

# Fianna Éireann Handbook

Lámhleabhar Fianna Éireann



fiannaeireann.com



£2.50 each

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fiannaeireann.com

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*To carry on, no matter what odds are  
against you, to carry on no matter what  
torments are inflicted on you. The road to  
freedom is paved with suffering, hardships  
and torture, carry on my gallant and brave  
comrades until that certain day.*

— Tom Williams, executed by Fianna Fail,  
1942

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# Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement

WE WELCOME this updating of the *Fianna Handbook* and congratulate Fianna Éireann on producing it. The organisation is as important and relevant as it was when it was set up. While the basic guiding principles of Fianna Éireann remain the same, there have been many progressive moves as you have adapted and moved forward with the changing times.

One of the most welcome moves is the opening of Fianna Éireann to

young women and girls, and there could not be a more appropriate memorial to your founder, Constance Markievicz. This development as well as many others, meant that your handbook had to be in step with the organisation's progress and reflect the aspirations of present-day republican youth.

You have, however, retained and strengthened that link with your history, part of the history of this long struggle, which is so important to you in combating the rewriting of our country's history. The youth of Ireland have always played a vital role in our long struggle for freedom, and never more so than today.

We take this opportunity to salute you and express our sincere gratitude for the dedication and sacrifice of the many Fians who have risked and lost their lives and liberty in this final phase of the fight for freedom.

That dedication and commitment has renewed and replenished the spirit of resistance which will inevitably achieve our victory.

Tá ár lá, agus lá pobal uilig na hÉireann, ag breacadh. An lá ina mbuidh na h-ídéalacha a fuair laochra na nGael bás ar a son curtha i gcrích. Bhí, tá agus beidh páirt lárnach le h-imirt ag óganaigh na hÉireann, ach go h-áirithe Fianna Éireann, chun an lá sin a bhrostú.



# Statement from the Fianna Éireann leadership

IS CŪIS BRÓID é do Fhianna Éireann gur foilsíodh an lámhleabhar úr seo. Tá géarghá leis an lámhleabhar seo sna sluaite uilig d'Fhianna ar fud na hÉireann agus is oth linn nár foilsíodh roimhe seo é. Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil leo siud uilig a raibh lámh cúntaibh acu san foilseachán seo, siúd a scriobh altanna agus scéalta, ach go h-áirithe Pádraig Mac Fhloinn agus foireann AP/RN a chur an lámhleabhar i gcló. Ba mhaith linn ar mbuíochas speisialta a ghabháil le Coiste Cuimhneacháin Roibeárd Uí Sheachnasaigh a thug deontas dúinn don bhfoilseachán.

Since its foundation in 1909 Fianna Éireann has carried out its objective of *"teaching and training the youth of Ireland to fight Ireland's fight when they are older"*. Today that objective is still being carried out and needless to say it is no small task. Working with young people can be very difficult and frustrating, and on the other hand rewarding and inspiring.

Fianna Éireann has a high turnover of members and the majority of these go on to work with and help the Republican Movement in the adult life. Fianna Éireann members have a lot to offer the Movement. They are disciplined, educated and always eager to play their part to further the cause of Irish freedom. We do our utmost to make our members aware of what is happening in Ireland and elsewhere in the world. We do not always succeed in educating every member as much as we would like to, but if they leave Fianna Éireann with at least the meaning of republicanism and socialism, we have succeeded in a small way.

Fianna Éireann need the help and active support of the Republican Movement and all republicans so it can continue to carry-out its aims and objectives. We urge all republicans to enrol their children in the nearest Fianna Éireann slua and to lend a hand when possible in promoting Fianna Éireann.

Fianna Éireann is there to help young people and allow them to use their energies in a constructive rather than destructive manner. We need your help to succeed — we have enough enemies doing their best to destroy and discredit us. Young people in this country have enough enemies just waiting to abuse and exploit them — drug pushers, bad employers, the British and 26-County governments, the gardai, the RUC and the British army.

The Republican Movement should help young people as much as possible and in so doing they will help Fianna Éireann.

Remember the youth of today are the hope of tomorrow.

Ard Oifig,

Bealtaine 1988.

## Aims and Objectives

- (a)  
To promote the principles of Irish republicanism among the youth of Ireland.
- (b)  
To work for the establishment in Ireland of a democratic socialist republic based on the principles enshrined in the 1916 proclamation and the democratic programme of the First Dail.
- (c)  
To propagate the use, and foster a love of the Irish language and culture among young people in Ireland.
- (d)  
To promote the objectives, principles and exercises of scouting among Irish youth.
- (e)  
To teach the history of Ireland as it happened.

## Policy

- (a)  
Fianna Éireann is the Irish republican youth movement.
- (b)  
As a constituent, but organisationally and constitutionally independent part of the Republican Movement, Fianna Éireann is committed to the basic principles of Irish republicanism, which are national liberation, democratic socialism and non-sectarianism.
- (c)  
The organisation pledges its allegiance to the sovereign, independent Irish republic proclaimed in 1916 and ratified in the national parliament of the Irish people on January 21st 1919.
- (d)  
The organisation therefore recognises not treaties nor boundaries which make of Ireland anything less than a sovereign, independent state from the centre to the sea.
- (e)  
Fianna Éireann shall assist as directed by an Ard Choiste, other organisations, in promoting the aims, objectives and policy of Fianna Éireann.
- (f)  
All functions held under the auspices of Fianna Éireann shall be of an Irish/Ireland nature whenever possible.



