gurbh é sin faill na hÉireann agus d'eaagraigh siad iad féin le neamhspleáchas a bhaint amach d'Éirinn. I dtús ama níor éirigh le hÉirí Amach na Cásca 1916 ach bhí tionchar ag bearta na mBriotanach i ndiaidh an Éirí Amach agus go háirithe ag cur chun báis na gceannairí ar dhearcadh an phobail agus tosáidh ag tabhairt tacalochta do na reiblíúnaigh.

Tharla Olltoghchán ar 14ú Nollaig 1918. Bhí méadú tagtha ar an tacalocht do pháirtí Shinn Féin i ndiaidh an Éirí Amach agus mar gheall ar a bhfeachtas frith-choinscríofa. Bhain Sinn Féin 73 suíochán, na hAontachtaithe 26 agus Páirtí Parlaiminteach na hÉireann 6 cinn. Dhíuláitigh Teachtaí Parlaiminte Shinn Féin a suíocháin a ghlacadh in Westminster. Bhí bealach nua á réiteach arbh é an deireadh a bheadh leis Cogadh na Saoirse agus Cogadh na gCarad.

Is iad Caroline Carr agus Judith McCarthy, Múseam Contae Dhún na nGall, Rannóg an Chultúir, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall a scríobh agus a chuir in eagar an leabhrán seo. Fuair an leabhrán seo tacalocht ón Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus na Meán faoi thogra Dheich mBliana na gCúmhneachán Céad Bliain 2012-2023.



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# Cogadh na Saoirse 1919-1921

Baill de chuid na Chéad Dála taobh amuigh de Theach an Ardmhéara, Baile Átha Cliath, Eanáir 1919.

Le caoinchead ó Roinn na Staire, Cartlann Mhíleata (IE\_MA\_HS\_A\_0862)

I ndiaidh Olltoghcháin 1918, chruthaigh Feisirí nuathofa Shinn Féin a bparlaimint féin d'Éirinn, Dáil Éireann, ar an 21 Eanáir 1919. Ghlac na baill an teideal TD (Teachta Dála). Ag an chéad chruinniú d'fhógair siad neamhspleáchas na hÉireann ón Bhreatain Mhór, ghlac siad Bunreacht agus thogh siad Airí Airgeadais, Gnóthaí Eachtracha, Gnóthaí Baile agus Cosanta. Toghadh De Valera mar Uachtarán ar an Dáil nua.

Ag an am céanna, mhéadaigh ionsaithe ar Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann (an RIC) agus leathnaigh siad sin fud fad na tíre. Le himeacht ama tugadh 'Óglaigh na hÉireann' ar na treallchogaithe seo. De réir a chéile bhí sé ina chogadh sa tír agus bhí freagairt na Breataine in éadan an IRA ag éirí níos foréigní. Sa bhliain 1920, d'earcaigh Rialtas na Breataine trúpaí breise don RIC, na Dúchrónaigh mar a thugtaí orthu. Lean díoltas, maruithé agus ruathair ar aghaidh go dtí 1921. Fógraíodh dlí míleata agus faoi lúil 1921, bhí 4,500 Óglach faoi ghlac i gcampaí imtheorannaithe.



Grúpa Dúchrónach,  
Baile Átha Cliath

I mí Meán Fómhair 1919, dearbhaíodh gur eagraíocht chontúirteach í Dáil Éireann agus cuireadh cosc uirthi. Lean siad orthu, áfach, ag oibriú stát Éireannach a bhí ag feidhmiú go hiomlán. Tugadh isteach córas cúirte nua le breithiúna, dlíthe nua agus fiú sraith príosún seiftithe. Ghlac an stát nua seilbh ar rialtas áitiúil fosta agus íocadh cánacha agus fíneálacha áitiúla leis an Dáil agus ní le rialtas na Breataine.

An chéad chomhrac i nDún na nGall, tharla sé i mí na Nollag 1919. Rinne na hÓglaigh i nDún na nGall ionsaí ar iarnróid, bóithre agus Bearic. Le gach ionsaí thu an RIC agus an t-arm faoi bhabhta gabhála agus frithionsaithe.

Tugadh isteach an ceathrú Bille Rialtas Dúchais in 1920 agus rinneadh dlí de in 1921. Bhunaigh sé dhá Pharlaimint Rialtas Dúchais in Éirinn - Parlaimint do Dheisceart na hÉireann agus ceann eile do na sé chontae i dTuaisceart Éireann (Doire, Tír Eoghain, Fear Manach, Aontroim, Ard Mhacha agus an Dún).



Caisleán na Finne (Lios Cúite/Cúil na gCuirridín 2Ú Cathlán , Briogáid Uimh. 4 , 1ú Roinn an Tuaiscirt, IRA

## Óglaigh na hÉireann i nDún na nGall le linn Chogadh na Saoirse

I nDún na nGall, ceithre bhriogáid a bhí sa 1ú Rannán d'Óglaigh na hÉireann: Iarthar Dhún na nGall, Oirthuaisceart Dhún na nGall, Iardheisceart Dhún na nGall agus Oirdheisceart Dhún na nGall. Airm, armlón agus gléas iompair na deacrachtaí is mó a bhí ag na Briogáidí. I rith na 1920í, rinne na hÓglaigh ruathair ar thithe ag cuardach arm agus armlóin. Scrios siad línte iarnróid, droichid agus bóithre agus ghabh siad postas. I Meán Fómhair 1920, Briogáid Oirthuaisceart Dhún na nGall a rinne an chéad ruathar airm i rith

an lae in Éirinn ar Bheairic RIC Dhroim Chaoin, Co Thír Eoghain. D'ionsaigh agus mharaigh na hÓglaigh daoine ar creideadh iad a bheith ag tabhairt eolais do na Briotanaigh, iad sin a bhí ag bagairt orthu agus iarshaighdiúirí. In 1921, d'fhuadaigh Óglaigh na hÉireann James Duffy VC agus bagraíodh bás

Judge Cloke made the following awards at Lifford. Destruction Arranmore Signal Station, £300; burning Arranmore Coast-guard Station and flagstaff, £3,000; burning of hut and stores at Ned's Point Fort, £2,465; burning of Ford motor and stores near Buncrana, £210, with £5 to Private Williams; destruction of Moville Customs and Excise Office, £900, with £120 for records of old age pensions and Excise registers, and £15 to Duncan Grarey, for personal belongings; damage to Doaghmore Lighthouse, £8; Co. Donegal Joint Railways were awarded £95 for destruction of permanent way and damage to bridge

Cúirteanna Seisiúin Leifear, Deireadh Fómhair, 1921, Derry People agus Donegal News

air. Briogáid Iarthar Dhún na nGall, faoi cheannaireacht Joseph Sweeney TD ba ghníomhaí acu. Mar fhreagairt ar ionsaithe, luíocháin agus ruathair na nÓglach, ghabh an RIC agus na fórsaí míleata daoine ó cheann ceann an chontae agus rinne frithionsaithe.

## Colún Reatha Dhún na nGall

Grúpaí Óglach a bhí ábalta bogadh ó áit go háit go gasta agus ionsaithe treallchogaíochta a dhéanamh, ba chuid thábhachtach de Chogadh na Saoirse iad. Thugtaí Colúin Reatha orthu. Cionn is iad a bheith chomh soghluaiste sin, ba dhoiligh do na saighdiúirí agus don RIC dul sa tóir orthu agus a ngabháil.

Go mall in 1920, mhol Peadar O'Donnell do Joseph Sweeney Colún Reatha Dhún na nGall a chur ar bun. Rinne sé Jim Walsh agus Tom Sullivan, Corcaigh, William Doheny, Tiobraid Árann, James McKee, Muineachán, Con Connally, Ard Mhacha, agus ceathrar as Doire, Alfie McCallion, William Cullen, James Tyler agus Seamus McCann, a earcú.



Óglaigh de chuid an IRA (Colún Reatha, b'fhéidir) ar theorainn Dhún na nGall/ Thír Eoghain, Bealtaine 1922, Belfast Telegraph

Nuair a bhain an Colún Reatha an Clochán Liath amach i mí Eanáir 1921, bhí triúr de bhunadh ná háite, Frank O'Donnell, Con Boyle agus Joe O'Donnell, réidh le bheith mar chuid den cholún. Chuaigh an Colún Reatha seo, i gcuideachta go leor Óglaigh eile de chuid na háite, i mbun luíochán agus ionsaithe.

Le linn eachtra amháin, thug siad iarraidh luíochán a chur roimh thraein Londonderry & Lough Swilly. Fuarthas eolas go raibh traein lán saighdiúirí i riocht traein speisialta éisc ag teacht as Doire, ag tarraingt ar Ailt an Chorráin. Níorbh fhada gur eagraigh Joseph Sweeney agus Peadar O'Donnell luíochán. Bhí saighdiúirí Briotanacha ar bord. Cuireadh carraigeacha ar an líne díreach taobh amuigh de Chroithlí agus pléascadh gránáid a rinne damáiste don iarnród. B'éigean don traein stad agus chuathas ag scaoileadh ar a chéile ar feadh thart faoi 10 mbomaite, sular ordaíodh don Cholún Reatha tarraingt siar.

## Luíochán ag Bealach Féich

Ar an 2 Meitheamh 1921, chuaigh fir de chuid an Rifle Brigade a bhí lonnaithe ag Caisleán Dhroim Bó ag iascaireacht ar Loch Trosc in aice le Bealach Féich. Rinne Óglaigh na háite luíochán orthu. Sa lámhach a tharla ina dhiaidh sin, maraíodh Óglach James McCarron. Roimhe sin, bhí sé in Arm na Breataine sa Chéad Chogadh Dhomhanda.

Ansin, rinne na fórsaí míleata cuardaigh ag iarraidh teacht ar an chuid eile de na hÓglaigh. Tuairim ar mhíle go leith ó láthair an luíocháin, chuaigh siad isteach i dteach James Doherty ag Corr Aifrinn agus rompu bhí James agus a mhac Edward. Níltear d'aon bharúil faoin chéad rud eile a tharla do Edward, nach raibh sna hÓglaigh ná baint aige leis an luíochán.

Dúradh san fhiosrúchán mhíleata oifigiúil i gCaisleán Dhroim Bó, 'Nuair a chuaigh na saighdiúirí isteach sa teach, d'imigh Edward amach. Dúradh leis faoi thrí stad agus scaoileadh trí urchar san aer. Nuair nár stad sé, scaoileadh air agus gortaíodh é. Tugadh chun an ospidéal é, áit a bhfuair sé bás roinnt uaireanta an chloig níos moille'. De réir an fhiosrúcháin, scaoil Fórsaí na Corónach, agus iad i mbun a gcuid dualgas, James McCarron agus Edward Doherty beirt.

Ba é an leagan den scéal a bhí ag muintir na háite, nuair a tháinig na saighdiúirí agus na Dúchrónaigh a fhad le teach James Doherty gur ransaigh siad é ó bhun go barr agus rinne ionsaí ar a mhac Edward. Nuair a thug Edward iarraidh é féin a chosaint, scaoil saighdiúir sa bholg é.



## Riail agus Reacht

### Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann (RIC)

An RIC a bhí i mbun na póilíneachta taobh amuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath. Fórsa thart faoi 10,000 fear a bhí iontu agus iad breá oilte. Faoi choinne teacht isteach rialta agus pinsin a chuaigh cuid mhór fear isteach sa RIC.

Le linn Chogadh na Saoirse, rinneadh cuid mhór ionsaithe ar phóilíní agus ar a gcuid beairicí agus maraíodh go leor acu. Ar an 10ú Aibreán 1919, rinne an Dáil údarú foirmeálta ar bhaghat agus feachtas imeagla in éadan póilíní, a muintire agus daoine eile a raibh baint acu leis an fhórsa, ar nós tiarnaí talún,

soláthraithe agus lucht siopa. An toradh a bhí air seo gur éirigh a lán acu as an fhórsa.

Ar an 12ú Nollaig 1919 i nDún na nGall, i ndiaidh ghabháil triúr Óglach, gortaíodh ceathrar oifigeach de chuid an RIC in ionsaí.

Mar fhreagairt ar ionsaithe na nÓglach, thug rialtas na Breataine feithiclí iompair don RIC, le cois airm níos fearr agus tuilleadh ball. Bhunaigh siad Constáblacht Speisialta Uladh i nDeireadh Fómhair



An Constábla Charles McGee, Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann (RIC), as chontae Dhún na nGall, a maraíodh ar 24ú Aibreán, 1916 i mBaile an Ghearlánaigh, Contae Lú. Bailiúchán Mhúsaem Contae Dhún na nGall

1920, rinne siad iarshaighdiúirí Briotanacha a earcú, ar tugadh na 'Dúchrónaigh' orthu agus chruthaigh Rannán Póilíní Cúnta ina raibh 1,500 fear. Iaroifigigh in Arm na Breataine a mbunús.

I Meán Fómhair 1920, cuireadh fógra bagrach in airde ar an Fhál Charrach,

"Mura stadfar den bhaghat ar na póilíní faoi cheann 48 uair an chloig, nó má ghortaítear duine de na póilíní, caithfidh ceannairí Shinn Féin ar an Fhál Charrach agus i nGort an Choirce a bheith ar a bhfaichill. Lena chois sin, déanfar léirscrios ar a dtithe."

Faoi Dheireadh Fómhair 1920, bhí gach beairic in Iarthar Thír Chonaill tréigthe, ach bhí fir go fóill i nDún Fionnachaidh agus ar an Fhál Charrach. Dhóigh na hÓglaigh an chuid eile go talamh láithreach.

Ba mhínic a bhaineadh na Dúchrónaigh díoltas gan trua, gan trócaire amach ar bhunadh na háite. Rinneadh ruathar laethúil ar thithe agus gabhadh fir óga agus cuireadh i bpríosún iad gan cás cúirte in n-éadan. In 1920, gabhadh PJ Ward TD, a bhí ina oifigeach



Baill de chuid RIC agus a dteaghlach ag fágáil  
Bheairic Dhún Fionnachaidh, 1921  
Bailliúchán Mhúsaem Contae Dhún na nGall

ceannais ar an 4ú Briogáid, Deisceart Dhún na nGall agus cuireadh i bpríosún Wormwood Scrubs é, áit a raibh sé páirteach i stailc ocrais.

In Aibreán 1921, thuairiscigh Cigire RIC an cheantair,

“Tá iomlán cheantar an Chlocháin Léith gan póilíní .... tá sé cosúil le mionphoblacht. Tá strainséirí agus fir atá ar a seachaint i ndiaidh cruinniú le chéile ann. Tagann buíonta creachadóirí as an cheantar seo chuig na dúichí in aice leis ar mhuintir capaill, ar rothair agus iad i mbun coireanna millteanacha... déanann siad luíocháin roimh na póilíní agus na saighdiúirí má dhéanann siad iarracht teacht isteach sna críocha gan dlí seo; ní féidir gléas iompair mótaí a thabhairt isteach sa cheantar seo; rinneadh a oiread damáiste don bhóthar iarainn nach dtagann traen ar bith an bealach.”

Ar an 9ú Bealtaine 1921, rinneadh ionsaí marfach ar Charles Murdock agus Alexander F Clarke, beirt chonstáblaí de chuid an RIC, in aice le Cluain Maine. Thángthas ar chorp an Chonstábla Clarke ar an chladach lá arna mhárach. Ní bhfuarthas corp an Chonstábla Murdock riamh.

Ar an 18ú Bealtaine 1921, thug Peadar O'Donnell ordú do chomplacht Leitir Ceanainn ionsaí a dhéanamh ar an RIC i Leitir Ceanainn leis an bhrú a bhaint dá Cholún Reatha in Iarthar Dhún na nGall. Rinne an chomplacht luíochán in aice leis an Institiúid Liteartha, ar an Phríomh-Shráid Íochtair agus thosaigh a scaoileadh ar phatról RIC díreach i ndiaidh 11pm. Scaoil grúpa eile ar Bheairic Uimh. 2 ag bun an bhaile. Maraíodh an Constábla Albert Carter. Tháinig póilíní breise, na Dúchrónaigh san áireamh, ar an láthair. Bhain siad díoltas amach nuair a gortaíodh beirt de bhunadh an bhaile agus scaoileadh ar Óstán McCarry, a bhí in úsáid mar Chúirt Phoblachtach, agus caitheadh gránáid isteach ar an fhuinneog.

Scoireadh an RIC ar an 31ú Lúnasa 1922 i ndiaidh shíniú an Chonartha Angla-Éireannaigh.

## Cúirteanna Dháil Éireann

I mí na Bealtaine 1920, cruthaíodh Cúirteanna Dháil Éireann le teacht in áit an chórais cúirte a bhí ann roimhe. Bhí na cúirteanna seo mídhleathach, de réir Rialtas na Breataine. Cuireadh cúirteanna ar bun ar an Chlochán Liath, na Gleannta, Bun Dobhráin agus i gCúil na gCurraidín. Dhóigh Óglaigh na hÉireann na tithe cúirte i mBaile Dhún na nGall, Inis Eoghain, Bun Cranncha, Leitir Ceanainn agus in áiteanna eile. Tosaíodh a theacht anuas go trom ar na Cúirteanna seo i bhfómhar 1920. I mBaile Dhún na nGall, rinne an RIC ruathar agus tháinig ar 48 toghairm.

Úsáideadh Coláiste Uladh, i gCloich Cheannfhaola, mar Chúirt Dála. Scriosadh i dtine í ar an 19ú Samhain 1920. Bhí tuairisc faoi ar an Derry Journal ar an 26ú Samhain.

“Mar a tuairiscíodh go hachomair ar an Derry Journal Dé hAoine seo a chuaigh thart, scriosadh an Coláiste Gaeilge agus na stórais Comharchumann taobh leis i dtine go luath maidin Déardaoin. An mhaidin roimhe, tháinig fir faoi éide agus bhris siad isteach ar fhuinneoga an choláiste, rinne carn de na táblaí agus na cathaoireacha agus chuir le thine iad. D’imigh siad leo agus d’éirigh le muintir na háite an tine a chur as.... Ar a 2 a.m. stad leoraí trom ar feadh tamaill sa sráidbhaile agus chuaigh na daoine a bhí sa leoraí a fhad leis an choláiste. Tamall ina dhiaidh sin tugadh faoi deara gur cuireadh an coláiste agus stórais an chomharchumainn le thine...”.

Ba é a scríobh Agnes (Una) O’ Farrelly, iar-Phríomhoide Choláiste Uladh,

“Féadann amadáin tithe a tógadh le dícheall agus foighne daoine níos críonna ná iad a leagan, ach ní thig leo lámh a leagan ar intinn chine. Rachaidh obair Choláiste Uladh na Gaeilge ar aghaidh, le cuidiú Dé, faoi dhídean nó gan í...”.

I mí Eanáir 1921, ag an Chúirt Seisiúin, thug an giúistís a bhreith, á rá nach raibh fianaise ar bith ann gur póilíní nó fórsaí na corónach

a bhí freagrach as an eachtra. Bhí sé cinnte, mar sin féin, gur dó mailíseach a bhí ann.

As siocair go raibh príosún de dhíth in Iarthar Dhún na nGall, úsáideadh seanstáisiún leasaithe scadáin, ar tugadh Machaire Maoláin air, faoi choinne phríosúnaigh na háite agus na Breataine faoi gharda armáilte. Bhí an príosún agus na cúirteanna ag feidhmiú go dtí 31ú Deireadh Fómhair 1922.

## Póilíní Poblachtacha na hÉireann (IRP)

In 1920, agus an RIC ag tarraingt amach, cuireadh fórsa póilíneachta Poblachtach ar bun. Dar le Rialtas na Breataine gur eagras mídhleathach, ceannairceach é. Rinneadh cuid mhór earcaíochta agus íocadh tuarastal iomlán leis na baill. Ba iad a chuir slándáil ar fáil do na Cúirteanna Dála agus a chuidigh leo a mbreitheanna a fheidhmiú. Chomhlíon siad fosta gnáthdualgais póilíní, ag plé le mionchoiriúlacht agus cúrsaí dlí eile. Tháinig siad anuas go trom ar dhriogadh agus díol mídhleathach uisce beatha agus poitín. Ní raibh éide oifigiúil acu ach banda muinchille ar a raibh 'IRP'.



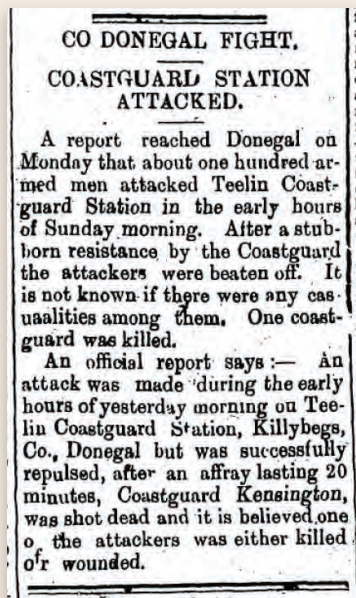
Póilíní Poblachtacha na hÉireann (IRP) , Dún na nGall

## An Garda Cósta

Bhí an Garda Cósta mar fhórsa cúltaca don chabhlach, chosain siad suimeanna leasaithe lucht Cánach, chosain na cladaí agus chuidigh leis na póilíní teacht ar stíleanna mídhleathacha alcóil. Le linn Chogadh na Saoirse, rinneadh ionsaí orthu agus dódh cuid mhór stáisiúin de chuid an Gharda Cósta. D'ionsaigh Óglaigh na hÉireann Stáisiún Gharda Cósta Theilinn ar an 12ú Meitheamh 1921. Scaoileadh Garda Cósta William Kennington marbh. Dódh an stáisiún in 1923.