## Fianna Éireann Declaration

The probationary period is completed now and the recruit is fit to become a fully fledged member of Fianna Éireann. He/she becomes a Fian by taking the Fianna Éireann Declaration. The success of Fianna Éireann depends on the earnestness and hard work of its members, and no recruit who does not intend to live up to both the spirit and letter of the Declaration should take it. While taking the declaration a recruit stands at attention and places his/her hand on the Tricolour. He/she repeats:

*"I..... pledge my allegiance to (God and) the Irish Republic, and I promise to do all in my power to protect her from all enemies, whether foreign or domestic. I also promise to obey my superior officers and to practice the Code of Honour."*

– "God and" is optional

## The history and tradition of Fianna Éireann

FIANNA EIREANN was founded in 1909 with the object of educating the youth of Ireland in national ideals and "to train the youth of Ireland to fight Ireland's fight when they are older," to re-establish the independence of the nation. Through its long history, longer indeed than that of either Cumann na mBan, Cumann na gCailini, Clann na nGaedhael or the IRA, it has been called upon to play an often vital role in the long fight for freedom.

A Gaelic renaissance was sweeping Ireland at the time; and the Fianna were to be an Irish and gaelic answer to the pro-British Baden-Powell scouts. They looked on the mythological Fianna of Fionn MacCuamhail as their exemplars and took their motto, *Glaine inár gcroíthe, neart inár ngéaga; agus beart do réir ár mbriathar* (Purity in our hearts, strength in our arms and truth on our lips), as their own. The legends of old Ireland extolled the courage and the daring, the discipline and the determination of the country's defenders — of Cuchulainn and the Red Branch Knights, and of Fionn, Oscar and Oisín of the Fianna of old.

At the time the Fianna was founded by Constance Markievicz, Ireland, after more than 700 years of enforced English rule, was slowly becoming a contented British province. Unemployment was widespread, poverty rampant and apathy the general condition of the people. Hopelessness seemed the birthright of every boy and girl born in those years. Pride of nationhood was at its lowest ebb for decades.

The Gaelic League and Gaelic Athletic Association, founded in the last quarter of the 19th century, had made great strides. They catered for the young adult population. But the boys of Ireland, whose keen young minds should have been

educated in their country's heritage, needs and future, were neglected.

The neglected youth of Ireland was then falling prey to the bait of the tyrant. Some escaped their poverty by joining the British army and helped their oppressor to establish its rule in Africa and Asia. Others scraped a bare existence at home but did not allow their minds to dwell on the plight of their country or on their own future.

Meanwhile a new anti-national menace, in the shape of the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts, threatened to spread throughout the country. These scouts made a declaration of allegiance to the king of England, thus starting their indoctrination in British ways and British loyalties.

## THE COUNTESS

One day in 1909 Countess Constance Markievicz read a newspaper report of one such loyalist parade. She thought it tragic that 800 Irish lads should parade in front of the king's representative in Ireland and salute the Union Jack, the flag that flew in triumph over their oppressed motherland.

She decided to found an organisation for Irish boys — Fianna Éireann. The boys of Fianna Éireann would be held together by the bond of their great love for Ireland. The organisation would include all those working for Ireland's cause, whether constitutional or revolutionary. What mattered was honesty and a willingness to undertake a life of self-sacrifice and self-denial for their country's sake. Although primarily an educational organisation, the military character of Fianna is indicated by the first two clauses of its constitution. According to its constitution, the object of the organisation was *to re-establish the independence of Ireland* by means of *"training the youth of Ireland to fight when they are older"*.

At the time the Countess was a member of the Sinn Féin Executive and a speaker at their weekly public meetings. At these meetings she aired her views and called for support for the organisation she hoped to found, but met with little encouragement. However, with the help of Helena Maloney, Patrick McCartan and Seamus Mac Garda, an informal committee was formed, which discussed the foundation of the organisation.

It was decided to contact a schoolmaster who would recommend boys who might be interested in such an organisation. The Countess told a unionist friend that she hoped to form a boy-scout organisation for nationalists and desired to contact a schoolmaster who would be sympathetic. He sent her to Westland Road, CBS. The schoolmaster introduced the Countess to eight boys and she launched the organisation by inviting them to her own house, where she held the first parade.

None of the members knew drill, semaphore, or any other scouting skills. Little progress was made and the Countess became rather depressed at times. Then they decided to go on a camp; and the joys and tribulations of the Fiar camp really convinced her of the possibilities of the organisation. It also convinced her that the organisation would have to be run on the basis of a 'Bo



Brigade' and an army, as opposed to the English scouts' system of organisation by sections and patrols.

She rented a hall at 34 Lower Camden Street in Dublin and invited Bulmer Hobson to assist in launching the new organisation, as he had previous experience of handling boys, having run a boys organisation in Belfast in 1902.

On August 16th, 1909 at a meeting in the hall at 34 Lower Camden Street, presided over by Bulmer Hobson, Fianna Eireann was founded. The Countess, at Hobson's request, called the new organisation Fianna Eireann after the mythological Fianna of Fionn Mac Cuamhail. Hobson was elected president, Countess Markievicz vice-president, and Padraig O Riain secretary.