## Cuid de na daoine a maraíodh le linn Chogadh na Saoirse

Ar an 5ú Nollaig 1920, scaoil fórsaí na Breataine Thomas Rooney i mBéal Átha Seanaigh. Tuairiscíodh go raibh cuid mhór daoine ar an bhaile go bhfeicfeadh siad díbirt tí. Nuair a tháinig Fórsaí na Breataine ar an láthair, bhagair siad ar gach duine a lámha a chur in airde. Is cosúil go ndearna Rooney neamhiontas den bhagairt agus gur imigh sé ina rith. Dúradh leis stad agus nuair nár stad, scaoileadh é. Ag an choiste cróinéara, fuarthas gur scaoil na fórsaí míleata é agus iad i mbun a gcuid dualgas.



Meitheamh, 1921, Derry Journal

Dé Luain 28ú Feabhra 1921, scaoileadh Michael Heeney marbh. De réir tuairiscí éagsúla, scaoileadh é agus é ag iarraidh éalú ó ghabháil mhíleata nó le linn troda le Dúchrónaigh ar an Mhálainn Bheag nó gur tarraingíodh amach as a theach é agus gur chuir beirt phóilíní chúnata chun báis é nó gur scaoileadh é nuair a dhírigh sé gránghunna ar na póilíní.

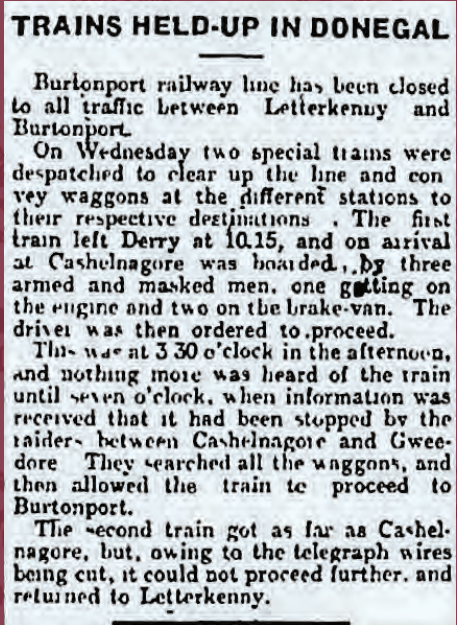
Ar an 30ú Meitheamh, bhí Owen McCarron, feirmeoir as Baile Mhic Fhearaigh Uachtair, Bun Cranncha ag aoireacht eallaigh ar an bhealach mhór nuair a casadh patról míleata Briotanach air. D'iarr oifigeach air stad ach shiúil sé leis. Scaoileadh marbh é. De réir fiosrúcháin bhí moill éisteachta ar Owen McCarron, 64 bliain, agus is dócha nár chuala sé na saighdiúirí ag ordú dó stad.

## Ionsaithe ar na hIarnróid

Bhí líonra fairsing iarnróid ag Dún na nGall lá den saol, a rith ó Charn Domhnach go hAilt an Chorráin go dtí na Cealla Beaga agus Bun Dobhráin. Sholáthraigh trí chomhlacht iompar iarnróid i gcontae Dhún na nGall, An Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company (L&LSR), an County Donegal

Railways Joint Committee (CDRJC) agus an Great Northern Railway Board (GNR). Le linn Chogadh na Saoirse, bhí bagairtí, ruathair agus luíocháin leanúnacha ann, chomh maith le traenacha a chur de na ráillí, agus bhí tionchar tromchúiseach acu ar oibriú na n-iarnród. Díriodh go háirithe ar iarnród Londonderry agus Lough Swilly le hionsaí beagnach gach lá i rith 1920 agus 1921.

Ar an 12 Meitheamh 1920, dódh Tullybrook House, teach cónaithe Henry Forbes, Bainisteoir an CDR, cóngarach do Leathaigh, go talamh.



Aibreán, 1921, Derry People agus Donegal News

## ‘Buile in éadan Mhuinisean Cogaidh’

Bhí an traein phoist ina sprioc thábhachtach do na hÓglaigh maidir le faisnéis a bhailiú. D’fhreastail línte L & LSR Bun Cranncha agus Carn Domhnach ar shaoráidí cabhlaigh na Breataine agus batairí cladaigh.

Rinneadh bagairt ar fhoirne traenach le foréigean nó le bás má d’iompair siad trúpaí armtha, póilíní nó ábhar a bhí beartaithe dóibh. I mí na Bealtaine 1920, thosaigh baghcat nuair a dhiúltaigh fir iarnróid oibriú ar thraenacha ag iompar saighdiúirí Briotanacha, soláthairtí míleata nó muinisin in Éirinn. Chuir sé seo teorainn ar an iompar míleata go dtí iompar bóithre amháin agus rinneadh trinsí sna bóithre agus iad a bhlocáil de shíor. Le linn na tréimhse seo cuireadh go leor ar fionraí agus rinneadh go leor eile a bhriseadh.

I mí na Nollag 1920, ghlac brainse Shrath an Urláir den National Union of Railwaymen rún (NUR)

“go bhfuil muidne, baill bhainse Shrath an Urláir den N.U.R. sásta gach aicme tráchta a thairgtear a láimhseáil agus a iompar. Ar a bharr sin, iarraimid ar na cuideachtaí éagsúla na fir iarnróid a cuireadh ar fionraí nó a briseadh a bpoist a thabhairt ar ais dóibh agus gealltanais tugtha acu gach aicme oibre a dhéanamh gan cheist.”

## Ionsaithe agus Fuadaigh

Ar an 1 Lúnasa 1920, fuadaíodh tiománaí L & LSR, Robert Quinn, a dheonaigh traein ag iompar trúpaí a thiomáint i ndiaidh do thiománaithe eile a bheith curtha ar fionraí as diúltú sin a dhéanamh, as a theach cónaithe i nDoire agus tugadh go hAilt an Chorráin é. Cuireadh iallach air dearbhú a shíniú gan oibriú ar thraenacha míleata níos mó.

Ar an 31 Lúnasa 1920, chuaigh fir armtha agus maisc orthu isteach i stáisiún Chaiseal na gCorr agus chuir an tiománaí agus an garda faoi bhéal ghnúna. Tógadh gach post oifigiúil agus cuireadh an



chuid eile den phost ar ais ar an traein. Tharla ruathar poist eile i mBaile an Droichid nuair a robáil deichniúr fear armtha agus maisc orthu traein CDR 10.20 a.m., Dhún na nGall-Béal Átha Seanaidh agus thug siad 21 mála poist leo.

Dé Céadaoin an 8 Meán Fómhair 1920, agus Henry Forbes, Bainisteoir an CDR ar bord, choinnigh roinnt fear armtha agus

maisic orthu ar an traein ag Droim Bairr agus d'éiligh siad na saic phoist. Scaoil Forbes urchair ar na ruathairí, chuaigh sé sa tóir orthu agus d'éirigh leis duine acu a ghabháil.

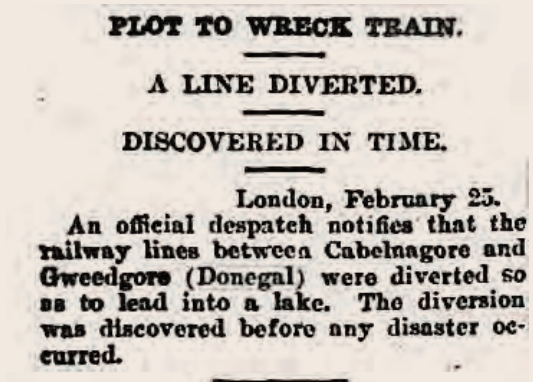
## Traenacha Curtha de na Ráillí

I Go luath i mí Lúnasa 1920, rinneadh c.240 troigh den líne iarnróid idir Chroithlí agus Cionn Caslach a stróiceadh agus a chaitheamh isteach i Loch Chonaill in aice láimhe. In aice le stáisiún Chroithlí, Gaoth Dobhair, caitheadh

24 bollán mór ar an líne á blocáil go hiomlán. Níor rith traenacha paisinéirí ar bith ó Leitir Ceanainn go hAilt an Chorráin ar feadh coicíse.



Meitheamh, 1921, Strabane Chronicle



Feabhra, 1921, Strabane Chronicle

I mí Feabhra 1921, cuireadh traein an CDR idir Baile na Finne agus Na Gleannta de na ráillí, agus rith an traein síos an claifort isteach i Loch Fhinne. An mhí chéanna, bhail traein an L & LSR ó Dhoire go hAilt an Chorráin faoi bholláin a cuireadh ar an líne taobh amuigh de Chionn Caslach. Cuireadh an t-inneall agus an chéad charráiste de na ráillí gan duine ar bith a bheith gortaithe. Bhí 15 shaighdiúir ar bord.

## Cumann na mBan

Bunaíodh Cumann na mBan in Aibreán 1914. Ghníomhaigh baill mar chúntóirí do Chomhairle Mhíleata Bhráithreachas Phoblachtach na hÉireann, d'Arm Cathartha na hÉireann, d'Óglaigh na hÉireann agus do Shinn Féin agus bhí ról tábhachtach acu in Éirí Amach na Cásca in 1916. Bhí ar gach ball freastal ar chúrsaí Garchabhrach agus Ranganna Gaeilge agus spreagadh iad fosta le páirt a ghlacadh i gcleachtas Comharthaíochta, Máirseála, Druileála agus i gcleachtas Targaidí.



Cumann na mBan, Anagaire, Co Dhún na nGall, 1922  
C-D Mary Phaidí Bhig, Annie William, Bidy William, Roise Jimmy Theague, Mary William

“Chláraigh scaifte mór dinn lena n-áirítear Mairéad McCarthy, Mary Mc Gee, Jenny Johnston agus na Siewes. Taispeánadh dúinn an dóigh le gunnán a láimhseáil – díriú ar an chloigeann ar dtús agus má theipeann air sin, seas díreach agus is cinnte go mbuailfeá áit éigin iad. Bhí an chraic go maith.”

Brigid Gallagher, An Fál Carrach.

Le linn Chogadh na Saoirse, chuimsigh an ról a bhí acu teachtaireachtaí a sheachadadh agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do na Colúin Reatha trí eolas, airm, trealamh, bia, dídean, éadaí agus cuidiú leighis a sholáthar dóibh.

I 1919, nuair a bunaíodh na Cúirteanna Poblachtacha, ghníomhaigh siad mar eagraithe agus mar chláraitheoirí. D’eagraigh siad cruinnithe poiblí, dháil siad bileoga agus chroch siad póstaer. Dhíol siad Bannaí Dála agus rinne siad gníomhaíochtaí eile tiomsaithe airgid amhail damhsaí agus ceolchoirmeacha a eagrú. Chuir siad “tithe sábháilte” ar fáil d’fhir a bhí ar a seachaint, thug siad tacaíocht do theaghlaigh na bpríosúnach, bhailigh siad achainíocha, rinne siad agóid agus



bhunaigh siad Gardaí Onóra. Bhí ról suntasach ag mná i gcur i bhfeidhm Bhaghat Bhéal Feirste, ag reáchtáil coistí bhaghat, ag creachadh siopaí agus traenacha, agus agóidí a reáchtáil. Rinne Eithne Coyle, ball iomráiteach de Chumann na mBan i nDún na nGall, feachtas bean aonair ar iarnród Loch Swilly & Londonderry, ag gabháil earraí agus ag dó nuachtáin Bhriotanacha.

C-D Mae Burke, Luimneach, Cumann na mBan, Eithne Coyle (Eithne Ní Chumhaill), Dún na nGall, Cumann na mBan agus an Bhanaltra Linda Kearns, Sligeach ag Garrán Duckett, Ceatharlach, 1921

**MISS EITHNE COYLE.**

The Chairman of the Released Prisoners' Committee, 91, Stephen's Green, Dublin, on 5th December, writes as follows:—

Permit me to give the public a slight appreciation of Miss Eithne Coyle, one of the girl hunger strikers released recently from the North Dublin Union. She has had a consistent national career all through the Black and Tan time down to the present day. She was arrested December, 1920, by Black and Tans, court-martialled March, 1921, and sentenced to three years' penal servitude, and escaped from Mountjoy with Nurse Kearns and Miss Keogh October 31, 1921. She worked hard during the present war, taking part in all its attendant dangers. She was arrested by Free State forces in Donegal Town on the 23rd September, 1922, lodged in Ballystanion, where she had to go on six days' hunger strike to get removed to Buncrana, where she was provided with women to look after her. From there she was removed to Mountjoy on the 19th November, 1922, and underwent two hunger strikes for political treatment. Her comrades in jail have happy memories of her unselfishness in jail life. She taught the Northern Irish to many there who were delighted to pass the weary hours in such a way. On the 27th April, 1923, she was transferred to the N.D.U., and remained there. On the 24th October she joined in the great general hunger strike. She was one of the number who accepted the Government's word in good faith, and came off on the 7th November, being then unconditionally released. I congratulate the land of Tirconnell on such a daughter!

Mí na Samhna, 1923,  
Donegal Democrat

Cé go raibh ról tábhachtach ag Cumann na mBan le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca, diúltaíodh ionadaíocht dóibh ar Ard-Chomhairle Arm na hÉireann le linn idirbheartaíocht an Chonartha in 1921. In 1922, ba iad an chéad eagraíocht náisiúnta iad a chuir i gcoinne an Chonartha Angla-Éireannaigh. Rith a gcoiste feidhmiúcháin rún i mí Feabhra 1922 ag athdhearbhú a ndílseachta do Phoblacht na hÉireann. I ndiaidh an rúin seo tharla scoilt ina mballraíocht.

Ó 1934, rinne go leor ball iarratas ar phinsean nó ar bhonn seirbhíse. Chomh maith lena n-iarratas, iarradh orthu fianaise agus tagairtí a sholáthar mar fhianaise chomhthacaíoch. Diúltaíodh éilimh go leor de na hiarrthóirí.

Chuir Mary A Meehan as na Frosa iarratas isteach in 1934 ach diúltaíodh di. Rinne sí achomharc ar an chinneadh seo ag rá;

“Chláraigh mise le brainse Chumann na mBan Ethna Carbery (3ú Briogáid 1ú Rannán an Tuaiscirt), Baile Mhic Cathail, Na Frosa in 1918 agus chuidigh mé le damhsaí a eagrú agus a chur ar siúl le cuidiú leis an Olltoghchán in 1918. Chuir Oifigeach de chuid na nÓglach faoi mhionn mé in 1921 agus chuidigh mé leis na hÓglaigh ar gach bealach ab fhéidir liom. Le linn ruathar ar theach m’athar le linn Chogadh na nDúchrónach agus Cogadh na gCarad, chaith na Dúchrónaigh agus baill den Arm Náisiúnta go dona liom. Rinne mé garda fad is a fuair baill d’Aonaid Seirbhíse Gníomhaí cothú nó nuair a chodail siad i mo theach.”

Faoi dheireadh bronnadh pinsean beag uirthi in 1940.

## An Sos Cogaidh agus an Conradh Angla-Éireannach

De réir mar a mhéadaigh básanna ar an dá thaobh i rith 1921, rinneadh iarracht sos cogaidh a chur i bhfeidhm. Tar éis go leor idirbheartaíochta cuireadh tús le sos cogaidh an 11 Iúil 1921.

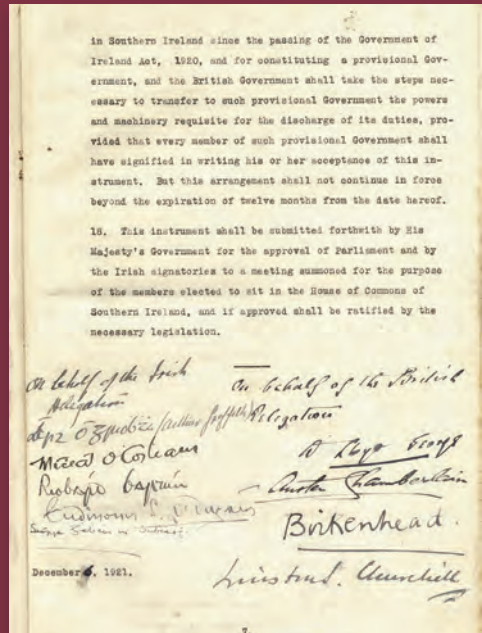
I ndiaidh sraith cainteanna, síníodh an Conradh Angla-Éireannach, ag bunú Saorstát nua na hÉireann, i Londain an 6 Nollaig. Bheadh Tuisceart Éireann ann go fóill, ach bhunófaí Coimisiún na Teorann le hathbhreithniú agus athmheas a dhéanamh ar an Teorainn. Bheadh Éire ina Saorstát leis na cearta céanna leis na tiarnais eile, ach chaithfeadh gach ball parlaiminte mionn dílseachta don Rí a ghlacadh. Dúirt Michael Collins gur bhain siad amach,

“... ní an tsaoirse deiridh a bhfuil gach náisiún ag dérim

léi agus a fhorbraíonn di, ach an tsaoirse chun í a bhaint amach”.

Dhiúltaigh De Valera den Chonradh.

Bhí formhór na ndaoine i bhfách leis an Chonradh, mar chuir sé deireadh le foréigean Chogadh na Saoirse. Arsa PJ Ward, MP Shinn Féin do Dhún na nGall Theas, ag Díospóireachtaí an Chonartha,



An Conradh Angla-Éireannach á shíniú ag toscairí na hÉireann agus toscairí na Breataine ag 10 Sráid Downing, Londain ar 6ú Nollaig 1921

“Bhí mé i gcoinne an Chonartha suas go dtí an Nollaig. Chuaigh mé síos go dtí mo dháilcheantar... Faoi Nollaig phléigh gach Cumann Shinn Féin an Conradh seo eatarthu féin... d’iarr Cumainn Shinn Féin, a seacht déag in éadan a trí, go ndéanfaí an Conradh seo a dhaingniú faoi agóid agus dúirt siad nach bhféadfadh siad an dara rogha eile a fheiceáil.”

I vóta sa Dáil in Eanáir 1922 ritheadh an Conradh le 64 vóta go 57.



De Valera ag éirí as an Dáil nuai ra ritheadh an Conradh Angla-Éireannach. C-D Cathal Brugha, Margaret Mhic Phiarais, De Valera, Kathleen Ní Chléirigh agus Aibhistín de Staic.

In iarracht scoilt bhuan a sheachaint i ndiaidh shíniú an Chonartha, beartaíodh na hÓglaigh a úsáid i gcogadh in éadan an rialtais nuabhunaithe i mBéal Feirste. Tugadh an ‘Northern Offensive’ air seo. Athlonnaíodh Óglaigh as Corcaigh agus Ciarraí chomh maith leis na sé chontae go dtí na contaetha ar theorainn Thuaisceart Éireann lena n-áirítear Dún na nGall. Thosaigh an Feachtas le sraith ionsaithe feadh theorainn Dhún na nGall agus chuaigh sé chun déine le cath ag Paiteagó agus Béal Leice go mall i mí na Bealtaine / Meitheamh 1922.

# An Cogadh Cathartha in Éirinn 1922-23

An 16 Eanáir 1922, thug rialtas na Breataine smacht ar Chaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath don Rialtas Sealadach (Saorstát) faoi stiúir Michael Collins. An 14 Aibreán ghlac fórsaí Frithchonartha seilbh ar na Ceithre Chúirteanna i mBaile Átha Cliath. Vóta cinntitheach don Chonradh a bhí san olltoghchán i Meitheamh 1922. An 28 Meitheamh 1922, faoi bhagairt atosú na cogaíochta ó Rialtas na Breataine, rinne fórsaí an tSaorstáit ionsaí ar na Ceithre Cúirteanna agus phléasc Cogadh na gCarad.

Pléasc ag na Ceithre Cúirteanna, 30 Iúil 1922. Thug Micheál Ó Coileáin an t-ordú é a bhombardú le sliogáin airtléire in iarracht na fórsaí Frith-Chonartha a bhogadh amach. Chuir sin tús le Cogadh na gCarad.

I nDún na nGall, bhí smacht ag fórsaí an Chonartha ar an chontae go luath, ach ní gan frithbheartaíocht éigin ó fhórsaí Frithchonartha. B'fhéidir gurb é an ghníomhaíocht Frithchonartha is rathúla i nDún na nGall ná Baghcat Bhéal Feirste a athbhunú. Cosc ar dhíol earraí, de dhéantús gnólachtaí Aontachtaithe, ó dheas den teorainn a bhí ann. Stop siad traenacha, bhain siad earraí astu agus scrios siad iad.

Faoi thús 1923, agus go leor dá lucht leanúna faoi ghabháil, agus easpa tacaíochta ón phobal i gcoitinne, d'éirigh sé soiléir nach raibh aon dóchas ann go mbeadh an bua ag na fórsaí Frithchonartha. Nuair a chuir údaráis an tSaorstáit ceathrar fear chun báis ag Caisleán Dhroim Bó i Srath an Urláir mí an Mhárta 1923, chuir sé sin deireadh, a bheag nó a mhór, leis an fheachtas Frithchonartha i nDún na nGall.

An 24 Bealtaine 1923, d'fhógair De Valera agus Frank Aiken sos cogaidh agus thug siad ordú dá gcuid fear a n-airm a leagan uathu. Bhí deireadh le Cogadh na gCarad, ach bheadh tionchar an naimhdis agus na scoilte ar shaol na hÉireann ar feadh na mblianta.

### DONEGAL AND THE BOYCOTT.

#### Belfast Goods Destroyed.

As part of the boycott of Northern goods the following incidents were reported by Dublin Castle on Sunday :—

“ During the early morning yesterday the store at Ballyshann on Great Northern Railway Station Donegal, was entered by a number of armed raiders who destroyed five tons of oatmeal consigned from Euuiskillen to a firm at Garrison. The raiders also destroyed 63lbs of chocolates consigned by Cadbury's Belfast, to a crown force camp, and 72 brushes from the Ulster Brush Co, Belfast. At the same time four sacks of flour were taken from a waggon at the Donegal Company's Railway Station and destroyed.

Lúnasa, 1920, Derry People agus Donegal News



## Eachtra ar An Bhaile Nua

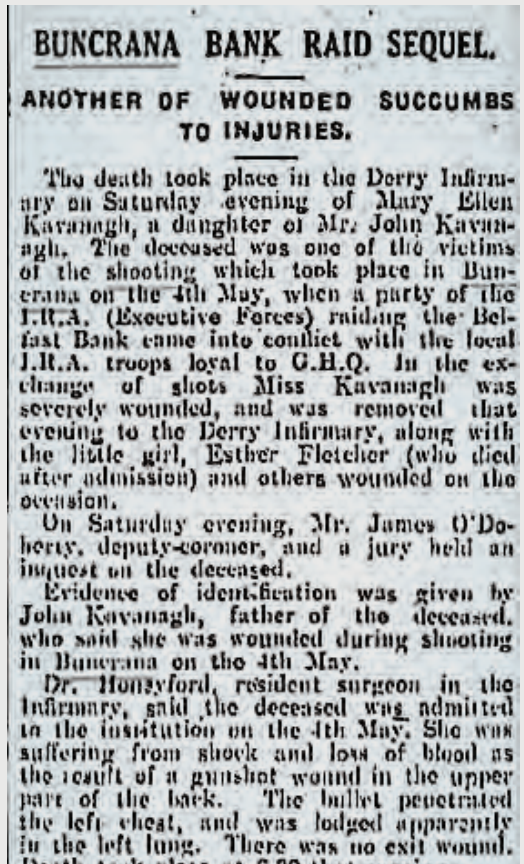
An 4 Bealtaine 1922, mar chuid de shraith ruathar, robáil fórsaí Frithchonartha brainse de Bhanc Uladh i mBun Cranncha. Agus iad ag imeacht, dúirt Sean Lehane, Oifigeach Ceannais na bhfórsaí Frithchonartha i nDún na nGall, gur scaoileadh leo “gan rabhadh ó pháirtí d’fhórsaí ar thaobh an Chonartha, a bhí i bhfolach i dtithe”. Malartaíodh urchar, gortaíodh roinnt acu agus maraíodh beirt neamhchiontach a tharla a bheith ar an láthair, Essie Fletcher naoi mbliana d’aois agus Mary Ellen Kavanagh naoi mbliana déag d’aois,

a fuair bás óna cneácha níos moille an mhí sin.

Thug fórsaí ar thaobh an Chonartha a bhí lonnaithe i gCaisleán Dhroim Bó, faoi thuairiscí faoin ruathar bainc a fhiosrú. De réir mar a thiomáin a leoraithe isteach sa Bhaile Nua, tosaíodh ag scaoileadh orthu ó fhórsaí Frithchonartha.

Fuair ceathrar fear a bhí ar thaobh an Chonartha bás mar thoradh ar an eachtra seo. Ba iad sin John McGinley, Daniel McGill, Edward (Eddie) Gallagher agus Edward Murray.

Ag fiosrúchán an chróinéara a rinne na húdaráis ar thaobh an Chonartha ag Droim Bó



Bealtaine, 1922, Strabane Chronicle

an lá dár gcionn, maíodh gur cuireadh gaiste roimh an chonbhua. Scríobh Sean Lehane chuig an phreas ag rá nach raibh a fhios ag a chuid fear cé a bhí sa chonbhua a bhí ag teacht ina dtreo agus gur chreid siad gur arm míleata na Breataine iad. Nuair a fuair siad amach gur Fórsaí ar thaobh an Chonartha iad, ghlaioigh sé orthu stad ach thosaigh siad a scaoileadh agus mar thoradh air sin bhí malartú lámhaigh ann. Scríobh Joseph Sweeney ina dhiaidh sin chuig an phreas, ag gearán faoi iarracht Lehane “a chur in iúl go ndearna ár gcuid fear ionsaí gan chúis ar bhuíon neamhurchóideach”.

Ba é cinneadh an fhiosrúcháin gur “dúnmharú toiliúil” a bhí ann.

## Gníomhaíocht Cogaidh Chathartha i nDún na nGall

### Cnoc na Carraige agus Baile Mhic Comhghaill, Litir Ceanainn

Go luath, Mí an Mheithimh 1922, ghabh fórsaí Frithchonartha seilbh ar Theach Chnoc na Carraige agus ar Theach Bhaile Mhic Comhghaill. Lá i ndiaidh thús Chogadh na gCarad, an 29 Meitheamh, 1922, tugadh ordú d’fhórsaí ar thaobh an Chonartha a bhí lonnaithe i Leitir Ceanainn seilbh a ghabháil ar an dá theach. Thosaigh na ruathair ag 5am. Gabhadh roinnt fear Frithchonartha i dTeach Bhaile Mhic Comhghaill, i ndiaidh cath gearr gunnaí. D’éalaigh líon beag acu. Ag Teach Chnoc na Carraige, scaoileadh Daniel Harkin ón fhórsa Frithchonartha agus fuair sé bás níos déanaí in Ospidéal Leifir. D’éalaigh na fórsaí Frithchonartha trí na coillte.

### Campa Fhionnúir

I ndiaidh shíniú an Chonartha, thug na Briotanaigh beairic ar láimh d’fhórsaí áitiúla cuma cé acu fórsaí ar thaobh an Chonartha nó fórsaí Frithchonartha a bhí iontu. Tugadh Fionnúir ar láimh do Rannán an Iarthair 3 ar an 17ú Feabhra 1922. Roghnaigh an garastún



Campa Fhionnúir á aistriú ag Oifigigh de chuid Bhriogáid na Raidhfíli, Arm na Breataine chuig 3ú Rannán an Iarthair, IRA, Feabhra 1921.

áitiúil an taobh Frithchonartha ina dhiaidh sin agus úsáideadh an bheairic mar champa traenála.

An an 29ú Meitheamh 1922, thug Fórsaí ar thaobh an Chonartha aghaidh ar Champa Fhionnúir lena ghabháil. Lean cath gunnaí é sin agus maraíodh James Connolly, ball den fhórsa Frithchonartha. D'éalaigh an chuid eile acu chuig na dumhcha taobh thiar d'Fhionnúir agus ghéill siad maidin lá arna mhárach..

## Gleann Bheatha

Go luath i mí Iúil, 1922, ghabh Fórsaí Frithchonartha seilbh ar Chaisleán Ghleann Bheatha mar a gCean Cheathrú, agus chuir siad stáisiúin raidió agus ionad garchabhrach ar bun agus rinne siad ruathair ar thithe áitiúla, siopaí agus traenacha le soláthairtí a aimsiú. Ar an 27ú Iúil, ghabh fórsaí ar thaobh an Chonartha Gleann Bheatha ar ais. Thángthas ar inneall prionta a úsáideadh leis an 'Tír Conaill Bulletin' a phriontáil.

## Dún na hInse

I lár mhí an Mheithimh, chúlaigh Briogáid Chathair Dhoire go Dún na hInse ar Inis, áit ar dhíbir siad airíoch na hInse. Ar an 15ú Iúil, ghéill siad nuair a rinne Fórsaí ar thaobh an Chonartha ionsaí ar an Dún le hairtléire.

## Ionsaithe agus Ruathair

Bhí roinnt ionsaithe agus ruathar ann i mí Iúil 1922.

Rinne Fórsaí Frithchonartha luíochán ar charr a bhí ag taisteal i dtreo Leitir Ceanainn ag Droim Caoin, agus dá bharr sin fuair beirt shaighdiúirí ar thaobh an

Chonartha bás, Jack Sweeney agus Charlie (Charles) McGinley agus gabhadh Willie Sweeney a tugadh go Gleann Bheatha agus a scaoileadh saor ina dhiaidh sin. Bhí fir ar son an Chonartha ó Gharastún Bhun Cranncha ag cuardach cóngarach do theorainn Dhoire nuair a tharla cath gunna le fórsaí Frithchonartha. Gortaíodh William Browne, de chuid an fhórsa ar son an Chonartha, agus fuair sé bás ina dhiaidh sin óna chréacht. Níos moille sa mhí, rinneadh luíochán ar fhórsaí ar son an Chonartha sna cnoic in aice leis na Gleannta. Maraíodh James Scanlon as na Gleannta agus Albert Devine as Doire.

An 17ú Deireadh Fómhair, le linn ruathair ag fórsaí ar son an Chonartha i dTeach Loch Bheatha, Gartán, scaoileadh an sibhialtach Patrick Fries agus fuair sé bás an lá dar gcionn in Ospidéal Leifir.

### THE DONEGAL DEMOCRAT FRIDAY, JULY 21,

s, yet

## Gallant Derry Officer Shot on Roadside.

from

Captain William Browne, of the National Army, stationed at Buncrana, who was wounded on Tuesday evening, died in Derry Infirmary on Friday last.

The deceased officer was one of a detachment of National troops who on Tuesday evening surprised a party of Irregulars who had installed themselves in the gate lodge belonging to Lieutenant-Colonel Harts, of Kilderry, a short distance from the Derry-Donegal border. The Irregulars fled on the approach of the National forces, and scattered into a wood where some shooting took place. After the firing ceased Captain Browne was standing on the road when a shot rang out, and he fell wounded, being shot through the abdomen.

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He was removed to Derry Infirmary, but owing to the nature of the wound little hope of his recovery was entertained, and he passed away on Friday last. Father Wm. Doherty, P.P., visited Captain Browne shortly before he died, and the last rites were performed by Father M'Gettigan.

Iúil, 1921, Donegal Democrat

## Mairtíriú Dhroim Bó, 1923

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 1920, ceapadh Charlie Daly, as Contae Chiarraí, mar eagraí lánaimseartha ar na hÓglaigh i dTír Eoghain agus Contae Dhoire. Dhiúltaigh sé don Chonradh Angla-Éireannach agus faoi lár 1922, bhí sé ina Leas-Oifigeach i gCeannas ar na bhFórsaí Frithchonartha i nDún na nGall.

Den chuid is mó, bhí muintir Dhún na nGall ar son an Chonartha. Faoi dheireadh 1922, bhí Daly agus na baill eile dá cholún – Timothy O’Sullivan agus Dan Enright as Chiarraí, Seán Larkin agus James Donaghy as Doire, Dan Coyle agus Frank (Francis) Ward as Dún na nGall agus James (Jim) Lane as Corcaigh – ag feidhmiú as Iarthar Dhún na nGall. Thuairiscigh Daly don Cheanncheathrú,

“Bhí níos mó ná 100 fear againn ag an tús, spairí agus fealltóirí a bhí i gcuid acu. I ndiaidh roinnt seachtainí ní raibh fágtha againn ach 30 fear agus ba strainséirí sa chontae chóir a bheith gach duine acu.”

I mí na Samhna, arsa Séamus McCann:

“Bhí Charlie agus a bhaicle bheag faoi go leor bhrú agus arm mór dea-fheistithe sa tóir air ... Bhí siad díreach i ndiaidh teacht go Mín na bPoll, Dún Lúiche agus bhí siad spíonta. Bhí siad díreach i ndiaidh luí síos agus iad go fóill ag caitheamh a gcuid buataisí nuair a tháinig fórsa mór míleata timpeall ar an teach. Rinne Charlie ar a raidhfil agus é leath ina chodladh. Ach sula bhféadfadh sé é sin a dhéanamh fuair sé buille ó phunt raidhfil. Tógadh Charlie agus a bhanna beag mar phríosúnaigh agus cuireadh faoi ghlas iad i gCaisleán Dhroim Bó.”

Cuireadh armchúirt ar na fir ar an 18ú Eanáir 1923. Fuarthas ciontach iad, ach níor ritheadh aon phianbhreith. Pléadh ráflaí go dtabharfaí pianbhreith bháis síos ag cruinnithe Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall agus Chomhairle Ceantair Tuaithe Dhún

The Royal Government Inspector stated there were no executions to take place. The whole thing was a fake. Councillor Duffy said he was very glad to hear the Inspector's statement. He had got some wires, one of which came from Perry, stating that these prisoners were sentenced to death, and while he did not want to place any obstacles in the way of the Government, as he had been a consistent supporter of the Free State since it came into being, he did not think it would serve any useful purpose if the executions took place. He was glad to have the assurance that there was no truth in the report.

Miontuairiscí Chomhairle Contae Thír Chonaill (Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall), 20ú Feabhra 1923  
 Bailiúchán Chartlann Chontae Dhún na nGall.

Fionnachaidh i mí Feabhra 1923. Dúirt an Cigire Rialtais Áitiúil, a bhí i láthair ag cruinniú na Comhairle Contae nach raibh aon bhásuithe le tarlú agus nach raibh sa rud ar fad ach bréag. Rith Comhairle Ceantair Tuaithe Dhún Fionnachaidh rún ag iarraidh ar an rialtas "a saincheart trócaire a léiriú agus gan an pionós uafásach a dhéanamh sna cásanna seo."

Ar 1:40pm ar an 11ú Márta, thuairiscigh teachtaireacht raidió ó Chaisleán Dhroim Bó go dtí an Cheanncheathrú i mBaile Átha Cliath gur maraíodh an Captaen Bernard Cannon in ionsaí ar an Chraosloch. Ba é an fhreagairt a fuarthas ná teachtaireacht a d'ordaigh dóibh ceathrar de na fir a chur chun báis, lena n-áirítear Larkin as Doire. Chuir Joseph Sweeney teachtaireacht ar ais chuig an Cheanncheathrú ar lorg soiléiriú. Cuireadh an bunordú ar ais chuige mar fhreagairt.

(1)  
 Last letter from late Division Quarter Master Sean Larkin  
 First Northern Division I. R. A. to his mother executed  
 at Drumroe Castle Co Donegal March 14 1923.

Beloved Mother - What a contrast the contents  
 of this letter are to the one I wrote you last  
 night. What a change 24 hours can bring.  
 But, mother, surely this is the last news it  
 would be possible for you to hear of me. I go  
 tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock to meet my  
 Redeemer and my Judge. Through the infinite  
 mercy of Almighty God I hope to join my dear  
 father & Dermot & all my deceased relatives &  
 friends in Heaven. Yes, mother, my hour has  
 come, and I must obey the call. But mother,  
 I want you not to worry about me & I hope  
 you will respect my wishes. You know that  
 this is God's will & what further proof of His  
 mercy could we have, in that He has given me  
 such an opportunity of preparing my soul  
 for eternity. Yes I have a lot to be thankful to  
 Almighty God for, when we consider the uncertainty  
 of life and the certainty of death and the readiness  
 with which so many young Irishmen are being

Cóip den litir dheireanach  
 a scríobh Seán Ó Lorcáin  
 chuig a Mháthair sular  
 cuireadh chun báis é i  
 gCaisleán Dhroim Bó in  
 1923.

Bailiúchán Chartlann  
 Chontae Dhún na nGall

Ar an 13ú Márta, cuireadh in iúl do Daly, O'Sullivan, Enright agus Larkin go gcuirfí chun báis iad trí scuad lámhaigh maidin lá arna mhárach.

Sa chúpla uair an chloig deiridh roimh breacadh an lae, scríobh Daly a litir dheireanach chuig a mháthair,

"Fuair muid nat nuacht thart ar a ceathair a chlog tráthnóna inniu. Cé go bhfuair muid an scéala tobann go leor, níorbh iontas iomlán é; lena chois sin bhí a fhios againn i gcónaí go dtiocfadh ár mbás a bheith mar thoradh ar an armchúirt ... Anois i gceann cúpla uair ghairid an chloig cuirfear chun báis mé agus tá mé ag scríobh chugat agus mé go hiomlán socair suaimhneachs..."

Chuimhnigh Joseph Sweeney;

"Ba é an rud uafásach ansin ná go gcaithfí Daly a chur chun báis. Fuair muid scéala ó Bhaile Átha Cliath go gcaithfí duine ar bith a gabhadh agus iad ag iompar airm a chur faoi thriail armchúirte

agus go gcuirfí pianbhreith báis air. Bhí orm an obair a dhéanamh mé féin, scud lámhaigh a ordú faoi choinne an bhásaithe, agus bhí sé deacair go háirithe mar bhí Daly agus mé féin an-chairdiúil nuair a bhí muid inár mic léinn, agus is rud uafásach é fear a bhfuil aithne agat air a mharú as fuil fhuar, má tá tú ar aon leibhéal lena chéile. Rud amháin is ea urchair a mhalartú le fear agus sibh i mbun catha, ach is rud eile ar fad é a chur chun báis.”

Ar 8am ar an 14ú Márta, tugadh Charlie Daly, Dan Enright, Timothy O’Sullivan agus Seán Larkin isteach sa choill taobh amuigh de Chaisleán Dhroim Bó agus scaoil scud lámhaigh iad. Léigh ráiteas ón Cheanncheathrú i mBaile átha Cliath

“Fuarthas an ceathrar cúisithe ciontach agus gearradh pianbhreith báis orthu. Dearbhaíodh na torthaí agus na pianbhreitheanna mar is cuí i ngach cás.”



Chathal Ó Dálaigh, Tadhg Ó Súilleabháin, Dónall Mac Ionnrachtaigh agus Seán Ó Lorcáin a cuireadh chun báis i gCaisleán nDroim Bó i Mí an Mhárta 1923. Bailiúchán Chártlann Chontae Dhún na nGall

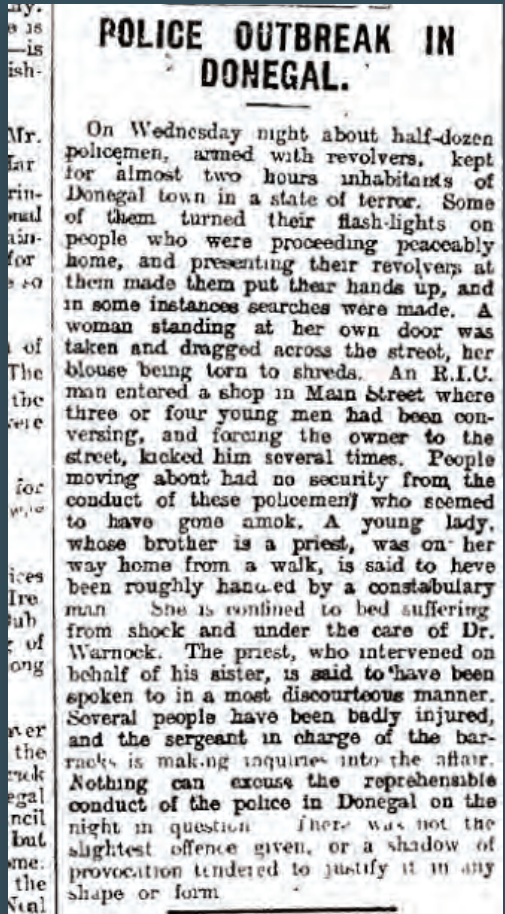


## Foréigean ar na Mná

D'fhulaing na mná ionsaithe fisiciúla, bagairtí, náiriú, imeagla agus fuadach le linn Chogadh na Saoirse agus an Chogaidh Chathartha araon.

Tógadh Mary Harley i Londain ach ba mhinic ar cuairt í ag daoine muinteartha i dTamhnach an tSalainn. Thart faoi 1.00 ar maidin ar an 23ú Feabhra 1921, mar bheart díoltais i ndiaidh mharú an Chonstábla Satchwell an lá roimhe, tháinig buíon RIC agus Dúchrónach agus rinne siad ruathair ar thithe i dTamhnach an tSalainn agus dhóigh cuid acu, lena n-áirítear teach Bernard McGroary, áit a raibh Mary Harley ag stopadh. Scaoileadh urchair le linn an ionsaí. Thángthas ar

chorp Mary ar a 9.00 ar maidin sa chlós cúil. I Meitheamh, ag na Ceathrúsheisiúin i Leifear, bronnadh £350 ar mhuintir Harley as bás Mary agus scríos Theach McGroary.