This first meeting was attended by about 100 youths and An Chead Slua was formed. Con Colbert joined the Fianna that historic evening and soon rose to the rank of captain. This meeting also marked the launching of Fianna on a national scale.

## EXPANSION

The organisation progressed steadily and the next sluaite to be formed in Dublin were in Drumcondra and North Dock. The first slua formed in Belfast was organised by Annie O'Boyle, a young women who worked devotedly and untiringly for that cause of Irish freedom. There were sluaite in Dublin, Limerick, Derry, Cork and Belfast by December 1910 and the first Ard-Fheis had been held in the Mansion House in Dublin.

In the summer of 1911, the Belfast slua, wearing Fianna uniforms, climbed Cave Hill and standing at McArt's Fort just as Wolfe Tone had done, one hundred and twenty years before, promised to work unceasingly for the independence of Ireland. The second Ard Fheis, which was held in July 1911, revealed that the organisation had spread to Dundalk, Clonmel, Newry, Waterford and Limerick city. In that year Liam Mellows joined. Sean Heuston was then O/C of the Limerick slua. All Ard-Fheiseanna were held in the Mansion House prior to 1916.

Dissatisfied that they could not pay an organiser to enrol boys in every county, in 1912 the Fianna Executive took stock of its position and realised that the chances of achieving their objectives was in great danger of being frustrated through inadequate resources and in particular funds which were badly needed to finance the spread of the organisation. In this difficulty, Liam Mellows, who had joined Fianna the previous year, proposed giving up his job and travelling throughout Ireland recruiting for Fianna.

In April 1913, starting on a life of ceaseless activity for the republic, never relaxing his efforts until his death before a Free State firing squad in December 1922 Mellows, for a salary of ten shillings a week, became Fianna's first full-time organiser, travelling throughout the country on his bicycle recruiting for Fianna Eireann. He succeeded so well that they soon had companies or sluaite all over Ireland.

When he commenced his task as first Fianna organiser, he was met with indiff-

erence almost everywhere, but within a year the future of Fianna in Ireland was assured. The organisation spread throughout the country due mainly to his great organising ability. The Fianna established hurling and football teams, fife bands and ambulance corps, in every part of the country.

Sean Hueston returned to Dublin in 1913 and took charge of Slua Robert Emmet. He was a born leader and had a great capacity for work. He laboured long in the Fianna HQ at 12 D'Olier Street where he could be found up to midnight working on details of organisation and training.

### 1913 LOCK-OUT

Following Countess Markievicz's lead, Fianna allied itself to the struggle of the Irish workers and played an active part during the Great Lock-Out of workers of 1913, both in a supporting role and as a participant in it. Among the first batch of recruits taken into the Fianna were the young boys who acted as street-sellers and messenger boys for the daily newspapers. The Countess promptly recruited them into the Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU). Throughout the six-month long lock-out Fianna members also helped with the soup kitchens which the Countess ran in the basement of Liberty Hall.

The organisation's first casualty was Fian Patsy O'Connor, an eighteen-year-old Fianna officer who died as a result of injuries received during the lock-out. While giving first-aid to an injured worker during a baton-charge by the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) he himself was batoned savagely about the head. He died as a result of these injuries in July 1915..

### IRISH VOLUNTEERS

Fianna officers stewarded the inaugural meeting of the Irish Volunteers (the forerunners of today's IRA) in November 1913 at the Rotunda in Dublin.

With the founding of the Volunteers the value of the work undertaken by Fianna became obvious. The senior boys were ready and competent to train the Volunteers and accustom them to discipline and, in short, to transform raw recruits into disciplined soldiers. Four members of Fianna were elected onto the first Provisional Committee of the Volunteers and many Fianna officers became Volunteer officers.

The Fianna drill halls and equipment were at the disposal of the Volunteers and they grew rapidly in strength along with the Fianna.

Padraig Pearse in a speech delivered in February 1914, recognising their invaluable contribution to Irish republicanism, paid them the following tribute:

"We believe that Fianna Eireann have kept the military spirit alive in Ireland during the last four years, and that if the Fianna had not been founded in 1909, the Volunteers of 1913 would not have arisen."

### BODENSTOWN

Fianna Eireann was well represented at the annual Bodinstown commemoration on June 22nd of the same year where Padraig Pearse delivered his historic ovation

over the grave of Theobald Wolfe Tone, the Father of Irish republicanism.

The Wolfe Tone Commemoration to Bodinstown in County Kildare has remained an annual event for the organisation ever since and is attended by large contingents of Fianna from all over Ireland.

## FIANNA HAND BOOK

The year 1914 saw further progress for Fianna when the first *Fianna Eireann Handbook* was compiled and issued. It contained contributions by Roger Casement, James Connolly, Padraig Pearse and other prominent republicans and socialists. The handbook, which also included chapters on a wide variety of scouting and military topics, was later adopted for use by the Irish Volunteers.

A revised and enlarged edition of the handbook was re-issued in 1924, after the Civil War, while the last *Fianna Handbook* was published forty years later, in 1964.

## HOWTH GUN-RUNNING

The year 1914 also marked Fianna's first event of national importance, the Howth gun-running when a large consignment of arms and ammunition from Germany was landed for use by the Irish Volunteers.

In July 1914 Erskine Childers on board his yacht *Asgard* and Conor O'Brien on board the *Kelpie* successfully met a Hamburg tug in mid-Atlantic which had sailed from Germany with arms and ammunition to be landed in Ireland.

At 12.45pm on Sunday, July 26th, the *Asgard* slipped through an English naval fleet and brought 900 rifles and several thousand rounds of ammunition into Howth. Earlier that morning several senior members of Fianna Eireann, with two hand-carts, under the command of Fian Sean Heuston, and about 800 Irish Volunteers had marched out from Dublin to Howth to collect the guns and ammunition.

Within half an hour the consignment of 900 mauser rifles and 26,000 rounds of ammunition was unloaded from the *Asgard* at Howth and by 1.30pm the Volunteers shouldering their rifles and the Fianna boys with their hand-carts full of ammunition were making their way back to Dublin.

At the time the Irish Volunteers were only several months in existence and Fianna Eireann was the only organisation with sufficient discipline to be entrusted with the task of safely delivering the ammunition to its destination. This trust was not misplaced. On the return journey to Dublin, during clashes between the crown forces and the Irish Volunteers, the Fianna members with their hand-carts full of ammunition and a number of rifles, slipped through the military cordon and succeeded in bringing their load to safe houses in the city.

The arms and ammunition on board Conor O'Briens' yacht *Kelpie* were to have been landed at Kilcoole on the same day. But because this yacht was too well known, the cargo was transferred to the *Chotah* which had a breakdown. The consignment of 600 rifles and several thousand rounds of ammunition were fin-



ally landed at Kilcoole in County Wicklow on the following Saturday, August 1st 1914. A Fianna officer was in charge at the Kilcoole gun-running.

### ROSSA'S FUNERAL

From 1915 onwards, Fianna Eireann threw themselves wholeheartedly into the nationalist cause and worked tirelessly for the forthcoming rising. Later that year the funeral of the Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa was the occasion of a great display of strength by all nationalist organisations including Fianna. Large contingents of Fianna, from all over Ireland, followed the funeral procession to Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin on August 1st to hear Padraig Pearse deliver his historic oration over the grave of O'Donovan Rossa.

### FIANNA RE-ORGANISES

A major structural re-organisation of the Fianna took place in 1915. In order to bring the organisation into line with that of the Irish Volunteers and also to cope with the large number of members, the Fianna re-organised the sluaithe into brigade and battalion formations. This re-organisation showed a clear change in emphasis from scouting to more military activities.

The change-over was ratified at the Fianna Ard Fheis held in July of that year. Countess Markievicz was re-elected President of the Fianna. This was followed by a meeting of the newly-elected Ard Choiste (Executive Council) which proceeded to appoint a headquarters staff, thus departing from the practice of electing departmental directors at the Ard Fheis.

Captain J. A. Dalton of Limerick presided over the first meeting of the Fianna Ard Choiste, held at 12 D'Olier Street (the offices of the IRB newspaper *Irish Freedom*) on Sunday, July 24th 1915.

At this meeting the following headquarters staff of the Fianna was appointed: Ard Taoiseach, Padraic O Riain; Chief of Staff, Bulmer Hobson; Adjutant General, A.P. Reynolds; Director of Training, Sean Mac Aodha (Sean Heuston); Director of Organisation and recruiting, Eamon Martin; Director of Equipment, Leo Henderson; Director of Finance, Barney Mellows. Garry Holohan was appointed assistant to Leo Henderson. They all held office until Easter 1916.

It was decided to co-opt a member of the Belfast District Council on to the Ard Choiste. By this time Con Colbert had gone to the Volunteers full time.

### FIANNA AND THE IRB

The Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) a secret oath-bound society, to which many of the republican leaders belonged, exerted great influence on the policy and internal workings of Fianna Eireann, from its formation up to the Truce of 1921. This was mainly due to the fact that the majority of Fianna officers were members of the IRB from as early as 1912.

In that year Con Colbert and Padraig O Riain joined the John Mitchel Circle of the IRB and by the end of 1913, many of the senior Fianna officers were members

ers. The Supreme Council of the IRB maintained a close interest in the Fianna and it wasn't long before the IRB Circle in the Fianna, effectively ran the organisation, much to the annoyance of Constance Markievicz. In 1911 Eamon Martin was sworn in, and in 1912, Michael Lonergan and Liam Mellows became members.

All members of the headquarter staff of Fianna Eireann were to become members of the IRB during the following years. In 1912, the John Mitchel Circle of the IRB had become a separate circle for the Fianna with Con Colbert as Centre and Padraig O Riain as Secretary. When the country officers were in Dublin, they attended the meetings of this circle.

On the eve of all Ard Fheiseanna, up to about 1923, all Fianna officers who were members of the IRB held a caucus meeting which decided how they were to vote on matters of importance. It was usually arranged that Constance Markievicz would be elected Ard Taoiseach at these meetings, thus, in effect, preventing her from holding a position on the GHQ or the Ard Choiste. The senior officers did not want to antagonise the Countess openly so she ensured that she would have little say in the affairs of the organisation by electing her to this, at the time, honorary position. Thus it can be seen that it was not left to the Fianna Ard Fheis to make policy decisions and that all the important decisions were taken at the meeting beforehand.