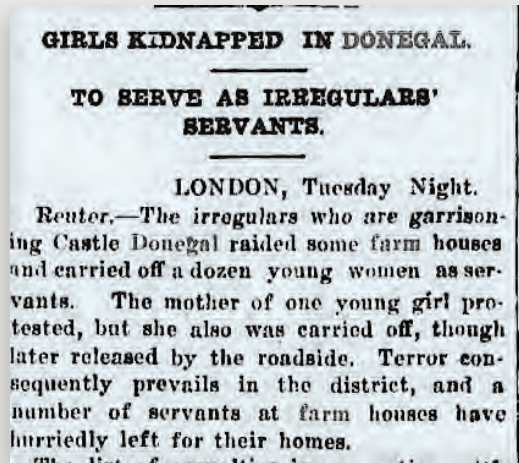
16tú Deireadh Fómhair, 1920,  
Derry People and Donegal News

I mBéal Átha Seanaigh, ar an 11ú Meán Fómhair 1920, tharraing ceathrar fear armtha a raibh maisc orthu Ellen Cooke, a bhí ar lóistín i dteach i Sráid na hÉirne, amach as an teach. Ghearr siad a cuid gruaige di, bhuail í agus thug uirthi mionn a thabhairt nach rachadh sí ar ais go beairic na bpóilíní go ceann naoi seachtaine. Ina dhiaidh sin bhí sí thar a bheith neirbhíseach agus í ina cónaí agus ag obair sa bheairic. Bhí sé doiligh aici obair ar bith eile a fháil. Bronnadh cúiteamh £40 uirthi ar Cheathrúsheisiúin Bhéal Átha Seanaigh.

Ghearr Óglaigh na hÉireann an ghruaig de bheirt chailíní óga as Deisceart Dhún na nGall agus rinne ionsaí orthu. Tugadh cúiteamh £100 dóibh i gCúirt Dála. I mí Feabhra 1921, tharraing deichniúr fear armtha a raibh maisc orthu bean amach as a leaba. Ghearr siad an ghruaig di agus thug drochíde di cionn is gur ghlac sí le tairiscint poist i mbeairic de chuid an RIC.

I mí na Bealtaine 1921, ghabh beirt fhear a raibh gunnaí acu Rose Ann Logue, teagascóir de chuid Bhord na gCeantar Cúng. Cuireadh síos di go raibh sí "ag coinneáil cuideachta" leis an RIC agus tugadh bagairtí di. Ansin, ghearr siad an ghruaig di. B'éigean di a post agus an ceantar a fhágáil. D'iarr sí cúiteamh agus ar Cheathrúsheisiúin Leifir, bronnadh £60 uirthi.

I mí Iúil 1922, rinne fórsaí Frithchonartha a bhí lonnaithe i nGleann Bheatha ruathar ar thithe feirme agus d'fhuadaigh siad mná óga le bheith ina gcailíní aimsire. Spréigh an eagla tríd an cheantar faoi seo agus cuid de na mná a fostaíodh, d'éalaigh siad abhaile.



Iúil 1922, Derry People and Donegal News

## Geilleagar agus Bochtaineacht

Tháinig cuid mhór athruithe de thairbhe Chogadh na Saoirse, an Chogaidh Chathartha agus na Críochdheighilte ach ag cuid mhór de na Conallaigh, is meath na talmhaíochta agus na hiascaireachta is mó a chuaigh i bhfeidhm ar a saol ó lá go lá, chomh maith leis an dífhostaíocht agus an bhochtaineacht fhorleathan a bhí mar thoradh air.



Páistí i nDún Lúiche,  
Co Dhún na nGall. Le  
caoinchead Caroline Carr

## Fostaíocht agus Eisimirce

Ar 24ú Iúil 1920, d'eisigh Dáil Éireann Forógra le cosc a cur ar an eisimirce ó Éirinn. Maíodh ann "... ní bheidh cead ag saoránach ar bith de chuid Phoblacht na hÉireann imeacht as Éirinn le cur fúthu thar lear ach amháin le cead scríofa ó Rialtas na Poblachta."

Chuaigh cuid mhór daoine ó Iarthar Dhún na nGall go hAlbain le prátaí a thoghadh nó na putóga a bhaint as scadáin. Bhí teaghlach ag brath go mór ar an phá sheachtainiúil a chuir na hoibrithe séasúracha seo abhaile.

Le linn Chogadh na Saoirse, bhí an tuairisc seo ar an Derry People and Donegal News,

"Ar 21ú Meitheamh 1921, tá 500 fear as Árainn Mhór, Ailt an Chorráin, an Clochán Liath agus áiteanna eile in Iarthar Dhún na nGall ag mallachtach faoin mhíre a bhain an bóthar iarainn, na sreangscéalta agus na nuachtáin díobh. Seo na fir a théann anonn go hAlbain gach bliain. Le cúpla lá anuas, tá siad ag plódú isteach i dtithe lóistín na cathrach [Doire].. ag fanacht le bád Ghlasú. Tá siad ag gearán gurbh éigean dóibh daichead míle a shiúl, cuid acu go Leitir Ceanainn, cuid eile go Srath an Urláir le traen a fháil. Mar bharr ar an donas, ní bhfuair siad nuachtán ar bith lena insint dóibh cá huair a sheolfadh an bád ná eolas ar bith de shreangscéal agus b'éigean dóibh dul sa seans agus teacht go Doire."

In 1922, moladh ar chruinniú den Chomhairle Contae, mar gheall ar leibhéal arda dífhostaíochta in Iarthar Dhún na nGall,



Lucht glanta scadán, Albain, 1921

“táimidne, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ag tathant ar an bhall atá ina ionadaí don chontae seo a iarraidh ar Rialtas Sealadach Shaor-Stát Éireann dul i mbun na ceiste seo le fostaíocht a fháil do chuid de na daoine seo ar a laghad...”.

I nDeireadh Fómhair 1923, dhruid Morton a monarchana Cairpéid Dhún na nGall in Anagaire, Croithlí agus i gCill Carthaigh agus chaill cuid mhór ban an t-aon fhoinse ioncaim a bhí acu.

Idir 1919 agus 1924, rinneadh ruathar agus ionsaí ar an iomad gnólacht, oifig phoist agus siopa i gContae Dhún na nGall. In amanna, dhóití iad. In 1921, scrios na Dúchrónaigh uachtarlann agus stórais Chomharchumann an Inbhir in éiric scaoileadh an Chonstábla Satchewell i dTamhnach an tSalainn.

## Cruatan agus Ocras

Tá an contae chomh bocht sin nach mó go bhfuil go leor le hithe againn. Bímid sásta nuair a fhaighimid prátaí agus salann, nó giota aráin agus braon tae.” Charlie Daly, 1923.

Ó 1922, chuaigh an caighdeán maireachtála i nDún na nGall in olcas. In 1923, bhí drochaimsir amach ann, drochfhómhar prátaí agus ganntanas mór móna faoi choinne cócaireachta agus teasa. Idir seo agus easpa fostaíochta in Albain, sna dúichí is boichte i nDún na nGall ba bhaolach go bhfaigheadh daoine bás den ocras.

Thug Maud Gonne agus Charlotte Despard cuairt ar Dhún na nGall i ndiaidh na scéalta a léamh faoi dhaoine a bheith beo bocht. Ina dhiaidh sin, scríobh siad chuig an Irish Independent ag iarraidh cúnamh ó Rialtas na hÉireann teacht i dtarrtháil ar bhunadh an Chontae. Chuir an Irish Independent tuairisceoir leis an scéal a fhiosrú. I dtuairisc amháin dúradh, “Is í an dífhostaíocht go príomha is cúis leis an díothacht agus an bhochtaineacht antoisceach atá go forleathan i measc mhuintir an Chontae ar chladaí Thír Chonail Thiar Thuaidh agus nach dtig le daoine bochta na háite bunriachtanais na beatha a riar dóibh féin. Dá bharr seo uilig, fuarthas amach go bhfuair bean darbh ainm Ní Ghallchóir bás den ocras i nGaith Dobhair.”

## Baghcat Bhéal Feirste

I mí Lúnasa 1920, mar fhreagairt d'óibrithe Caitliceacha a bheith á gcaitheamh as an longlann agus á ruaigeadh as a dtithe, chuir Dáil Éireann baghcat ar earraí as Béal Feirste agus bhain airgead amach as bainc a bhí lonnaithe i mBéal Feirste. Ní fada gur bhain sé seo le gnólachtaí agus le hearraí eile a tháirg comhlachtaí aontachtacha san oirthuaisceart. Bhíothas ag súil go léireodh sé seo go raibh oirthuaisceart na tíre ag brath go mór ar an deisceart faoi choinne tráchtála. Ó 1921, rinneadh é a fhorfheidhmiú le fineálacha nó le bagairtí ar chomhlachtaí a lean den trádáil. Dá dtiocfadh Óglaigh ar tháirgí a rinneadh san oirthuaisceart scriosfadh siad iad agus cuireadh cosc ar thrádáilithe sa deisceart gnó a dhéanamh lena leathbhreac ó thuaidh.

Ar shíniú an Chonartha Angla-Éireannaigh i mí na Nollag 1921 agus le bunú an rialtais shealadaigh ina dhiaidh sin, cuireadh an baghcat ar ceal. Go gearr ina

dhiaidh sin, áfach, chuir na hÓglaigh a bhí in éadan an Chonartha i bhfeidhm arís é. Mar fhreagairt air sin, bunaíodh an Ulster Traders' Defence Association. Iarradh ar Ultaigh gan earraí ón deisceart a cheannach ar nós éadaí, feola, ime, bainne, uibheacha, troscáin,

Liverpool area, making a total of 18 there.

## DIED FROM HUNGER

### HARROWING STORY FROM TIRCONAILL

The extreme want and destitution now prevalent in many homes along the N.W. Tírconail seaboard, primarily attributable to the effects of unemployment and the consequent inability on the part of the indigent poor to procure the bare necessities of life, had a distressing sequel, when a woman named Gallagher died in the Gweedore district from starvation.

Our Gweedore correspondent, who visited the family abode, found indescribable conditions prevailing. The miserable hovel in which a father, mother, and six children lived, and which served the dual purposes of living-room and bedroom, revealed within a nakedness seldom witnessed in a human habitation.

The stricken family had neither food nor fire, their emaciated appearance indicating the trying ordeal they endured in a relentless struggle against grim death.

An apology for a bed and a few poor articles of furniture were the only things that graced this home. Following the mother's untimely end, the father and children were subsequently removed to the County Home at Stranorlar.

As mentioned in yesterday's "Irish Independent," the plight of the people in Tírconail was discussed by the Co. Council, when it was stated that the privation was appalling, and it was agreed to make reduction in certain official salaries in order to secure some measure of economy. Mr. McGoldrick, T.D., said from the relief of distress grant of £20,000 of August, 1922, only £7,000 had been expended up till March 31, and the remainder of the money reverted to the Irish Treasury, while of the 1921 grant there was over £8,000 unexpended, yet there was an overdraft from the bank of over £3,000. He bitterly complained of this state of affairs, and said these grants had reverted because the rules laid down had not been carried out. He blamed the surveyors. Other Councillors said the surveyors were not to blame. The Council eventually appointed a committee to go into the question of road administration with a view to getting the reverted grants re-voted to the Council.

21 Nollaig, 1923, Irish Independent

pórtair agus uisce beatha. I Meitheamh 1921, úsáideadh ordú míleata le cosc a chur ar Londonderry and Lough Swilly railway earraí a iompar ó Dhún na nGall. In iarthar Thír Chonaill, rinne Pat 'the Cope' Ó Gallchóir an SS Better Hope a chairtffhostú agus thug lastas uibheacha go Glaschú. Mar chúiteamh, sholáthair an Scottish Co-Operative Movement earraí do Dhún na nGall. Nuair a thosaigh an Cogadh Cathartha, tháinig deireadh de réir a chéile leis an Bhaghat.

## Géarchéim Rátaí

In 1921, d'fhógair an Chomhairle Contae a ndílseacht do Dháil Éireann agus ghearr na naisc oifigiúla uile leis an Bhord Rialtais Áitiúil. An toradh a bhí air seo gur cailleadh deontais de £105,200 agus, mar sin de, ardaíodh na rátaí.

As siocair an dóigh a bhí

ar chúrsaí polaitíochta, bhí leisce ar go leor daoine a gcuid rátaí a íoc. Go mall in 1921, iarradh ar fhear darbh ainm Wilkinson £5 17/4 de rátaí a íoc agus dhiúltaigh sé. Ansin, fuair sé nóta ó Oifigeach Ceannais Bhriogáid Thír Chonaill Theas, Óglaigh na hÉireann inar maíodh 'daoine nach gcomhlíonann na horduithe seo, beidh siad thíos go mór leis'.

\* \* \*

The morning train arriving at Clady station, on the Co. Donegal Railway, was held up on Thursday of last week by a large number of armed men. They took a large consignment of tobacco and cigarettes, which was carried off

\* \* \*

A woman armed with a revolver seized a bundle of Belfast papers at Letterkenny and burned them. Afterwards she went to newsagents' shops, seized all available Belfast papers, took them to the Market Square and burned them.

\* \* \*

On Tuesday afternoon a woman, who carried a revolver, boarded the train at Buncrana and seized parcels containing Belfast newspapers. She took the parcels into another carriage, in which she travelled to Carrdonagh, and when crossing the bridge, a short distance from the station, she was observed throwing them into the river.

\* \* \*

1921, Derry People and Donegal News



## Caidreamh Pobail agus an Seicteachas

Caitlicigh ba mhó a bhí ina gcónaí i gContae Dhún na nGall ach bhí mionlach suntasach Protastúnach ann, agus cuid mhór acu ina gcónaí in oirthear an Chontae. In 1913, luadh i dtuairiscí de chuid an RIC, "an caidreamh cairdiúil ginearálta idir Caitlicigh agus Protastúnaigh" i nDún na nGall.

Bhí tionchar diúltach, áfach, ag Cogadh na Saoirse agus ag an Chogadh Chathartha ar an chaidreamh pobail. D'fhulaing Caitlicigh, lena n-áirítear

iarshaighdiúirí agus baill de Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann, iad siúd ar seirbhís agus ar scor araon, mar gheall ar an cheangal a bhí acu, más fíor, leis an Bhreatain. Rinne Óglaigh na hÉireann ruathair ar thithe cónaithe agus ar ghnólachtaí ar fud an chontae, agus iad ag cuardach arm, armlóin agus soláthairtí. Rinne fórsaí míleata na Breataine ruathair fosta. Bhí cuid mhór de na gnáthdhaoine gafa i lár an achrainn. D'imigh teaghlaigh Phrotastúnacha as Dún na nGall mar gheall ar an suaitheadh agus an imeagla.

I 1920, lonsaíodh Eaglais na hÉireann ag Inbhear i rith seirbhíse, nuair a bhris buíon fear na fuinneoga. Níor éirigh leo gabháil isteach ach chuaigh siad chuig an scoil béal dorais agus rinne smionagair de na fuinneoga.

I mí na Samhna, 1920, chuir an RIC fógraí bagracha ar fhuinneoga agus ballaí siopaí i mBun Cranncha mar fhreagra ar bhaghat Bhéal Feirste.



Iúil, 1920, Derry Journal

“Bíodh a fhios agaibh anois, má dhéantar dochar ar bith do bhall d’fhórsaí míleata na Corónach nó do dhuine ar bith ar mian leo baint a bheith acu leo, go scaoilfear cúigear de lucht ceannais Shinn Féin sa dúiche seo.”

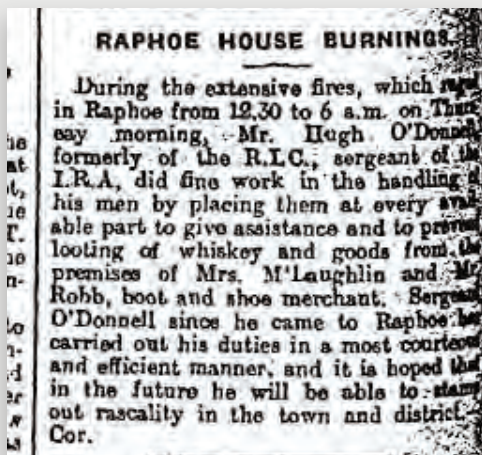
In 1921, in aice le Bun na hAbhann, thug fórsaí Frithchonartha iarraidh fear a bhí ar rothar a stad. Dhírigh fear acu gunna ar aghaidh an rothaí agus d’ordaigh dó a rá cén creideamh a bhí aige. Bhí alltacht ar Michael O’Donoghue as Gaillimh,

“Ba é seo an chéad uair a bhí taithí agam ar naimhdeas seicteach i gCúige Uladh agus chuir sé fearg orm Óglach armtha a fheiceáil agus é mar a bheadh biogóid throdach ann.”

I mí na Bealtaine 1921, dódh go talamh Halla Léachta na bPreispitéireach ag Rinn Uí Choigligh. Ar an 15ú Meán Fómhair 1921, bagraíodh ar Aontachtaigh i Ráth Bhoth gan gnó ar bith a dhéanamh leis an Ulster Bank ar an bhaile. Bagraíodh ar Joseph Orr, bainisteoir an Northern Bank i Ráth Bhoth agus dúirt sé ‘go raibh eagla orthu gach lá’. Ar deireadh thiar, d’fhág sé an baile.

In 1922, bhí tinte á ndó i rith lae i Ráth Bhoth,

“Rinne an Sáirsint Hugh O’Donnell ó na Fórsaí Frithchonartha (a bhí san RIC roimhe sin) obair iontach agus é i gceannas ar a chuid fear nuair a chuir sé iad ar fud an bhaile ag cuidiú leo sin a bhí ag iarraidh cosc a chur ar chreachadh uisce beatha agus earraí eile ó áitribh Mrs McLaughlin agus Mr Robb.”



Íúil, 1922, Derry People agus Donegal News

In Aibreán 1922, cuireadh fógra in airde ag ordú do gach Oráisteach i mBun Cranncha imeacht.

I mí na Bealtaine 1922, maíodh in eagarfhocal an Londonderry Sentinel go raibh “an dúiche ar fad faoi ré uafáis” agus go raibh an leibhéal géarleanúna ar aontachtaigh Dhún na nGall méadaithe a oiread sin gurbh éigean do chuid mhór acu dídean a iarraidh trasna na teorann i nDoire. D’imigh Annabella Rainey, a raibh siopa éadaí aici i mBaile na nGallóglach, i Meitheamh 1922 mar gheall ar imeagla gan stad. Ar an 3ú Meitheamh 1922, thuairiscigh an Sentinel “go raibh líon suntasach teifeach i ndiaidh Caisleán na Deirge a bhaint amach”, agus iad ag éalú ón ionsaí ar Phaiteagó.



Teach Chúil Dabhcha a dódh in 1922, Bailiúchán Príobháideach

Rinneadh ionsaí agus ruathar ar thithe ar leis na tiarnaí talún iad, glacadh seilbh orthu nó in amanna dhóití iad. Dódh Teach Chúil Dabhcha, a tógadh in 1779, i mí na Bealtaine 1922.

I mí na Bealtaine 1922, bhunaigh Rialtas na Breataine an Irish Distress Committee le fóirithint a thabhairt do dhílseoirí

Éireannacha (Caitlicigh agus Protastúnaigh araon) a d'fhulaing agus a chaill le linn Chogadh na Saoirse. I Márta 1923, athainmníodh é mar Irish Grants Committee agus an aidhm a bhí aige dílseoirí Éireannacha a d'fhulaing le linn an Chogaidh Chathartha a chúiteamh. Chuir Annabella Coulter, a raibh ocht n-acra dhéag de thalamh aici i nDún na nGall, iarratas chuig an IGC agus mhaigh 'nach raibh aon chúiteamh ann as an chaillteanas a d'fhulaing dílseoirí na hÉireann agus na coilme a fágadh ar a saol'. Baghcát agus tiomáint eallaigh a d'fhulaing Thomas Elvin as Bealach Féich, iarsháirsint de chuid an RIC a raibh céad acra talún aige, ar seisean, "An smaoineamh atá agam faoi láthair, imeacht as an tír seo agus gabháil áit éigin a bhfaighinn cothrom na Féinne." D'fhulaing John Patrick Good imeagla ag 'scata de chuid na háite' a bhí 'ag iarraidh mé a ruaigeadh ó mo chuid talaimh agus mo ghnó a scriosadh'.

## Athruithe ar Dhaonra Dhún na nGall

	Protastúnaigh	Caitlicigh	Daonra Iomlán
Athruithe ar Bhaile Móra 1911-26	-34.6%	+7.4%	-2.8%
Athruithe i gCeantair Thuaithe 1911-26	-21.4%	-6.8	-9.9%

Sliocht as Clárú Protastúnach Chontae Dhún na nGall Aighneacht ón Coimisiún na Teorann.

# An Chríochdheighilt agus an Teorainn

Ba í Críochdheighilt na hÉireann an próiseas trínar scar Rialtas na Breataine Móire agus na hÉireann (mar a bhí) oileán na hÉireann ina dhá pharlaimint ar leith. Ritheadh an tAcht um Rialú na hÉireann 1920 ar an 23ú Nollaig 1920 agus cruthaíodh dhá pharlaimint rialtais dúchais i gCúige Uladh agus i nDeisceart na hÉireann.

Bhí foráil sa Chonradh Angla-Éireannach i Nollaig 1921 lena mbunófaí Coimisiún na Teorann lena shocrú cá háit go díreach a mbeadh an teorainn idir Saorstát Éireann agus Tuaisceart Éireann.

D'athraigh an teorainn saol na ndaoine a bhí ina gcónaí in aice léi. Ní raibh teorainn leanúnach ar bith ann. Cé gurbh iomaí dóigh le dul trasna na teorann, chuaigh sí i bhfeidhm go mór ar chumas daoine bogadh thart go saor. B'éigean ranna rialtais ar an dá thaobh a atheagrú agus feidhmeanna a roinnt. D'éirigh an fheirmeoireacht cois teorann ní ba chiotáí agus feirmeoirí deighilte ó na haontaí agus na trádálaithe is cóngaraí.



Daoine ag Páráid bhliantúil an Oird Oráistigh i Ros Neamhlach, Co Dhún na nGall, 1950idí. Bailiúchán David Graham, Músaem Contae Dhún na nGall

Bhí an teorainn féin ag gabháil trasna ar roinnt feirmeacha. Níor aithníodh cáilíochtaí gairmiúla ar dhá thaobh na teorann. Níor glacadh le Coláiste na Tríonóide mar ionad oideachais agus diúltaíodh láithreach d'iarrthóirí ar phoist ón Saorstát a d'fhreastail air.

I ndiaidh na Críochdheighilte, mhothaigh Aontachtaigh i nDún na nGall scoite agus iad ag dul i ngleic ar bhonn praiticiúil leis an saol úr.

Mar gheall ar bhagairtí, ionsaithe agus eachtraí eile le linn Chogadh na Saoirse agus an Chogaidh Chathartha, bhog cuid de na Protastúnaigh trasna na teorann go Tuaisceart Éireann.

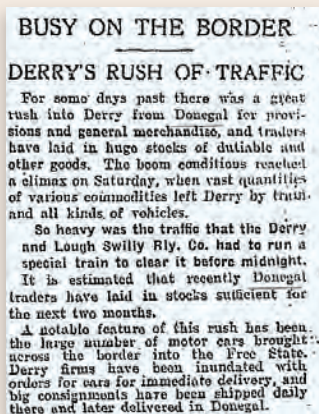
I ndiaidh na Críochdheighilte, scoilt cuid de na cumainn shóisialta agus spóirt idir Thuaidh agus Theas ach d'fhan cuid eile le chéile. Ina measc siúd a fheidhmíonn ar bhonn uile-oileáin tá CLG, Rugbaí agus Dornálaíocht. Áirítear an sacar ar na cumainn a scoilt - the Irish Football Association (Tuaisceart Éireann) agus the Football Association of Ireland (Poblacht na hÉireann).

## Custaim

Roimh fhoilsiú thorthaí Choimisiún na Teorann, chinn Rialtas an tSaorstáit 'críoch shealadach' a fhorfheidhmiú ag an teorainn. Mhair sí seo beagnach 70 bliain.

I Márta 1923, thug Saorstát Éireann bacainní custaim isteach chomh maith le córas dleachtanna a bhí le híoc nuair a aistríodh earraí áirithe. Ní fhéadfaí earraí a aistriú ach ag pointí trasnaithe faofa áit a ndearnadh cigireacht orthu ag stáisiún custaim. Tugadh iad seo isteach leis an neamhspleáchas a dhaingniú agus brú eacnamaíochta a chur ar Thuaisceart Éireann.

Achtaíodh na bacainní custaim ar an lú Aibreán agus ba bheag am a bhí ag daoine agus ag comhlachtaí déanamh réidh. Le dul trasna na teorann, b'éigean tuairisc iompróra a chur faoi bhráid oifigigh custaim agus na táillí cuí a íoc. Cuardaíodh daoine a bhí ag teacht trasna na teorann le cosc a chur ar an smuigleáil. Tháinig meath as cuimse ar an tráchtáil trasteorann. Scaradh gnólachtaí



Márta, 1923, Derry Journal



Pointe seiceála de chuid Chustaim na hÉireann ar Theorainn Dhún na nGall, 1925

óna gcustaiméirí agus a margai fadbhunaithe. Cuireadh go láidir in éadan na teorann, go háirithe i gcontaetha teorann. Scaradh Dún na nGall ó Dhoire ó thaobh geilleagair de. Cuireadh as go mór do sheirbhísí traenach isteach agus amach go Dún na nGall ó bhí cuid de na línte anonn is anall thar an teorainn agus scrúduithe custaim i rith an ama. Ar deireadh, socraíodh gur ag an chéad phointe trasnaithe amháin a bheadh scrúduithe custaim.

## Paiteagó

Paiteagó i gContae Dhún na nGall an t-aon sráidbhaile amháin in Éirinn atá roinnte ag an Teorainn idir an Phoblacht agus Tuaisceart Éireann. Tulaigh Uí Thiomáin atá ar an chuid de Phaiteagó atá ar thaobh Thuaisceart Éireann den teorainn.



Paiteagó, 1960idí

## Coimisiún na Teorann

Bhí foráil sa Chonradh Angla-Éireannach, Nollaig 1921, a chuirfeadh Coimisiún na Teorann ar bun le suíomh cruinn na teorann idir Saorstát na hÉireann agus Tuaisceart Éireann a chinneadh. Bhí an teorainn seo le bheith, “de réir mhianta na n-áitritheoirí, a mhéad a d’aontódh siad leis an staid eacnamaíoch agus gheografach”. Ghlac na hÉireannaigh leis go n-aistreadh an Coimisiún na ceantair a raibh tromlach Caitliceach acu go dtí an Saorstát. Chuimsigh sé seo Contae Fhear Manach, Contae Thír Eoghain, Doire Theas, Ard Mhacha Theas, an Dún Theas agus Cathair Dhoire. Glacadh leis nach mbeadh an chuid eile de Thuaisceart Éireann inmharthana go heacnamaíoch agus go roghnódh siad aontas leis an chuid eile d’oileán na hÉireann sa deireadh.

Mar gheall ar an Chogadh Chathartha, achrann polaitiúil sa Bhreatain, foréigean seicteach i mBéal Feirste agus diúltú na nAontachtach ionadaí a ainmniú don Choimisiún nár cuireadh tús lena chuid oibre go dtí Samhain 1924.

Ba é an Giúistís Richard Feetham Uas., Breitheamh Chúirt Uachtarach na hAfraice Theas, an Cathaoirleach neodrach. Fuair sé tacaíocht ó bheirt Choimisinéirí, Eoin Mac Néill, ionadaí Shaorstát Éireann agus Joseph Fisher, ionadaí Thuaisceart Éireann. Bhí an Coimisiún le fianaise a thógáil agus moltaí a dhéanamh maidir le cé acu ba cheart an Teorainn idir Tuaisceart Éireann agus Saorstát Éireann a athrú, nó nár cheart. Faoi dheireadh 1924 agus go luath in 1925 thug an Coimisiún camchuairt ar réigiún na teorann. Reáchtáil siad cruinnithe i mbailte agus i sráidbhailte le héisteacht le tuairimí ó gach duine lenar bhain.

Thug baill Chumann Clárúcháin Protastúnach Chontae Dhún na nGall go leor ráiteas maidir leis an Teorainn agus dhearbhaigh siad gur cheart Contae Dhún na nGall a áireamh i dTuaisceart Éireann, nó ina áit seo ba cheart an teorainn a tharraingt arís leis na ceantair ina raibh tromlach Protastúnach iontu a chuimsiú.



96  
 Statement of the Evidence Proposed  
 to be given by Mr. Michael Flood,  
 Donegal, General Merchant and  
 Ford agent for the Co. Donegal.

I have been in business for many  
 years in the city of Londonderry. I  
 took business in the town of Donegal.  
 I have an intimate knowledge of the  
 whole County Donegal, but more particularly  
 of the southern portion of the County.  
 I have always been interested in  
 the question of traffic transit. I can  
 give evidence to show that the railway  
 systems of Donegal have been constructed  
 and extended to develop and facilitate  
 the traffic of the port of Derry with  
 the County of Donegal, so as to prevent  
 the trade of Donegal going in  
 other directions. I am one of the  
 signatories to the case submitted by the  
 group of Co. Donegal business men for  
 the inclusion of the port of Londonderry  
 in the Irish Free State.

Michael Flood

26-24/1925

Counter-Signed:-  
 William Mac Neill,  
 Bishop of Raphoe.

-sidered necessary to take the evidence there. We should, of course,  
 much prefer that the sittings of the commission for this purpose should  
 be held in Ireland.

At our interview in Derry on 20th Inst. the chairman asked me if  
 I could speak as to the wishes of inhabitants outside those whom we  
 represented, and I stated that I could not. Since then, however, I  
 have been called on by several Roman Catholics in my neighbourhood who  
 have told me that they also desire - principally for economic reasons -  
 to be included in Northern Ireland, and they assured me that in the  
 event of a plebiscite - which they hoped would be taken - they would so  
 vote. They also stated that a large number of their co-religionists  
 held similar views. I am inclined to think that some of them would be  
 prepared to give evidence.

I have not yet been able to get the valuations for the currow and  
 Pettigo Areas, but hope to do so before the commission site.

Any information in my possession or procurement will be gladly  
 placed at the disposal of the commission, and any request for same  
 treated as confidential by me.

We have, as indicated at our interview, suggestions as to the  
 taking of a plebiscite which we should like to put forward if it would

Os cionn: Aighneacht ag Cumann Clárúcháin  
 Phrotastúnaigh Chontae Dhún na nGall  
 chuig Coimisiún na Teorann, 1925. CAB61, an  
 Chartlann Náisiúnta, Kew, RA

Ar chlé: Aighneacht ag Grúpa Gnólachtaí Dhún  
 na nGall chuig Coimisiún na Teorann, 1925.  
 CAB61, an Chartlann Náisiúnta, Kew, RA

Dúirt Náisiúnaigh agus Aontachtaigh araon go raibh Contae Dhún na nGall ag brath ar Dhoire mar an bhaile mhór is gaire, agus gur chuir bacainn chustaim eatarthu bac mór ar thrádáil agus ar ghluaiseacht daoine. Rinne Grúpa Gnó Dhún na nGall aighneachtaí fosta a chuir cás i láthair ag moladh go n-áireofaí Cathair agus calafort Londonderry i Saorstát Éireann nó ina áit sin, go ndéanfaí an teorainn a tharraingt arís le go leanfadh sí Abhainn an Fheabhail amach go Loch Feabhail, ag fágáil thromlach na cathrach taobh istigh de Shaorstát Éireann.

Cuireadh an chéad dréacht de thuarascáil an Choimisiúin i gcrích faoin 5ú Samhain 1925. Ar an 7ú Samhain, sceitheadh nótaí cruinnithe agus léarscáil na teorann chuig an British Morning Post a mhaigh nach molfadh an Coimisiún ach mionathruithe ar an teorainn a bhí ann cheana agus go mbogfaí codanna de Shaorstát Éireann, lena n-áirítear ceantair mhóra i gContae Dhún na nGall

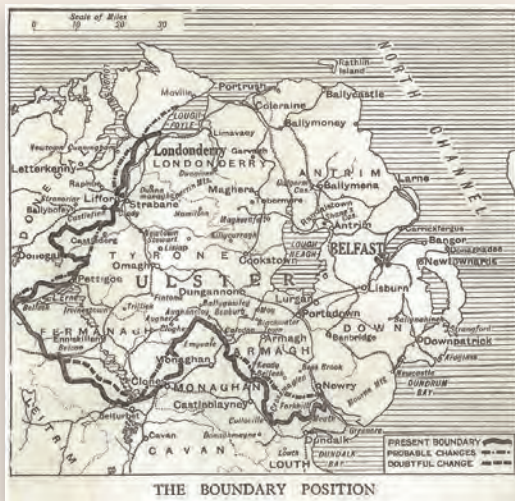
go Tuaisceart Éireann. An 20ú Samhain d'éirigh Eoin Mac Néill as a phost. Chruthaigh an scéitheadh seo géarchéim pholaitiúil sa Saorstát. Socraíodh cruinnithe faoi dheifir idir rialtais na hÉireann, Thuaisceart Éireann agus na Breataine le tubaiste a sheachaint. Faoi théarmaí Airteagal 5 den Chonradh, chomhaontaigh Saorstát Éireann a sciar den fhiach Impiriúil a íoc, ar cuid

mhór de OTI na hÉireann é. Le linn na caibidlíochta d'aontaigh an Bhreatain gan an íocaíocht seo a iarraidh mar mhalairt ar an teorainn idir Saorstát Éireann agus Tuaisceart Éireann a bheith mar a bhí sí ón Chríochdheighilt in 1921. Rinneadh an comhaontú a shíniú i Londain ar an 3ú Nollaig 1925. Rinneadh cúlghairm ar Choimisiún na Teorann agus cuireadh a thuarascáil ar an mhéar fhada. Vótáil an Dáil glacadh leis an chomhaontú le vóta 71 go 20. Níor foilsíodh tuarascáil Choimisiúin na Teorann go dtí Eanáir 1968.

## Iarmhairt agus Oidhreacht

D'éirigh leis an choimhlint 1912-1923 saoirse na hÉireann a sholáthar ach maidir le go leor de phobal na hÉireann lean an saol ar aghaidh gan athrú ar bith. Do chuid de na daoine ní raibh ann ach cineál amháin rialtais in áit chineáil eile.

Bhí pobail agus teaghlaigh scoilte mar gheall ar an Chogadh Chathartha. Thar na deicheanna de bhlianta ina dhiaidh sin tháinig na línte idir fíric agus miotas doiléir agus plúchadh scéal fíor na mblianta réabhlóideacha ach ní dhearnadh dearmad air.



'The Boundary Position', a foilsíodh 7ú Samhain, an nuachtán Morning Star

B'fhéidir go raibh an tréimhse ó 1912-1923 san am atá thart ach tá a thionchar go fóill le brath go mór ar fud oileán na hÉireann. Agus teannas idir éilimh phoblachtacha ar Éirinn aontaithe agus éilimh aontachtacha ar aontacht leis an Bhreatain Mhór, is mar sin a bheadh cúrsaí maidir le caidreamh Angla-Éireannach go ceann blianta fada. Faoi dheireadh bhain Éire stádas Poblachta amach in 1949, ach ní raibh i gceist ach sé chontae is fiche seachas tríocha a dó.

Mar thoradh ar na scoilteanna a cruthaíodh le linn na mblianta sin tháinig córas páirtí polaitíochta i bhfeidhm in Éirinn atá ann go dtí an lá inniu. Bhunaigh baill d'fhórsaí ar son an Chonartha páirtí Chumann na nGaedheal, agus tugadh Fine Gael air ina dhiaidh sin. Sa deireadh tháinig De Valera isteach arís sa pholaitíocht pharlaiminteach in 1927 lena pháirtí nuabhunaithe, Fianna Fáil. Go fóill is iad an dá pháirtí seo an péire a bhfuil an tionchar is mó acu i bpolaitíocht thoghchánach na hÉireann agus níl ann ach tamall gairid ó rinneadh dearmad ar naisc na bpáirtithe seo leis an Chogadh Chathartha. In 2020, den chéad uair riamh, chuaigh Fianna Fáil agus Fine Gael i gcomhrialtas lena chéile.



33ú Dáil, Comhrialtas ag Fianna Fáil-Fine Gael-Páirtí Glas



Pointe seiceála ar an Teorainn ag Leiffear, 1950idí.  
Bailiúchán Mhúsaem Contae Dhún na nGall



Pointe seiceála ar an bhóthar idir Béal Átha  
Seanaidh agus Béal Leice, 1980idí le caoinchead an  
Mhaorsháirsint Cathláin (ar scor) Pat Neilan

# The War of Independence 1919-1921

Members of the First Dáil outside the Mansion House, Dublin, January 1919.  
Courtesy Historical Section collection, Military Archives (IE\_MA\_HS\_A\_0862).

Following the General Election in 1918, the newly elected Sinn Féin MPs created their own parliament for Ireland, Dáil Éireann, on the 21st January 1919. The members took the title TD Teachta Dála (Deputy to the Dáil). At the first meeting they declared Ireland's independence from Great Britain, adopted a Constitution and elected Ministers for Finance, Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs and Defence. De Valera became President of the new Dáil.

At the same time, Irish Volunteer attacks on the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) increased and spread across the country. As time went on these Volunteers became known as the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The country slipped into a state of war as the British response to IRA actions grew more violent. In 1920, the British Government recruited reinforcements into the RIC known as the 'Black and Tans'. Reprisals, executions and raids continued into 1921. Martial law was declared and by July 1921, 4,500 IRA men were held in internment camps.



Group of Black and Tans, Dublin

In September 1919, Dáil Éireann was proclaimed a dangerous organisation and was prohibited. However they continued to operate a fully functioning Irish state. A new court system was introduced with judges, new laws and even a series of makeshift prisons. Local government was also taken over by the new state and local taxes and fines were paid to the Dáil and not the British government.

The first engagement in Donegal took place in December 1919. The IRA in Donegal attacked railway lines, roads and Barracks. With every attack the RIC and the army launched a round of arrests and counter-attacks.

A fourth Home Rule Bill was introduced in 1920 and became law in 1921. It established two Home Rule Parliaments in Ireland - one for Southern Ireland and one for the six counties of Northern Ireland (Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Antrim, Armagh and Down).



Castlefinn (Lischooley/Killygordon) 2nd Battalion, No 4 Brigade, 1st Northern Division, IRA.

## The IRA in Donegal during the War of Independence

In Donegal, the 1st Northern Division of the IRA was made up of four brigades, West Donegal, North East Donegal, South West Donegal, South East Donegal. A shortage of arms, ammunition and transport were the main issues for the Brigades. Throughout 1920, the IRA raided homes for weapons and ammunition. They destroyed railway lines, bridges and roads and seized the post. In September 1920, the North East Donegal Brigade carried out

the first daylight arms raid in Ireland on the RIC Barracks in Drumquin, Co Tyrone. The IRA also attacked, threatened and killed those who they believed were giving information to the British, those who threatened them and ex servicemen.

Judge Cloke made the following awards at Lifford. Destruction Arranmore Signal Station, £300; burning Arranmore Coast-guard Station and flagstaff, £3,000; burning of hut and stores at Ned's Point Fort, £2,465; burning of Ford motor and stores near Buncrana, £210, with £5 to Private Williams; destruction of Moville Customs and Excise Office, £900, with £120 for records of old age pensions and Excise registers, and £15 to Duncan Gravey, for personal belongings; damage to Doaghmore Lighthouse, £8; Co. Donegal Joint Railways were awarded £95 for destruction of permanent way and damage to bridge

Lifford Assizes, October, 1921, Derry  
People and Donegal News

In 1921, James Duffy VC was kidnapped by the IRA and death threats were issued against him. The West Donegal was the most active brigade under the command of Joseph Sweeney TD. In response to the attacks, ambushes and raids by the IRA, the RIC and the military carried out widespread arrests and counterattacks.

## Donegal Flying Column

Mobile groups of Volunteers, using guerilla style attacks, were an important part of the War of Independence. They became known as Flying Columns. As they were a moving target, it was difficult for the military and RIC to track and arrest them.

In late 1920, Peadar O'Donnell proposed the idea of a Donegal Flying Column to Joseph Sweeney. He recruited, Jim Walsh and Tom Sullivan, Cork, William Doheny, Tipperary, James McKee, Monaghan, Con Connally, Armagh, Alfie McCallion, William Cullen, James Tyler and Seamus McCann, all from Derry.





IRA Volunteers (possibly a Flying Column) on the Donegal/Tyrone border, May 1922, Belfast Telegraph

When the Flying Column arrived in the Dungloe area in January 1921, three men from the area, Frank O'Donnell, Con Boyle and Joe O'Donnell joined the Column. This Flying Column along with various local Volunteers took part in ambushes and attacks.

In one incident they attempted to ambush a Londonderry & Lough Swilly train. Information was received that a British troop train disguised as a special fish train had left Derry on its way to Burtonport. Joseph Sweeney and Peadar O'Donnell quickly organised an ambush. On board the train were British soldiers. Boulders were placed on the line just outside Crolly and a grenade was set off damaging the rails. When the train was forced to stop, shooting went on for about ten minutes, before the Flying Column were ordered to retreat.