When the IRB influence terminated, the Countess had greater say in the affairs of the Fianna, but it has been acknowledged that despite the IRB situation, the organisation would never have succeeded without her enthusiasm, her tremendous energy, and above all her abiding faith in the cause.

## EASTER WEEK

Seven years of intensive effort and dedicated service to the nation culminated in the Rising of Easter Week 1916. Fianna Eireann played a major role in the Rising, not only in the actual fighting, but during the months of preparation prior to Easter Week.

On Easter Monday, April 24th 1916, when the republican forces proclaimed an independent Irish republic, Fianna officers were given command of important garrisons in Dublin and Galway.

A party of Volunteers and Fianna under the command of a Fianna officer, Paddy Holohan, rushed the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park, disarmed the guard and almost succeeded in their attempt to detonate the explosives stored in the arsenal. This was to have been the signal for the Rising to begin. They did, however, succeed in capturing a large quantity of arms and ammunition. This party then proceeded to the Broadstone Railway Station in Phibsborough, where the O/C of the Dublin Fianna was severely wounded in the attack. Later in the week, this party also participated in the capture of the Linen Hall Barracks and the fierce fighting in North King Street. Fianna officers were given command of important garrisons and outposts during Easter Week. Sean Heuston was in charge at the Mendicity Institute on Usher's Island, and with his small garrison, defended his



position for three days. Con Colbert was in command of the outpost at Watkins Brewery in Ardee Street. On Wednesday of Easter Week the entire group withdrew to the garrison at Marrowbone Lane where Colbert was appointed second-in-command and assumed command at the surrender.

Countess Markievicz, the Chief Scout of Fianna, was second-in-command to Michael Mallin at St Stephen's Green and the College of Surgeons throughout the week.

Members of Fianna Eireann were also engaged in the fighting in almost every garrison and outpost throughout Dublin. In addition, other boys, not of fighting age, carried out the dangerous work of dispatch – carrying, reconnoitering and scouting.

Altogether, seven members of Fianna Eireann were killed in action during the week's fighting while several others were wounded. Fianna officers, Sean Heuston and Con Colbert was executed in Kilmainham Jail on May 8th, 1916..

Liam Mellows, the Fianna organiser, led the Rising in the West. He commanded the republican forces in Galway throughout the week. They captured the barracks at Clarenbridge and marched to Oranmore. Following the arrival of British reinforcements, Mellows and his two commanders were forced to retreat to the mountains and after the surrender he eventually made his way to the US.

A number of senior Fianna members were interned in Frongoch and other camps in Wales and England following the surrender. Constance Markievicz was sentenced to death, but the sentence was later commuted to one of life imprisonment.

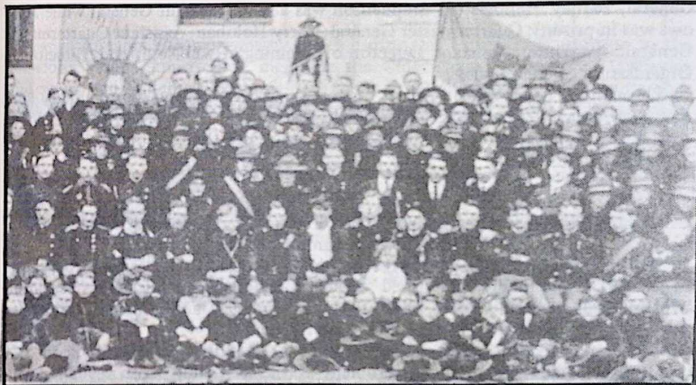
## AFTER THE RISING

Immediately after the Easter Rising, a meeting of all available officers was held at An Chead Slua Hall in Camden Street where a provisional committee was appointed to run the organisation. The committee consisted of Eamon Martin, Chairperson; J. Pouch, T. Fitzgerald and Joseph Reynolds.

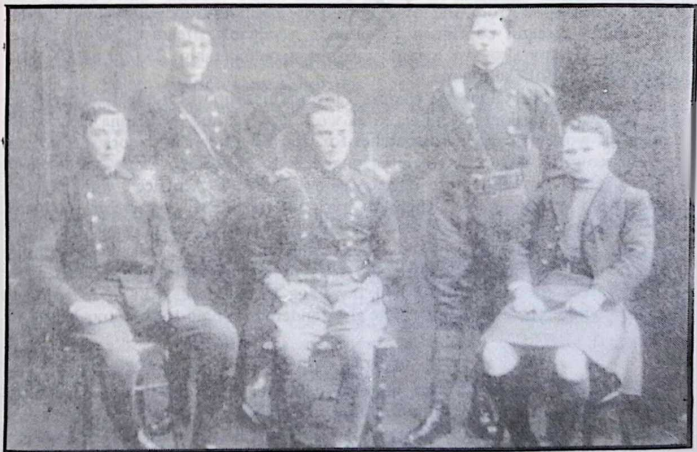
With the release of many Fianna Eireann members along with the bulk of the internees in December 1916, the Headquarters Staff was re-constituted as follows: Ard Taoiseach, Countess Markievicz (still in prison), Chief-of-Staff Eamon Martin (in the United States); Adjutant General, Barney Mellows (re-arrested, February 1917); Quartermaster General, Garry Holohan; Assistant Quartermaster General, A. White; Director of Training and Acting Chief-of-Staff, Seam McLoughlin.