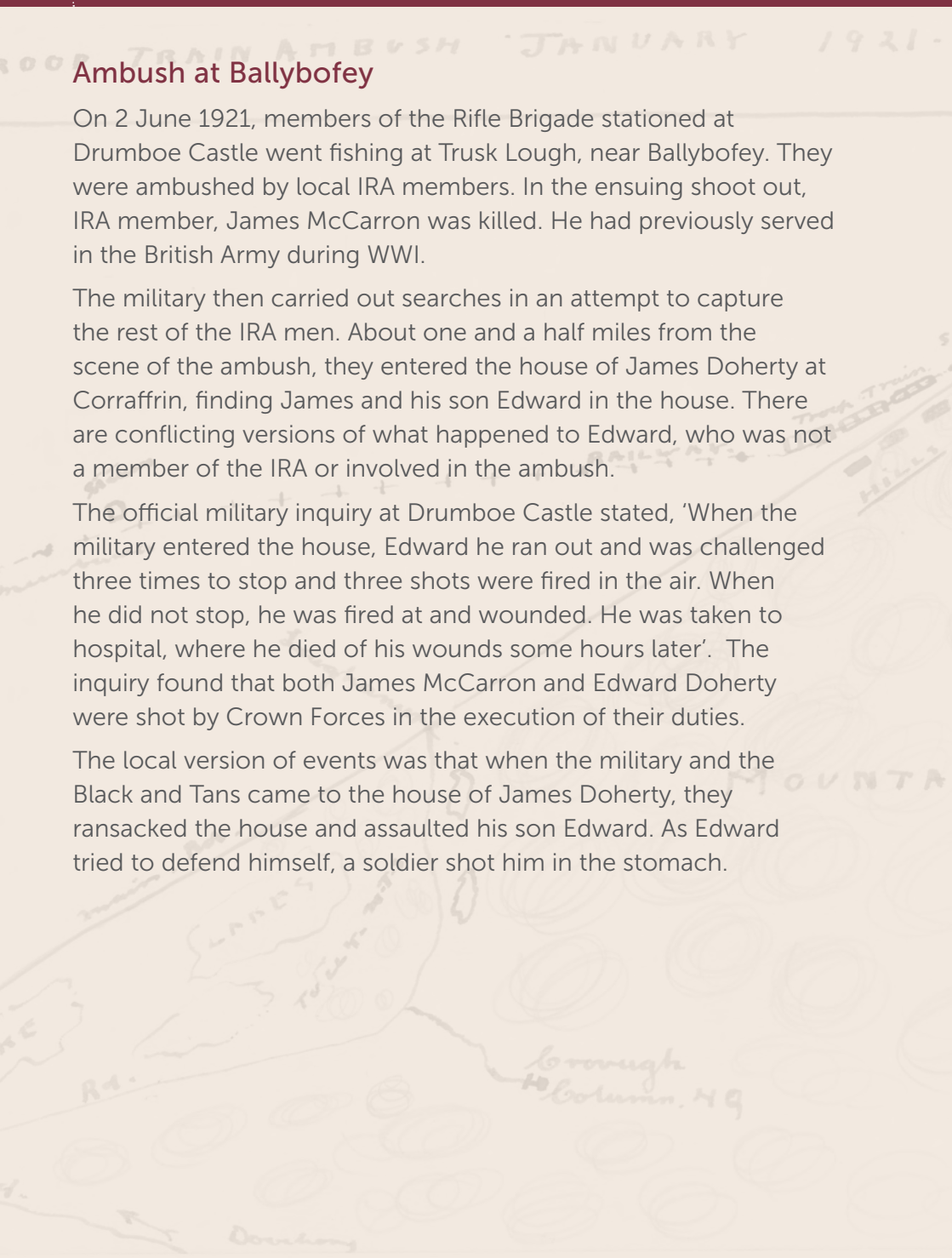
## Ambush at Ballybofey

On 2 June 1921, members of the Rifle Brigade stationed at Drumboe Castle went fishing at Trusk Lough, near Ballybofey. They were ambushed by local IRA members. In the ensuing shoot out, IRA member, James McCarron was killed. He had previously served in the British Army during WWI.

The military then carried out searches in an attempt to capture the rest of the IRA men. About one and a half miles from the scene of the ambush, they entered the house of James Doherty at Corraffrin, finding James and his son Edward in the house. There are conflicting versions of what happened to Edward, who was not a member of the IRA or involved in the ambush.

The official military inquiry at Drumboe Castle stated, 'When the military entered the house, Edward he ran out and was challenged three times to stop and three shots were fired in the air. When he did not stop, he was fired at and wounded. He was taken to hospital, where he died of his wounds some hours later'. The inquiry found that both James McCarron and Edward Doherty were shot by Crown Forces in the execution of their duties.

The local version of events was that when the military and the Black and Tans came to the house of James Doherty, they ransacked the house and assaulted his son Edward. As Edward tried to defend himself, a soldier shot him in the stomach.



## Law and Order

### The Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC)

Established in Ireland in 1836, the RIC policed outside of Dublin. They were a highly trained, armed force of c.10,000 men. Many joined the RIC because it provided a secure income and a pension.

During the War of Independence, there were many attacks on policemen and their barracks and many members of the force were killed. On 10th April 1919, the Dáil formally authorised a boycott and campaign of intimidation against policemen, their families and others associated with the force, such as landlords, suppliers and shopkeepers. This led to mass resignations throughout the country.

On the 12th December 1919 in Donegal, following the arrest of three IRA volunteers, four RIC officers were wounded in an attack. In response to IRA attacks, the British government gave the RIC transport vehicles, upgraded their weapons and provided additional members. They formed the Ulster Special Constabulary



RIC Constable Charles McGee from Co. Donegal, killed on 24th April, 1916 at Castlebellingham, County Louth.

Donegal County Museum Collection

in October 1920, recruited British ex-servicemen, later called 'Black and Tans' and created a 1,500 strong Auxiliary Division, largely made up of British ex-officers.

In September 1920 a threatening notice was posted in Falcarragh, "If the boycott of police is not removed within 48 hours, or any injury done to any member of the police, the Sinn Fein leaders of Falcarragh and Gortahork may look out for themselves. In addition, their houses will be completely destroyed."

By October 1920, all RIC barracks in West Donegal had been evacuated, with the exception of Dunfanaghy and Falcarragh. All the evacuated barracks were burned immediately by the IRA.

Reprisals by the Black and Tans and Auxiliary's were often very indiscriminate and included attacks on the local population. Homes were raided daily and young men were rounded up and put



RIC members and their families evacuating  
Dunfanaghy Barracks, 1921.  
Donegal County Museum Collection

in jail or interned. In 1920, PJ Ward TD, who was O/C 4th Brigade, South Donegal was arrested and was imprisoned in Wormwood Scrubs where he took part in a hunger strike.

In April 1921, the RIC Inspector for the County reported,

“The whole of the Dungloe district is without police...it seems to have become a miniature republic. Strangers and men on the run have congregated there. Marauding parties sally forth from this area to adjoining districts on horseback and on cycles and commit outrages... ambushes are laid for the police and military if they attempt to invade this lawless region; all the roads leading to this area have been rendered impossible for motor transport; the railways leading to it have been so frequently injured that trains have ceased to run.”

On the 9 May 1921, two RIC Constables, Charles Murdock and Alexander F Clarke, were attacked and killed near Clonmany. Constable Clarke’s body was found washed up on the shore the next day. Constable Murdock’s body was never recovered.

On the 18 May 1921, Peadar O’Donnell issued an order to the Letterkenny Company to carry out an attack on the RIC in Letterkenny in an effort to relieve the pressure on his Flying Column in West Donegal. The company lay in wait near the Literary Institute, on Lower Main Street, and opened fire on the RIC patrol shortly after 11pm. Another group fired at the No 2 Barracks at the bottom of the town. Constable Albert Carter was killed. Reinforcements including the Black and Tans arrived. Two locals were injured in the reprisals, while McCarry’s Hotel, which was being used as a Republican Court, was shot at and a grenade thrown through the window.

The RIC was disbanded on 31 August 1922 following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

## Dáil Éireann Courts

In May 1920, Dáil Éireann Courts were created to replace the existing court system. The British Government considered these to be illegal. Dáil Courts were set up at Dungloe, Glenties, Bundoran and Killygordan. The IRA burned the existing court houses at Donegal Town, Inishowen, Buncrana, Letterkenny and elsewhere. A crackdown began in the autumn of 1920. In Donegal Town, the RIC raided the court and found 48 summonses.

Coláiste Uladh, in Cloughaneely, was used as a Dáil Court. It was destroyed by fire on the 19th November 1920. An account was published in the Derry Journal on 26th November:

"As briefly reported in the Derry Journal of last Friday, the Irish College at Cloughaneely and the co-operative stores adjoining were destroyed by fire early on Thursday morning. The previous morning uniformed men smashed into the college, broke the windows, piled tables and chairs in a heap and set them on fire. They then left and residents in the district succeeded in extinguishing the flames...At 2 a.m. a heavy motor lorry stopped for some time in the village and the occupants proceeded towards the college. Some time later the college and the cooperative stores were seen to be on fire..."

Agnes (Una) O'Farrelly, former Principal of Coláiste Uladh wrote, "Fools can pull down houses built by the patient toil of wiser men, but they cannot lay hands on the mind of a people. The work of the Ulster College of Irish will go on, God willing, with or without a shelter..."

In January 1921, at the Assizes, the Judge gave his verdict saying that there was no evidence that the police or forces of the crown were responsible. He was however satisfied that the burning was malicious.

As a prison was required in West Donegal, an abandoned herring curing station, known locally as Maramelan, near Dungloe was used to house local prisoners and British prisoners under armed guard. The prison and the courts operated until the end of October 1922.

## Irish Republican Police (IRP)

In 1920, as the RIC withdrew, lawlessness set in, so a Republican police force was set up. It was viewed as an illegal and subversive body by the British government. There was mass-recruitment and members were paid a full salary. They provided security for the Dáil Courts and assisted them with the execution of their judgments. They also performed the typical duties of police, dealing with petty crime and other legal matters. They cracked down on the illegal distilling and selling of whiskey and poteen. They had no official uniform apart from an armband with 'IRP'.



Irish Republican Police (IRP), Donegal

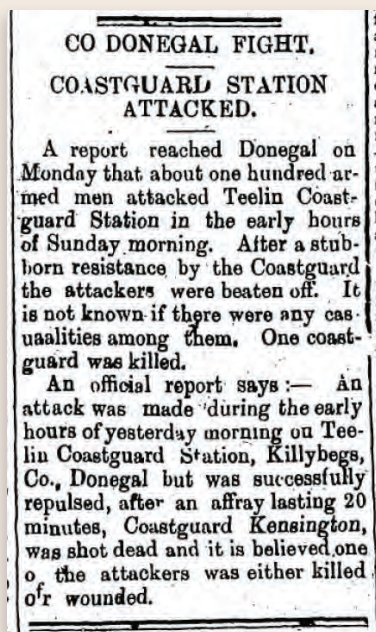
## The Coastguard

The Coastguard acted as a reserve for the navy, protected the Revenue's interests, defended the coast and assisted the police in discovering illicit alcohol stills. During the War of Independence many Coastguard stations were attacked and burned. Teelin Coastguard Station was attacked by the IRA on 12 June 1921. Coastguard William Kennington was shot and killed. The station was burnt in 1923.

## Some of those killed during the War of Independence

On the 5 December 1920, Thomas Rooney was shot by British Forces in Ballyshannon. It was reported that a large number of people were in the town to witness an eviction. When the British Forces arrived, they cautioned those present to put their hands in the air. Rooney allegedly ignored this warning and began to run away. He was told to halt and when he did not stop, he was shot. The subsequent inquest found that he was shot by the military in the execution of their duty.

On Monday the 28th of February 1921, Michael Heeny was shot dead. Various reports state that he was shot while trying to escape from military custody or during a fight with Black and Tans in Malinbeg or that he was dragged from his house and shot execution-style by two Auxiliaries or that he was shot when he pointed a shotgun at police.



June, 1921, Derry Journal.



On 30th June 1921, Owen McCarron, a farmer from Ballycarry Upper, Buncrana was herding his cattle along the road when he met a British military patrol. An officer called on him to halt, but he continued on. He was then shot and killed. An inquiry found that Owen McCarron, age 64, was hard of hearing and had probably not heard the order to stop.

## Attacks on the Railways

Donegal once had an extensive rail network, which ran from Carndonagh to Burtonport and from Strabane to Killybegs and Bundoran. Three companies provided rail transport in County Donegal, the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company (L&LSR), the County Donegal Railways Joint Committee (CDRJC) and the Great Northern Railway Board (GNR).

Throughout the War of Independence, there were continuous threats, raids, ambushes and derailments

which had a serious impact on the operation of the railways. The Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway was particularly targeted with an attack nearly every day during 1920 and 1921.

### TRAINS HELD-UP IN DONEGAL

Burtonport railway line has been closed to all traffic between Letterkenny and Burtonport.

On Wednesday two special trains were despatched to clear up the line and convey waggons at the different stations to their respective destinations. The first train left Derry at 10.15, and on arrival at Cashelnagore was boarded by three armed and masked men, one getting on the engine and two on the brake-van. The driver was then ordered to proceed.

This was at 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon, and nothing more was heard of the train until seven o'clock, when information was received that it had been stopped by the raiders between Cashelnagore and Gweedore. They searched all the waggons, and then allowed the train to proceed to Burtonport.

The second train got as far as Cashelnagore, but, owing to the telegraph wires being cut, it could not proceed further, and returned to Letterkenny.

April, 1921, Derry People and Donegal News

On 12 June 1920, Tullybrook House near Laghey, the home of Henry Forbes, Manager of the CDR was burnt to the ground.

### **'Munitions of War Strike'**

The Mail train was an important target for the IRA in gathering intelligence. The L&LSR Buncrana and Carndonagh lines served British naval facilities and shore batteries.

Train crews were threatened with violence or death if they conveyed armed troops, police or material destined for them. In May 1920, a boycott began when railwaymen refused to operate trains carrying British troops, military supplies or munitions in Ireland. This restricted the military to road transport only and the roads were constantly trenched and blocked. During this time there were many suspensions and sackings.

In December 1920, the Stranorlar branch of the National Union of Railwaymen adopted a resolution that

"we, the members of the Stranorlar branch N.U.R. hereby agree to handle and carry all classes of traffic offered. Further, that we urge upon the various companies to reinstate the railwaymen suspended or dismissed on their undertaking to perform all classes of work without reservation."

### **Attacks and Kidnappings**

On the 1st August 1920, L&LSR driver Robert Quinn, who had volunteered to drive a train carrying troops after other drivers had been suspended for refusing to do so, was kidnapped from his home in Derry and driven to Burtonport. He was forced to sign a declaration not to work on any more military trains.

On 31 August 1920, armed and masked men entered Cashenagore station holding the driver and guard at gunpoint. All official mail was taken with the rest of mail returned to the train. Another mail

raid took place at Bridgetown when ten armed and masked men held up the 10.20 a.m. Donegal-Ballyshannon CDR train and removed 21 mail bags.

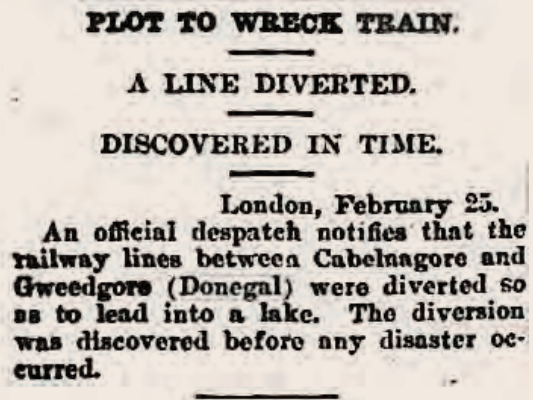
On Wednesday 8 September 1920, while Henry Forbes, Manager of the CDR was onboard, the train was held up at Drumbar by a number of armed and masked men demanding the mail sacks. Forbes fired shots at the raiders, pursued and captured one of them.

## Derailments

In early August 1920, c.240 feet of the railway line between Crolly and Kincasslagh was torn up and thrown into the nearby Lough Chonail. Near to the Crolly station, Gweedore, 24 large boulders were hurled onto the line completely blocking it. No passenger trains from Letterkenny to Burtonport ran for a fortnight.



June, 1921, Strabane Chronicle



February, 1921, Strabane Chronicle

In February 1921, the CDR train was derailed between Fintown and Glenties, with the train running down the embankment into Lough Finn. In the same month, the L&LSR Derry to Burtonport train ran into boulders placed on the line outside Kincasslagh. The engine and first carriage derailed with no injuries. It was carrying 15 soldiers.

## Cumann na mBan

Cumann na mBan was founded in April 1914. Members acted as auxiliaries to the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Irish Citizen Army, the Irish Volunteers and Sinn Fein and played an important role in the Easter Rising in 1916. All members were required to attend First Aid courses and Irish Language Classes and were also encouraged to take part in Signalling, Marching, Drilling and Target practice.



Cumann na mBan, Annagry, Co Donegal, 1922

L-R Mary Phaidí Bhig, Annie William, Biddy William, Roise Jimmy Theague, Mary William

“A big crowd of us joined including Mairead McCarthy, Mary McGee, Jenny Johnston and the Siewes. We were shown how to man a revolver – aim first at the head and if that didn’t work keep straight and you would be sure to hit them somewhere. It was good craic.”

Brigid Gallagher, Falcarragh

During the War of Independence, their role included delivering dispatches and supporting the flying columns by providing information, arms, equipment, food, shelter, clothing and medical assistance.

In 1919, when the Republican Courts were set up, they acted as organisers and recorders. They organised public meetings, distributed leaflets and put up posters. They sold Dáil Bonds and did other fundraising activities such as organising dances and concerts. They provided “safe-houses” for men on the run, gave



assistance to prisoner’s families, collected petitions, protested and formed Guards of Honour. Women played a significant role in enforcing the Belfast Boycott, running boycott committees, raiding shops and trains, and holding protests. Eithne Coyle, a prominent member of Cumann na mBan in Donegal, carried out a one

L- R Mae Burke, Limerick, Cumann na mBan, Eithne Coyle (Eithne Ní Chumhail), Donegal, Cumann na mBan and Nurse Linda Kearns, Sligo at Duckett’s Grove, Carlow, 1921

### MISS EITHNE COYLE.

The Chairman of the Released Prisoners' Committee, 91, Stephen's Green, Dublin, on 5th December, writes as follows:—

Permit me to give the public a slight appreciation of Miss Eithne Coyle, one of the girl hunger strikers released recently from the North Dublin Union. She has had a consistent national career all through the Black and Tan time down to the present day. She was arrested December, 1920, by Black and Tans, court-martialled March, 1921, and sentenced to three years' penal servitude, and escaped from Mountjoy with Nurse Kearns and Miss Keogh October 31, 1921. She worked hard during the present war, taking part in all its attendant dangers. She was arrested by Free State forces in Donegal Town on the 23rd September, 1922, lodged in Ballyshannon, where she had to go on six days' hunger strike to get removed to Buncrana, where she was provided with women to look after her. From there she was removed to Mountjoy on the 19th November, 1922, and underwent two hunger strikes in jail having happy memories of her unselfishness in jail life. She taught the Northern Irish to many heroes who were delighted to pass the weary hours in such a way. On the 27th April, 1923, she was transferred to the N.D.U., and remained there. On the 24th October she joined in the great general hunger strike. She was one of the number who accepted the Government's word in good faith, and came off on the 7th November, being then unconditionally released. I congratulate the land of Tirconnell on such a daughter!

November, 1923, Donegal Democrat

woman campaign on the Lough Swilly & Londonderry railway, seizing goods and burning British newspapers.

Even though Cumann na mBan played an important role during the Easter Rising, they were refused representation on the Irish Army Executive Council during the Treaty negotiations in 1921. In 1922, they were the first national organisation to oppose the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Their executive committee passed a motion in February 1922 reaffirming their allegiance to the Irish Republic. After this motion there was a split in their membership.

From 1934, many members applied for a pension or a service medal. With their applications, they were required to provide evidence and references to corroborate their service. Many applicants had their claims rejected.

Mary A Meehan from Frosses applied in 1934 but was refused. She appealed this decision stating;

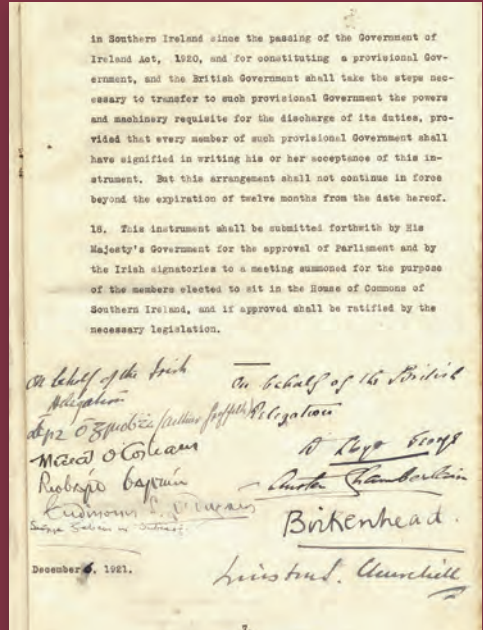
"I joined the Ethna Carbery Cumann Na mBan branch (3rd Brigade 1st Northern Division), Ballymachill, Frosses in 1918 and helped to organise and carry on dances in aid of the General Election in 1918. I was sworn in by a Volunteer Officer in 1921 and helped the IRA in every way I could. During raids on Fathers house in the Black + Tan and Civil Wars I was abused by Tans and members of the National Army. I did guard while members of A.S Unit got refreshments or slept in my home."

She was eventually awarded a small pension in 1940.

## The Truce and the Anglo-Irish Treaty

As deaths mounted on both sides throughout 1921, moves were made to establish a truce. After much negotiation a ceasefire began on 11th July 1921.

Following a series of talks, the Anglo - Irish Treaty, setting up the new Irish Free State, was signed in London on the 6th December. Northern Ireland would remain in existence, but a Boundary Commission would be established to review and revise the Border. Ireland would be a Free State with the same rights as the other dominions, but an oath of fidelity to the King would have to be taken by all members of parliament. Michael Collins said that they had achieved,



Anglo-Irish Treaty signed by the Irish and British delegates at 10 Downing Street, London on 6th December 1921

"... not the ultimate freedom that all nations aspire and develop to, but the freedom to achieve it".

The Treaty was rejected by De Valera.

Most people were in favour of the Treaty, as it offered an end to the violence of the War of Independence. PJ Ward, Sinn Fein MP for Donegal South, said at the Treaty Debates,

"I was opposed to the Treaty up to Christmas. I went down to my constituency...At Christmas every Sinn Féin Club debated this Treaty amongst themselves...the Sinn Féin Clubs, by seventeen to three, asked that this Treaty be ratified under protest and they stated that they could see no alternative."

In a vote in the Dáil in January 1922 the Treaty was passed by 64 votes to 57.



De Valera withdrawing from the Dáil after the Anglo-Irish Treaty was passed. L-R Cathal Brugha, Margaret Pearse, De Valera, Kathleen Clarke and Austin Stack

In an effort to prevent a permanent split after the signing of the Treaty, it was proposed to use the IRA forces in a war against the newly established Belfast government. This became known as the 'Northern Offensive'. IRA volunteers from Cork and Kerry as well as the Six counties were relocated to the counties bordering Northern Ireland including Donegal. The Offensive began with a series of attacks along the Donegal border and escalated to a battle at Pettigo and Belleek in late May/June 1922.



# The Irish Civil War 1922-23

On 16th January 1922, the British government gave control of Dublin Castle to the Provisional (Free State) Government led by Michael Collins. On the 14th April Anti-Treaty forces took control of the Four Courts in Dublin. The general election of June 1922 was a decisive vote for the Treaty. On 28th June 1922, under threat of the resumption of hostilities from the British Government, the Free State forces attacked the Four Courts and civil war erupted.



Explosion at Four Courts, 30 July 1922. Michael Collins gave the order to bombard the Four Courts with artillery shells in an attempt to remove Anti-Treaty forces. This was the start of the Civil War.

In Donegal, Pro-Treaty forces soon had control of the county, but not without some resistance from Anti-Treaty forces. Perhaps the most successful Anti-Treaty activity in Donegal was their re-instatement of the Belfast Boycott. This took the form of preventing the sale of goods south of the border, which were produced by unionist firms. They held up trains, removing goods and destroying them.

By the beginning of 1923, with many of their followers under arrest and with a lack of support from the general public, it became clear that the Anti-Treaty forces had no hope of winning. The execution of four men by the Free State authorities at Drumboe Castle, Stranorlar in March 1923 effectively ended the Anti-Treaty campaign in Donegal.

On 24th May 1923, De Valera and Frank Aiken declared a truce and ordered their men to lay down their arms. The Civil War had come to an end, but the bitterness and division that it had caused would remain a factor in Irish life for many decades to come.

### DONEGAL AND THE BOYCOTT.

#### Belfast Goods Destroyed.

As part of the boycott of Northern goods the following incidents were reported by Dublin Castle on Sunday :—

“ During the early morning yesterday the store at Ballyshann on Great Northern Railway Station Donegal, was entered by a number of armed raiders who destroyed five tons of oatmeal consigned from Euuiskillen to a firm at Garrison. The raiders also destroyed 63lbs of chocolates consigned by Cadbury's Belfast, to a crown force camp, and 72 brushes from the Ulster Brush Co, Belfast. At the same time four sacks of flour were taken from a waggon at the Donegal Company's Railway Station and destroyed.

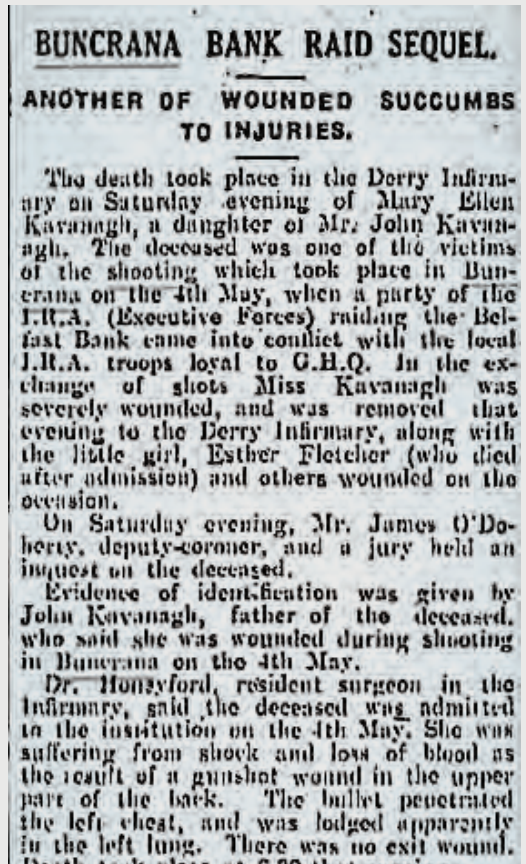
August, 1920, Derry People and Donegal News

## Newtowncunningham Incident

On 4th May 1922, as part of a series of raids, Anti-Treaty forces robbed the Ulster Bank in Buncrana. As they were leaving, Sean Lehane, Commanding Officer of the Anti-Treaty forces in Donegal, stated they were "fired on without warning by a party of Pro-Treaty forces, who were concealed in houses". Shots were exchanged, several were injured and two innocent bystanders were killed, nine year old Essie Fletcher and nineteen year old Mary Ellen Kavanagh, who died from her wounds later that month.

Pro-Treaty forces based at Drumboe Castle, moved to investigate reports of the bank raid. As their lorries drove into Newtowncunningham, they came under fire from Anti-Treaty forces. Four Pro-Treaty men died as a result of this incident. They were John McGinley, Daniel McGill, Edward (Eddie) Gallagher and Edward Murray.

At the coroner's inquest conducted the next day by the Pro-Treaty authorities at Drumboe, it was claimed that the convoy had been lured into a trap. Sean Lehane wrote to the press stating



that his men were unaware of the identity of the convoy coming towards them and believed they were British military. When they discovered they were Pro Treaty Forces, he called on them to halt but they opened fire resulting in a shootout. Joseph Sweeney wrote in turn to the press, complaining at Lehané's attempt "to make it appear that an unprovoked attack was made by our men on an inoffensive party".

The verdict from the inquest was one of "wilful murder".

## Civil War Activity in Donegal

### Rockhill and Ballymacool, Letterkenny

In early June 1922, Rockhill House and Ballymacool House were taken over by Anti-Treaty forces. A day after the Civil War began, on 29 June, 1922, Pro-Treaty forces stationed in Letterkenny were ordered to capture both houses. The raids began at 5am. At Ballymacool House, following a short gun battle, a number of Anti-Treaty men were arrested. A small number escaped. At Rockhill House, Daniel Harkin from the Anti-Treaty force was shot and died later in Lifford Hospital. The Anti-Treaty forces made their escape through the woods.

### Finner Camp

Following the signing of the Treaty, the British handed barracks over to local forces whether they were Pro or Anti-Treaty. Finner was handed over to the 3 Western Division on 17th February 1922. The local garrison subsequently chose the Anti-Treaty side and it was used as a training camp.



Handover of Finner Camp, by Officers of the Rifle Brigade, British Army to the 3rd Western Division, IRA, February 1921

On 29th June 1922, Pro-Treaty Forces moved to take Finner Camp. A gun battle followed and James Connolly, a member of the Anti-Treaty force was killed. The rest escaped to the sand dunes behind Finner and surrendered the next morning.

## Glenveagh

In early July, 1922, Anti-Treaty Forces took over Glenveagh Castle as their HQ, setting up a wireless station, first aid post and raiding local houses, shops and trains for supplies. On the 27th July, Glenveagh was recaptured by Pro-Treaty forces. A printing machine was recovered that was used to print the 'Tir Chonail Bulletin'.

## Inch Fort

In mid June, the Derry City Brigade withdrew to Inch Fort on Inch Island, evicting the caretaker. On 15 July, they surrendered after Pro-Treaty Forces used artillery on the Fort.

## Attacks and Raids

There were a number of attacks and raids in July 1922. Anti-Treaty Forces ambushed a car travelling towards Letterkenny at Drumkeen, resulting in the death of two Pro-Treaty soldiers, Jack Sweeney and Charlie (Charles) McGinley and the capture of Willie Sweeney who was taken to Glenveagh and later released. Pro-Treaty men from the Bunrana Garrison were searching close to the Derry border when fire was exchanged with Anti-Treaty forces.

William Browne, of the Pro-Treaty force, was injured and later died from his wounds. Later in the month, Pro-Treaty forces were ambushed in the hills near Glenties. James Scanlon from Glenties and Albert Devine from Derry were killed.

On the 17 October, during a Pro-Treaty raid at Lough Veagh House, Gartan, civilian Patrick Fries was shot and died the following day in Lifford Hospital.

### THE DONEGAL DEMOCRAT FRIDAY, JULY 21,

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## Gallant Derry Officer Shot on Roadside.

from

Captain William Browne, of the National Army, stationed at Bunrana, who was wounded on Tuesday evening, died in Derry Infirmary on Friday last.

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The deceased officer was one of a detachment of National troops who on Tuesday evening surprised a party of Irregulars who had installed themselves in the gate lodge belonging to Lieutenant-Colonel Harta, of Kilderry, a short distance from the Derry-Donegal border. The Irregulars fled on the approach of the National forces, and scattered into a wood where some shooting took place. After the firing ceased Captain Browne was standing on the road when a shot rang out, and he fell wounded, being shot through the abdomen.

ii,

He was removed to Derry Infirmary, but owing to the nature of the wound little hope of his recovery was entertained, and he passed away on Friday last. Father Wm. Doherty, P.P., visited Captain Browne shortly before he died, and the last rites were performed by Father McGettigan.

July, 1921, Donegal Democrat

## The Drumboe Martyrs, 1923

In October 1920, Charlie Daly, from Kerry, was appointed as a full-time IRA organiser for Tyrone and County Derry. He rejected the Anglo Irish Treaty and by mid-1922, he was Vice Officer Commandant of the Anti-Treaty Forces in Donegal.

Donegal was predominantly Pro-Treaty. By late 1922, Daly and the remaining members of his column –Timothy O’Sullivan and Dan Enright from Kerry, Seán Larkin and James Donaghy from Derry, Dan Coyle and Frank (Francis) Ward from Donegal and James (Jim) Lane from Cork - were operating from West Donegal. Daly reported to HQ,

“We had something over 100 men at the start, some of them were spies and traitors. In the course of a few weeks we were left with only 30 men and nearly all of them were strangers to the county.”

In November,

“Charlie and his little party were getting it tough, with a large, well-equipped army on his tail...They had just arrived in Meenabul, Dunlewey and were dead beat. They had just layed down with their boots on when the house was surrounded by a large force of military. Charlie reached for his rifle half asleep. But before he could do so he received a blow from a rifle butt. Charlie and his little band were taken prisoner and lodged at Drumboe Castle.”

Séamus McCann

The men were court-martialled on the 18 January 1923. They were found guilty, but no sentence was passed. Rumours that death sentences would be handed down were discussed at the Donegal County Council and Dunfanaghy Rural District Council meetings in February 1923. The Local Government Inspector, present at the County Council meeting stated that there were no executions to take place and the whole thing was a fake. Dunfanaghy Rural

The Rural Government Inspector stated there were no executions to take place. The whole thing was a fake. Councillor Puffy said he was very glad to hear the Inspector's statement. He had got some wires, one of which came from Ferry, stating that these prisoners were sentenced to death, and while he did not want to place any obstacles in the way of the Government, as he had been a consistent supporter of the Free State since it came into being, he did not think it would serve any useful purpose if the executions took place. He was glad to have the assurance that there was no truth in the report.

Minutes of meeting of County Council of Tirconail (Donegal County Council), 20th February 1923.

Donegal County Archives Collection.

District Council passed a motion calling on the government "to exercise their prerogative of mercy and not to inflict the extreme penalty in these cases."

At 1:40pm on 11th March, a radio message from Drumboe Castle to GHQ in Dublin reported that Captain Bernard Cannon had been killed in an attack in Creeslough. The return message was an order to execute four men, including Larkin from Derry. Joseph Sweeney sent a return message to GHQ seeking clarification. The original order was returned in response.

On the 13th March, Daly, O'Sullivan, Enright and Larkin were informed that they would be executed by firing squad the next morning. In the last few hours before dawn, Daly wrote a last letter to his mother,



(1)  
 Last letter from late Division Quarter Master Sean Larkin  
 First Northern Division I. R. A. to his Mother executed  
 at Drumboe Castle Co. Donegal March 14 1923.

Beloved Mother - What a contrast the contents  
 of this letter are to the one I wrote you last  
 night. What a change 24 hours can bring.  
 But, Mother, surely this is the last news it  
 would be possible for you to hear of me. I go  
 tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock to meet my  
 Redeemer and my Judge. Through the infinite  
 mercy of Almighty God, I hope to join my dear  
 father + Dermot + all my deceased relatives +  
 friends in heaven. Yes, Mother, my hour has  
 come, and I must obey the call. But Mother,  
 I want you not to worry about me + I hope  
 you will respect my wishes. You know that  
 this is God's will + what further proof of His  
 mercy could we have, in that he has given me  
 such an opportunity of preparing my soul  
 for eternity. Yes I have a lot to be thankful to  
 Almighty God for, when we consider the uncertainty  
 of life and the certainty of death and the suddenness  
 with which so many young dreamers are being

Copy of the last  
 letter written by Seán  
 Larkin to his Mother  
 before his execution  
 at Drumboe Castle in  
 1923.

Donegal County  
 Archives Collection.

"We got the news about four this evening. Though 'twas rather sudden it was not altogether unexpected; besides we had never lost sight of the possibility of our C.M. ending at death...I am now within a few short hours of death and writing you with perfect calmness..."

Joseph Sweeney recalled;

"The terrible thing then was that Daly had to be executed. We had received word from Dublin that anyone captured carrying arms was to be court-martialled and sentenced to death. I had to do the job myself, to order a firing party for the execution, and it was particularly difficult because Daly and I had been very friendly

when we were students, and it is an awful thing to kill a man you know in cold blood, if you're on level terms with him. Trading shots with a man in battle is one thing, but an execution is something else altogether."

At 8am on 14th March, Charlie Daly, Dan Enright, Timothy O'Sullivan and Seán Larkin were taken into the woods outside Drumboe Castle and shot by a firing squad. A statement from Dublin GQH read

"All four accused were found guilty and sentenced to death. The findings and sentences were duly confirmed in each case."



Charlie Daly, Timothy O'Sullivan, Daniel Enright and Seán Larkin, who were executed at Drumboe Castle, near Stranorlar in March 1923. Donegal County Archives Collection

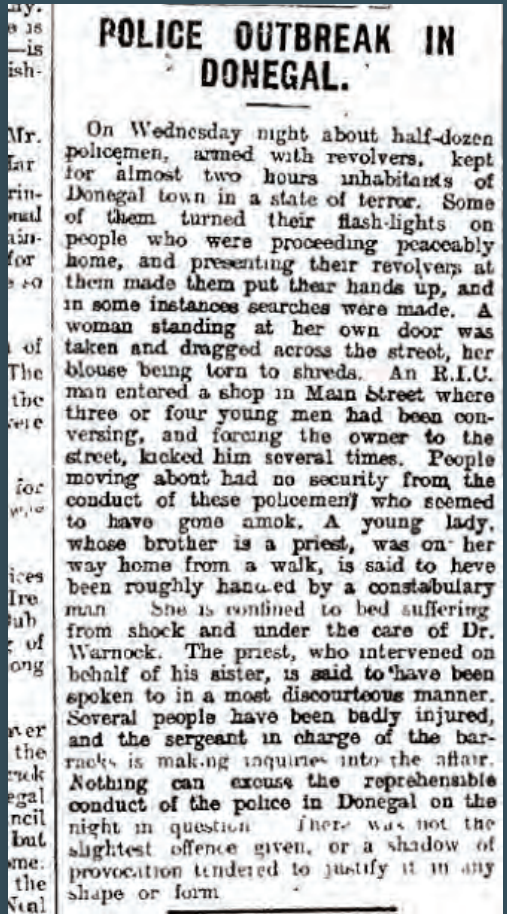
## Violence against Women

Women were subjected to physical assaults, threats, humiliation, intimidation and kidnapping during both the War of Independence and the Civil War.

Mary Harley was brought up in London but was a frequent visitor to her relatives in Mountcharles. At around 1am on 23rd February 1921, in retaliation for the killing of Constable Satchwell the previous day, a party of RIC and Black and Tans raided and burnt houses in Mountcharles, including Bernard McGroary's home where Mary Harley was staying. During the attack shots were fired. Mary's body was discovered at 9am the next morning in the back yard.

In June, at the Quarter

Sessions in Lifford, the Harley family were awarded £350 for the death of Mary and the destruction of McGroary's house.



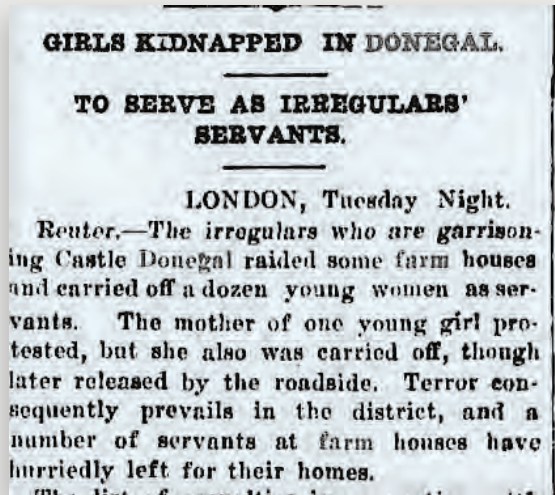
16th October, 1920, Derry People and Donegal News

In Ballyshannon, on 11 September 1920, Ellen Cooke, a boarder at a house in Erne Street, was dragged out of the house by four armed and masked men. They cut off her hair, beat her and made her swear not to return to the police barracks. Afterwards, suffering from severe nervousness, she lived and worked at the barracks for nine weeks. She found it difficult to find any employment. She was awarded £40 compensation at Ballyshannon Quarter sessions.

Two girls from South Donegal had their hair cut and were assaulted by the IRA. They were awarded £100 each in compensation at a Dáil Court. In February 1921, a woman was dragged from her bed by ten armed and masked men. They cut off her hair and assaulted her because she had accepted an offer of a job at an RIC Barracks.

In May 1921, Rose Ann Logue, an instructress with the Congested District Board, was held up by two men with revolvers. She was accused of "keeping company" with the RIC and was threatened. Then they cut off her hair. She had to leave her employment and the district. She claimed compensation and was awarded £60 at the Lifford Quarter Sessions.

In July 1922, Anti Treaty Forces based at Glenveagh, raided farm houses and took a number of girls to work as servants. These kidnappings caused terror in the area and some girls, who had been hired, fled home.



July 1922, Derry People and Donegal News

## Economy and Poverty

The War of Independence, Civil War and Partition brought about many changes but for many Donegal people, their everyday lives were more greatly affected by the decline in agriculture and fishing, increasing unemployment and widespread poverty.



Children at Dunlewy,  
Co Donegal. Courtesy  
Caroline Carr

## Employment and Emigration

On the 24 July 1920, Dáil Éireann issued a Proclamation to halt emigration from Ireland. It stated that "...no citizen of the Irish Republic shall be permitted to leave Ireland for the purpose of settling abroad unless with the written sanction of the Government of the Republic."

Many people from West Donegal went to Scotland to work as 'tatie hokers', harvesting the potato crop and as herring gutters. Families were greatly dependant on the weekly wages sent home by these seasonal workers.

During the War of Independence, the Derry People reported, "On 21 June 1921, 500 men from Aranmore Island, Burtonport, Dungloe and other parts of West Donegal are cursing the madness, which has deprived them of railways, telegraphs and newspapers. They are men who go annually to Scotland. For the past few days they have been crowding the lodging houses of the city [Derry]... awaiting a steamer for Glasgow. They complain that they had to walk forty miles, some to Letterkenny and others to Stranorlar, before getting a train. Worse still, they had received no newspapers to tell them when the steamer was sailing nor were they able to get any information by telegram so that they had to come to Londonderry by chance."

In 1922, it was proposed at a meeting of the County Council that due to the high levels of unemployment in West Donegal,



Herring gutters, Scotland, 1921

“we the Donegal County Council appeal to the member representing this county to ask the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State to take this matter up with the view of procuring employment for even some of these people...”.

In October 1923, Morton’s closed their Donegal Carpet factories at Annagry, Crolly and Kilcar resulting in many women losing their only source of income.

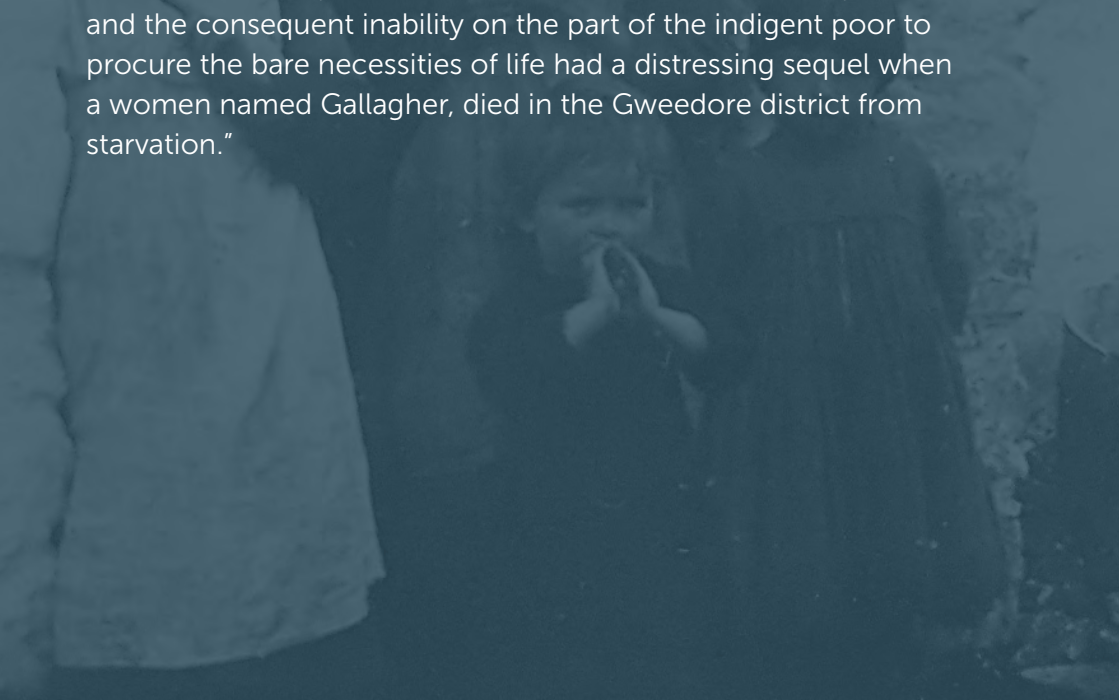
Between 1919 and 1924, numerous businesses, post offices and shops in County Donegal were raided, attacked and on occasions burnt. In 1921, Inver creamery and Cooperative stores was destroyed by the Black and Tans in retaliation for the shooting of Constable Satchwell in Mountcharles.