Following the release of many Fianna from prison in the general amnesty of June 1917, a huge re-organisation campaign was in full swing by the summer both in Dublin and throughout the country. During this period, the number of members increased to over 30,000.

At the Fianna Ard Fheis in August of that year the following appointments, which remained static until the Truce in 1921, were made: Ard Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera, 1917 to 1918; Ard Taoiseach, Constance Markievicz, 1918 to 1921; Chief-of-Staff and Director of Training, Eamon Martin, until July 1921; Adjutant



● Countess Markievicz with a group of Fianna. The Fianna Eireann and Green Harp flags are on display in the background



● Senior officers of Fianna Eireann who fought in the 1916 Rising, Paddy Holohan, Gary Holohan, Michael Lonergan, Padraig Ryan and Con Colbert

General, Barney Mellows (P. Stephenson was acting Adjutant General while Mellows was in prison); Quartermaster General, Garry Holohan; Assistant Quartermaster General, A. White. Assistant Director of Training, H. O'Neill; and Director of Organisation, Liam Langley.

Throughout the following years, Fianna was reorganised on more military lines and took an active part in all military activities during that period which included marching at the funeral of Thomas Ashe, the Anti-Conscription campaign and several raids for arms.

## TAN WAR

During the Black and Tan War, from 1919 to 1921, Fianna Eireann took an active part in the fight for Irish freedom throughout the country.

On January 21st 1919, the Irish Republic, proclaimed in arms during Easter Week 1916 was finally established when a number of republicans elected in the Westminster election in December 1918, met in the Mansion House, Dublin and set up an all Ireland Irish parliament – Dail Eireann.

The annual Ard Fheis of Fianna Eireann held at the Mansion House in 1919 pledged its allegiance to the government of the 32-County Irish republic as the boys and girls of the Fianna continue to do to the present day.

From 1918 to 1920, the IRA Headquarters estimated that four to five thousand Fianna transferred from the organisation to the army and throughout the Tan War Fianna Eireann continued to provide a valuable stream of recruits for the IRA. These years also saw a rapid growth in membership, 25,000 by 1921, and in organisation for the Fianna.

The work undertaken by Fianna Eireann in support of the IRA during the Tan War was considerable. This vital work carried out by Fianna included the dangerous work of carrying dispatches for IRA Volunteers in the brigades throughout the country, often at great personal risk to themselves. They reconnoitered RIC barracks throughout the country and supplied IRA officers with invaluable information which enabled them to burn-out most RIC barracks in rural areas. They engaged in intelligence work of all kinds, noting the movement of enemy forces in the towns, villages and cities throughout Ireland. This vital information provided by the Fianna enabled the IRA to launch devastating attacks on the British forces of occupation when travelling on the streets in the cities, towns and throughout the countryside. They also rendered first aid to the wounded.

## OPERATIONS

In addition, Fianna Officers and senior scouts succeeded in securing arms and actively engaged the enemy on numerous occasions.

The Fianna took an active part in IRA operations in the cities, towns and villages throughout the country. When the terror of the Black and Tans was loosed in all its fury, following their arrival in Ireland in March 1920, the Fianna showed that the years of intense training were not wasted.



Fianna Eireann suffered greivous losses during the Tan War. In addition to the numerous Fianna imprisoned, including the Chief Scout Constance Markievicz who served jail sentences from May to October 1919 and again from September 1920 to July 1921, many were killed in action while others were assassinated by the RIC and Black and Tans.

Fian Patrick Hanley was brutally killed by the RIC in front of his mother, in a series of such killings in the Grattan Street area of Cork city on the night of November 17th, 1920. They were a reprisal for the shooting of an RIC sergeant. Patrick was the sole support of his mother and sister and despite his appeal to his assassins he was shot down callously on that fateful night.

Fian Patrick Hanley was only one of a number of Fianna who were brutally assassinated by the crown forces during the Tan War.

The heroism and bravery of the Fianna during this period would fill many volumes and cannot be dealt with in this brief outline.

### TRUCE

In July 1921, after a war which lasted for over two years, during which the British military machine and civil administration were crippled, the English government led by Prime Minister Lloyd George sought to negotiate peace terms with the IRA. On July 9th a truce between both sides was signed at the Mansion House in Dublin and hostilities ceased at 12 noon on July 11th.

At the Ard-Fheis held after the Truce, the Director of Organisation gave the strength of the organisation throughout the country as around 25,000. The Chief of Staff's opinion was that this was an "*on paper*" figure and that half to two third that figure would be a closer estimate. The "*returns*" were always on the "*generous*" side.

### CIVIL WAR

Ireland's sorrowful tale was to continue and many more members of the Fianna were to die between 1922 and 1923.

When the treaty of surrender was signed in December 1921, Fianna Eireann stood by the republic. On April 16th 1922, several days after the establishment of the republican headquarters at the Four Courts in Dublin, the Fianna Ard Fheis, presided over by Barney Mellows, the adjutant general, declared their allegiance to the republic in unqualified terms, and they were backed up in their decision by the whole organisation. There was, in fact, no split in Fianna.

During the following nine months, thousands of Fianna fought side by side with the Volunteers of the IRA throughout the country. In Dublin alone, four hundred members of the Fianna were actively engaged in the fight. Hundreds of Fianna were thrown into prison and stood true, neither giving way under torture nor shirking the hunger strike.

In addition to the Fianna killed in action through the country, many were brutally assassinated by the enemy, including Vice-Brigadier Alfie Colley and Commandant Sean Cole, both arrested in early August 1922, and whose bodies

were found on August 26th at Yellow Lane, Whitehall, Dublin.

The following December Liam Mellows, Fianna Chief of Staff and Joe McKelvey, Commandant of the Northern Division of Fianna, were executed by a Free State firing squad in Mountjoy Jail where they had been held prisoners since the attack on the Four Courts six months previously.

The Republican Army laid down its arms in April 1923 after nearly a year of heroic resistance. The Free State government was established to rule, or misrule the 26 Counties, and a unionist government was set up in the Six Counties to do like-wise. Fianna Eireann was proclaimed an "illegal organisation" in the Six Counties but nevertheless continued to function actively.

### RE-ORGANISATION 1924

Under the guidance of Constance Markievicz, Fianna Eireann was re-organised in 1924, after the turmoil of the Civil War, to carry on "*the training of the youth of Ireland to be honourable and self-reliant citizens*". It reverted to the slua system with each slua leader in direct contact with head office.

The emphasis was changed from rifle and revolver practice towards education and physical training. A new handbook was issued in 1924 and the monthly organ of the organisation *Fianna*, made its appearance again and brought news of the organisation to every corner of Ireland. Fianna continued to play a leading part in the education of the youth and the safeguarding of the national ideals throughout the land.

### INTIMIDATION

Despite the change in emphasis of the organisation, Fianna Eireann was continually harassed by the Free State government under the Treasonable Offences Act, 1925. In 1931 the ban in the Six Counties was extended to the South by the Cumann na nGaedhael governments, under William T. Cosgrave, only to be removed a year later.

During the 1930's and 1940's Fianna Eireann was subjected to continuous harassment, intimidation and victimisation both in the Six and 26 Counties.

There are many accounts of petty victimisation. In the North, in April 1935, Fian William Watson from Belfast was remanded in custody after being charged with possession of four Fianna badges and a seditious notebook. In May 1938, Fian Alex McCloskey was sentenced to six months for organising Fianna Eireann in Belfast and in February of the following year, a sixteen year old youth, Fian Michael Smith, received a similar sentence for putting up posters calling for the release of republican prisoners.

In the late 1930's and early 1940's the boys of the Dublin Brigade defied the Fianna Fail ban on the annual Bodinstown pilgrimages by laying a wreath on the grave of Wolfe Tone. This was achieved despite the threatening guns of the Free State military, who were sent to Tone's grave to prevent republicans honouring one



of Ireland's national heroes. It was often necessary to walk the 23 miles to Bodestown and back the following day, to defy the pseudo-republicans of Fianna Fail.

## BORDER CAMPAIGN

The 1950's was a period of growth, development and expansion for Fianna Eireann. However, harassment of the Fianna by Fianna Fail and coalition governments in the 26 Counties and the Stormont regime in the Six Counties continued, fluctuated in accordance with the rise and fall of republican activity.

During the IRA Border Campaign of 1956-1962, despite the increased harassment of Fianna, the organisation continued to play its part in the campaign of resistance.

Fianna members were regularly harassed, arrested, imprisoned and interned on both sides of the border. In March 1959 internment was ended in the 26 Counties. The last of the internees in the Six Counties were released in March 1961 although the IRA campaign did not officially end until February 1962.

## POLITICAL YOUTH MOVEMENT

Following the end of the Border Campaign, Fianna Eireann re-organised and grew rapidly throughout the country during the early years of the 1960's.

The official organ of the organisation *Fianna* made its appearance once again in 1963 and later that year the Department of Associate Membership, founded in 1922, was revived. In 1964 the new Fianna Eireann handbook, *The Young Guard of Erin*, the first handbook in forty years, was published with a foreword by the veteran Belfast republican Jimmy Steele, who had a special interest in the Fianna.

In the 1960's disagreements grew in the Republican Movement over the policies being pursued by the leadership which were eventually to lead to a split in the Movement. Disagreements and the split inevitably emerged in Fianna Eireann. The emphasis of the organisation began to change from being a scouting and military organisation to being a political youth movement and in the mid-1960's it was proposed that Fianna be disbanded and absorbed into the Connolly Youth Movement.

When the eventual split came in 1970, however, most of the rank and file members of the organisation stood by the Fianna constitution and the IRA's 'Provisional' Army Council.

## RESURGENCE

During the periods of national resurgence, Fianna Eireann has always been ready, willing and able to play its part in the struggle for freedom. In every generation the boys, and later the girls, of the Fianna have been in the front line of resistance and the present generation is no exception.

In August 1969, following the joint attacks by the 'B' Specials and loyalist mobs on the nationalist areas of Derry, Belfast and other places throughout the North, the members of Fianna Eireann stood shoulder to shoulder with the Vol-

unteers of Oglagh na hEireann. The present and final phase of the long struggle for freedom had begun. The first casualty on the republican side was a fifteen year old member of the Belfast Brigade, Fianna Eireann, Fian Gerald McAuley.

On August 14th, 1969, the Divis area of Belfast was attacked by loyalists and the notorious and hated 'B' Specials and nationalist families living between the Shankill Road and Divis were burnt out of their homes. St Comgall's Catholic School and Clonard Monastery were attacked, but the mob were beaten back by the nationalist community with the assistance of the IRA and members of Fianna Eireann.