## Hardship and Hunger

"The country is so assuredly poor that we could hardly get enough to eat. We are often glad when we get potatoes and salt, or a bit of bread and a drop of tea." Charlie Daly, 1923.

From 1922 onwards living conditions in Donegal deteriorated. In 1923 there was very bad weather, another poor potato harvest and a severe shortage of turf to provide fuel for cooking and heat. These combined with a shortage of employment in Scotland, meant that starvation and famine were very real possibilities particularly in the poorest parts of Donegal.

Maud Gonne and Charlotte Despard visited Donegal following reports of extreme poverty in the County. They subsequently wrote to the Irish Independent requesting assistance from the Irish Government to alleviate the distress. The Irish Independent sent a reporter to investigate. One report stated, "The extreme want and destitution now prevalent in many homes along the N.W. Tirconail seaboard primarily attributable to the effects of unemployment and the consequent inability on the part of the indigent poor to procure the bare necessities of life had a distressing sequel when a women named Gallagher, died in the Gweedore district from starvation."





## Belfast Boycott

In August 1920, in response to Roman Catholic workers being thrown out of the shipyards and driven from their homes in Belfast, Dáil Éireann imposed a boycott of goods from Belfast and a withdrawal of funds from Belfast-based banks. This soon extended to other businesses and goods produced by unionist firms in the northeast. It was hoped that this might illustrate how dependent the north east was on the south for trade. From 1921 onwards, it was enforced with fines or threats issued to businesses who continued trading. Members of the IRA intercepted and destroyed products that originated in the north east and southern traders were banned from doing business with their northern counterparts.

With the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921 and the subsequent establishment of the provisional government, the boycott was rescinded. However, shortly afterwards, the Anti-Treaty IRA imposed it again. In response, the Ulster Traders' Defence Association was formed. Ulster people were urged not to buy any southern goods such as clothing, meat, butter, milk, eggs, biscuits, furniture, stout and whiskey. In June 1921, a military order

Liverpool area, making a total of 18 there.

### DIED FROM HUNGER

#### HARROWING STORY FROM TIRCONAILL

The extreme want and destitution now prevalent in many homes along the N.W. Tirconaill seaboard, primarily attributable to the effects of unemployment and the consequent inability on the part of the indigent poor to procure the bare necessities of life, had a distressing sequel, when a woman named Gallagher died in the Gweedore district from starvation.

Our Gweedore correspondent, who visited the family abode, found indescribable conditions prevailing. The miserable hovel in which a father, mother, and six children lived, and which served the dual purposes of living-room and bedroom, revealed within a nakedness seldom witnessed in a human habitation.

The stricken family had neither food nor fire, their emaciated appearance indicating the trying ordeal they endured in a relentless struggle against grim death.

An apology for a bed and a few poor articles of furniture were the only things that graced this home. Following the mother's untimely end, the father and children were subsequently removed to the County Home at Stranorlar.

As mentioned in yesterday's "Irish Independent," the plight of the people in Tirconaill was discussed by the Co. Council, when it was stated that the privation was appalling, and it was agreed to make reduction in certain official salaries in order to secure some measure of economy. Mr. McGoldrick, T.D., said from the relief of distress grant of £20,000 of August, 1922, only £7,000 had been expended up till March 31, and the remainder of the money reverted to the Irish Treasury, while of the 1921 grant there was over £6,000 unexpended, yet there was an overdraft from the bank of over £3,000. He bitterly complained of this state of affairs, and said these grants had reverted because the rules laid down had not been carried out. He blamed the surveyors. Other Councillors said the surveyors were not to blame. The Council eventually appointed a committee to go into the question of road administration with a view to getting the reverted grants re-voted to the Council.

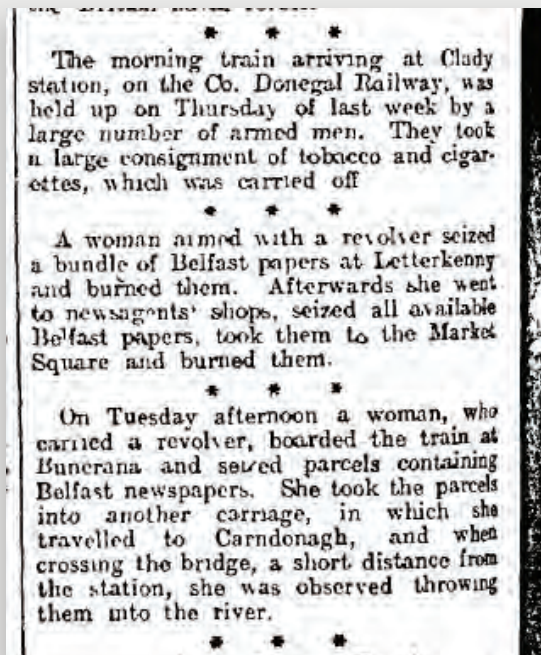
21 December, 1923, Irish Independent

was issued forbidding the Londonderry and Lough Swilly railway from carrying goods to Donegal. In west Donegal, Pat the Cope chartered the SS Better Hope and took a cargo of eggs to Glasgow. In return, the Scottish Co-Operative Movement supplied them with goods. With the start of the Civil War the Boycott soon petered out.

## Rates Crisis

In 1921, the County Council declared allegiance to Dáil Éireann and cut all official links with the Local Government Board. This resulted in the loss of grants of £105,200 and in turn rates were increased. Due to the political situation, many were reluctant to pay their rates. In late 1921, a Mr Wilkinson received a request to pay rates of £5 17/4 which he refused. He then

received a note from the OC of the South Tyrconnill Brigade, IRA, stating that 'any person found disobeying these orders will be severely dealt with'.



1921, Derry People and Donegal News

## Community Relations and Sectarianism

County Donegal was a predominantly Catholic county but had a sizeable Protestant minority with the highest concentration in East Donegal. In 1913, RIC reports noted "the friendly feelings which generally exist between Roman Catholics and Protestants" in Donegal.

Community relations however were badly affected by the War of Independence and the Civil War. Catholics, including ex-servicemen

and Royal Irish Constabulary personnel, serving and retired, suffered for their perceived connection to Britain. Homes and businesses all over the county were raided by the IRA looking for weapons, ammunition, and supplies. Raids were also carried out by the military and British forces. Many civilians were caught in the crossfire. Protestant families left Donegal due to unrest and intimidation.

In 1920, the Church of Ireland Church at Inver was attacked during service by a large number of men who broke windows. They failed to gain entry to the church, so they went to the school next door and smashed windows.

In November 1920, the RIC posted threats on shop windows and walls in Buncrana in response to the Belfast boycott.



July, 1920, Derry Journal

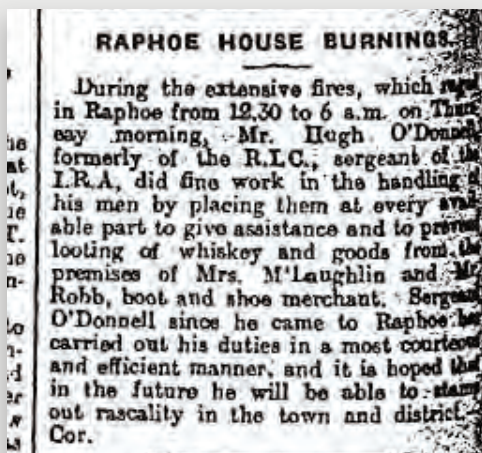
"Take warning in good time that if any harm whatsoever comes to any member of his Majesty's forces or to any person who chooses to associate with them, five prominent Sinn Feiners in this locality will be shot."

In 1921, near Burnfoot, Anti Treaty forces attempted to halt a cyclist. One of their members pointed a revolver at the cyclist face and demanded to know his religion. Michael O'Donoghue from Galway was shocked,

"It was my first experience of sectarian animosity in Ulster and to see an armed IRA man acting like a truculent and religious bigot angered me."

In May 1921 the Presbyterian Lecture Hall at Quigley's Point was burned down. On 15th September 1921, Unionists in Raphoe were warned to withdraw their custom from the Ulster Bank in the town. The manager of the Northern Bank at Raphoe, Joseph Orr received threats and he stated that 'we lived in daily fear'. He eventually left. In 1922, during extensive fires in Raphoe which burned all day,

"Sgt Hugh O'Donnell, Anti Treaty Forces (who was previously in the RIC), did fine work in the handling of his men by placing them at every and able part to give assistance to prevent looting of whiskey and goods from the premises of Mrs McLaughlin and Mr Robb."



In April 1922, a notice was posted ordering all Orangemen in Buncrana to leave. In May 1922, the Londonderry Sentinel Newspaper's editorial asserted that "the whole district has been put in a reign of terror" and stated that the level of persecution of Donegal unionists had increased to the point where many were being forced to seek refuge across the border in Derry. Annabella Rainey, who owned a drapery shop in Milford, left in June 1922 due to continuous intimidation. On June 3rd 1922, the Sentinel reported that "a considerable number of refugees have arrived at Castleberg", escaping the attack on Pettigo.

Houses belonging to the landed gentry were attacked, raided, taken over and on occasion burnt. Culdaff House, built in 1779, was burnt down in May 1922.



Culdaff House burnt in 1922, Private Collection

In May 1922, the British government established the Irish Distress Committee to provide relief for Irish loyalists (both Catholic and Protestant), who suffered and experienced losses during the War of Independence. In March 1923 it was renamed the Irish Grants Committee and aimed to compensate Irish loyalists who

had suffered during the Civil War. Annabella Coulter who owned eighteen acres in Donegal, applied to the IGC and suggested that 'no compensation could ever make good the loss the Irish loyalists have sustained, the scars left on their lives'. Thomas Elvin of Ballybofey, a former RIC sergeant, who had one hundred acres of land, experienced boycotting and cattle driving. He declared, "My present idea is to get clear of this country to some other place where I would have a chance of fair play."

John Patrick Good experienced intimidation from a 'local combination' that were 'trying to put me out of my land and destroy my business'.

## Changes in Donegal's Population

	Protestants	Roman Catholics	Total Population
Change in Towns 1911-26	-34.6%	+7.4%	-2.8%
Change in Rural Areas 1911-26	-21.4%	-6.8	-9.9%

Extracted from The County Donegal Protestant Registration Association Boundary Commission Submission

# Partition and the Border

The Partition of Ireland was the process by which the Government of the (then) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland divided the island of Ireland into separate parliaments. The Government of Ireland Act 1920 became law on the 23rd December 1920, creating two home rule parliaments in Ulster and in Southern Ireland.

The Anglo Irish Treaty in December 1921 contained a provision that would establish a Boundary Commission to decide the exact location of the border between the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland.

The border changed the lives of those who lived along it. There was no continuous physical border. Although there were many ways to cross the border, it had a serious affect on people's ability to move freely. Governments departments on both sides had to be reorganised with

subsequent separation of functions. Farming along the border was made difficult as farmers were separated from their nearest fairs and traders. Some farms were split by the border. Professional qualifications awarded on either side of the border were not recognised.

Trinity College Dublin was not accepted as a place

of education, so Free State job applicants who had attended Trinity were automatically rejected.

After Partition, Unionists in Donegal were left isolated and facing new political and practical realities. During the War of Independence



People at annual Orange Order Parade at Rosssnowlagh, Co Donegal, 1950's. David Graham Collection, Donegal County Museum

and the Civil War, incidents, threats and attacks led to some Protestants moving across the border into Northern Ireland.

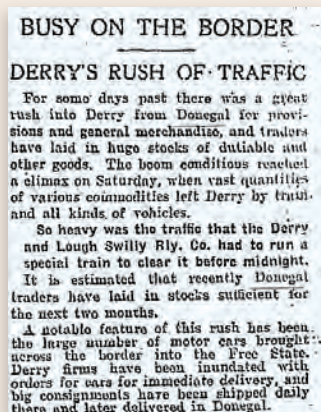
Following Partition, some social and sporting bodies divided North and South but others did not. Those who operate on all island basis include GAA, Cricket, Rugby Union and Boxing. Sports which separated include soccer - the Irish Football Association (Northern Ireland) and the Football Association of Ireland (Republic of Ireland).

## Customs

Pending the findings of the Boundary Commission, the Free State government decided to impose a 'temporary frontier' along the border. This would last for almost 70 years.

In March 1923, the Irish Free State introduced customs barriers with a system of duties to be paid on the movement of certain goods. Goods could only be moved through approved border crossing points where they were inspected at a customs station. These were introduced to assert independence and to put economic pressure on Northern Ireland.

The customs barriers were enacted on 1st April leaving little time for people and businesses to prepare. To cross the border, a carrier's report had to be submitted to customs officials and the relevant fees had to be paid. People crossing the border were searched to prevent smuggling. There was a dramatic decline in trade across the border. Businesses were cut off from their customers and their established markets. There was widespread opposition, particularly in border counties. Donegal was economically cut-off from Derry. Railway services in and out of Donegal suffered considerable disruptions with some lines zig zagging the border numerous times and customs examinations carried out at each crossing. Eventually



March, 1923, Derry Journal



it was decided to have custom examinations limited to the first point of entry at the border.



Irish Customs checkpoint on Donegal Border, 1925

## Pettigo

Pettigo in County Donegal is the only village on the island of Ireland to be divided by the Border between the Free State and Northern Ireland. The section of Pettigo on the Northern Ireland side of the border is Tullyhommon.



Pettigo, 1960's

## Boundary Commission

The Anglo Irish Treaty of December 1921 contained a provision that would establish a Boundary Commission to decide the exact location of the border between the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland. This border was to be, "in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants, so far as they might agree with economic and geographic conditions". The Irish assumed that the Commission would transfer the areas which had a Catholic majority into the Free State. This encompassed County Fermanagh, County Tyrone, South Londonderry, South Armagh, South Down and Derry City. It was assumed that the remainder of Northern Ireland would not be economically viable and would eventually opt for union with the rest of the island of Ireland.

The Civil War, political turmoil in Britain, sectarian violence in Belfast and the refusal of the Unionists to nominate a representative to the Commission meant that it did not begin its work until November 1924.

The neutral Chairman was Mr Justice Richard Feetham, a South African Supreme Court Judge. He was assisted by two Commissioners, Eóin MacNeill, Irish Free State representative and Joseph Fisher, the Northern Ireland representative. The Commission was to take evidence and make recommendations on whether the Border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State should be altered. Through late 1924 and early 1925 the commission toured the border region. They held meetings in towns and villages to hear all views.

The County Donegal Protestant Registration Association members gave many statements in regard to the Border and asserted that the whole of County Donegal should be included within Northern Ireland, or failing this the border should be redrawn to include the areas with a Protestant majority. Both Nationalists and Unionists stated that County Donegal depended on Derry as the nearest

large town, and that the imposition of a customs barrier between them considerably hampered trade and the movement of people.

Statement of the Evidence Proposed  
to be given by Mr. Michael Flood,  
Donegal, General Merchant and  
Dovd agent for the Co. Donegal.

I have been in business for many  
years in the city of Londonderry. Before  
I took business in the town of Donegal,  
I have an intimate knowledge of the  
whole County Donegal, but more particularly  
of the southern portion of the County.  
I have always been interested in  
the question of traffic transit. I can  
give evidence to show that the railway  
systems of Donegal have been constructed  
and extended to develop and facilitate  
the traffic of the port of Derry with  
the County of Donegal, so as to prevent  
the trade of Donegal going in  
other directions. I am one of the  
signatories to the case submitted by the  
group of Co. Donegal business men for  
the inclusion of the port of Londonderry  
in the Irish Free State.

Michael Flood

26.2.1925

Counter-Signed:-  
William Mac Neill,  
Bishop of Raphoe.

-sidered necessary to take the evidence there. We should, of course,  
much prefer that the sittings of the commission for this purpose should  
be held in Ireland.

At our interview in Derry on 20th inst. the chairman asked me if  
I could speak as to the wishes of inhabitants outside those whom we  
represented, and I stated that I could not. Since then, however, I  
have been called on by several Roman Catholics in my neighbourhood who  
have told me that they also desire - principally for economic reasons -  
to be included in Northern Ireland, and they assured me that in the  
event of a plebiscite - which they hoped would be taken - they would so  
vote. They also stated that a large number of their co-religionists  
held similar views. I am inclined to think that some of them would be  
prepared to give evidence.

I have not yet been able to get the valuations for the quarry and  
pettico areas, but hope to do so before the Commission sits.

Any information in my possession or procurement will be gladly  
placed at the disposal of the commission, and, if so desired, will be  
treated as confidential by me.

We have, as indicated at our interview, suggestions as to the  
taking of a plebiscite which we should like to put forward if it would

Above: A Submission by the County Donegal Protestant Registration Association to the Boundary Commission, 1925. CAB61, the National Archives, Kew, UK

Left: A Submission by the Donegal Business Group to the Boundary Commission, 1925. CAB61, the National Archives, Kew, UK

Submissions were also made by the Donegal Business Group who presented a case advocating the inclusion of the City and port of Londonderry into the Irish Free State or failing that, that the border be redrawn so as to follow the River Foyle out to Lough Foyle, leaving the majority of the city within the Irish Free State.

The first draft of the Commission's report was finalised by 5 November 1925. On 7 November, notes of meetings and a border map were leaked to the British Morning Post newspaper which suggested that the commission would recommend only minor alterations to the existing border and that parts of the Irish Free State including large areas of County Donegal would be moved into Northern Ireland. On 20 November Eoin MacNeil resigned. This leak created a political crisis in the Free State.

Hurried meetings were arranged between the Irish, Northern Irish and British governments to try to avert a catastrophe. Under the terms of Article 5 of the Treaty, the Irish Free State had agreed to pay its share of the Imperial debt, which was a large amount of Ireland's GNP. During negotiations the British agreed not to ask for this payment in exchange

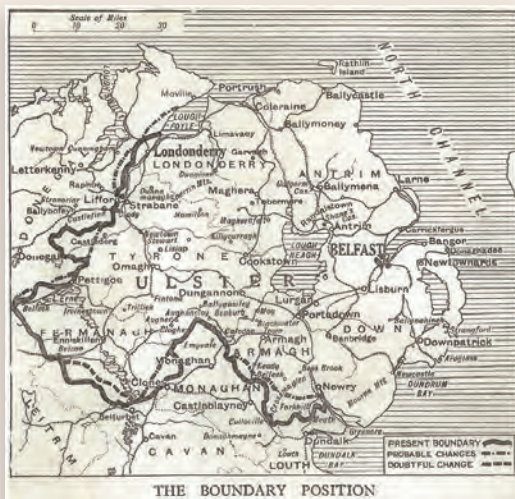
for the border between the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland remaining as it was since Partition in 1920. The agreement was signed in London on 3 December 1925. The Boundary Commission was revoked and its report shelved. The Dáil voted to approve the agreement by a vote of 71 to 20. The report of the Boundary Commission was not made public until January 1968.

## Aftermath and Legacy

The conflict from 1912-1923 succeeded in delivering Irish independence but life for many ordinary Irish people continued unchanged. For some it was simply a case of one type of government being replaced by another.

The Civil War divided communities and families. Over the following decades the lines between fact and myth became blurred and the true story of the revolutionary years was buried but not forgotten.

The period from 1912-1923 might be in the past but its impact is still very much felt across the island of Ireland. Tensions between republican claims for a united Ireland and unionist claims for



'The Boundary Position', published 7th November 1925, Morning Star newspaper

unity with Great Britain set the trend for Anglo-Irish relations for many years to come. Ireland did eventually achieve the status of a Republic in 1949, but it was for only twenty six counties and not thirty two.

The divisions created during these years led to the Irish political party system that exists to the present day. Members of the Pro-Treaty forces formed the Cumann na nGaedheal party, which later became Fine Gael. De Valera eventually re-entered parliamentary politics in 1927 with his newly formed Fianna Fáil party. These two parties remain the two major forces in Irish electoral politics and it is only in the very recent past, that these parties' relationships to the Civil War have begun to be forgotten. In 2020, for the first time ever, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael entered into a coalition government.



33rd Dáil, a Fianna Fáil-Fine Gael-Green Party Coalition



Checkpoint on Ballyshannon/Belleek road, 1980's  
Courtesy Battalion Sgt Major (Rtd) Pat Neilan