When daylight broke on the morning of August 15th, six people were dead and 150 houses (including the whole of Bombay Street), all nationalist-owned, had been destroyed. Amongst the dead was young Fian Gerald McAuley who was shot dead while defending his community.

Since his death, 19 other brave and courageous members of Fianna have given their lives in the cause of Irish freedom. Many more are being held in juvenile detention centres, remand jails and prison camps throughout the country.

## FINAL STRUGGLE

The majority of Volunteers on the Roll of Honour are former members of Fianna Eireann, and the majority of current republican prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh are ex-Fianna members. Three of the Volunteers who died on hunger-strike in 1981, Raymond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara and Kieran Doherty, were all former members of Fianna.

During the H-Block/Armagh Campaign — from the start of the blanket protest in 1976 to the end of the campaign in 1981—Fianna played their part.

Fianna were particularly active in the 26 Counties during the 1981 hunger-strike in mobilising the support of young people behind the prisoners' demands. Its members involved themselves in Youth Against H-Block/Armagh groups and the Fianna independently organised a number of successful youth marches and staged several protest occupations, some of them particularly spectacular.

Today, because Fianna Eireann is an effective organisation of young people working among young people to promote the ideals of Irish republicanism, many of its members are regularly harassed by the Special Branch and on many occasions arrested and even imprisoned because of their activities. In the North, Fianna still remains a proscribed organisation while in the South slua meetings are almost always kept under observation by the Garda Special Branch.

Yet, in spite of this, Fianna Eireann continues to be a strong, active and expanding organisation with a membership of over 600 youngsters and with sluaite in many of the cities and major towns throughout the 32 Counties.

Fianna Eireann continues today as the revolutionary youth organisation of the Republican Movement. It has a proud history of sacrifice, dedication and courage, working today for Irish freedom by spreading the message of militant republic-

anism among the youth to end the continued British presence in Ireland. Fianna will continue to serve Ireland honorably by endeavouring to fulfil, in their generation, the republican aspiration, the establishment of a 32-County Democratic Socialist Republic.

Over the years, the proud record of Fianna Eireann has remained inspiring and unsullied as they continue the glorious heritage bequested to them by Countess Markievicz, Con Colbert, Sean Hueston, Liam Mellows, Sean Sabhat and their other fallen comrades. Today, Fianna Eireann is forging a future for itself worthy of its past. Ar aghaidh le Fianna Eireann.

— Padraig Mac Fhloinn



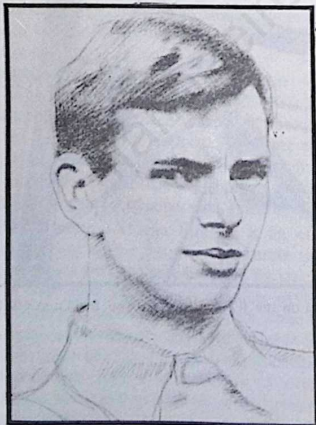
● Fianna members protesting against censorship on the RTE mast, Montrose, Dublin in 1984



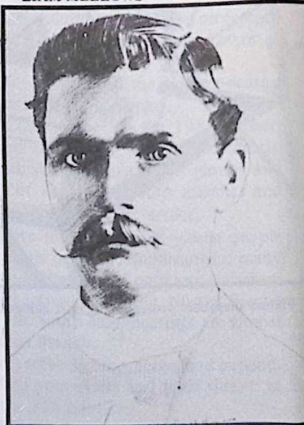
● CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ



● LIAM MELLOWS



● SEAN HEUSTON

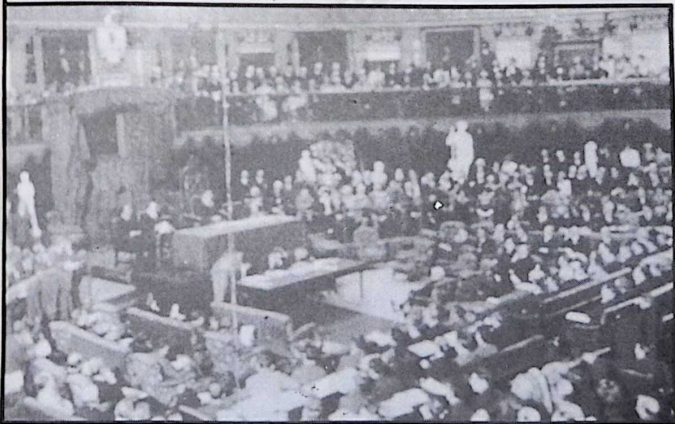


● MICHAEL MALLIN





● Fianna Eireann physical fitness class, Limerick 1913

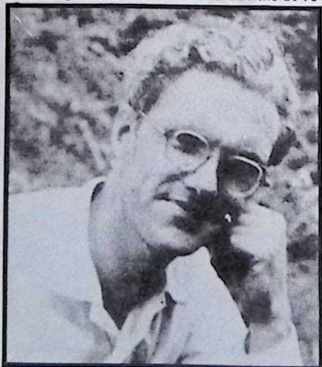


● The first Dail meeting in the Mansion House, Dublin, January 21st, 1919





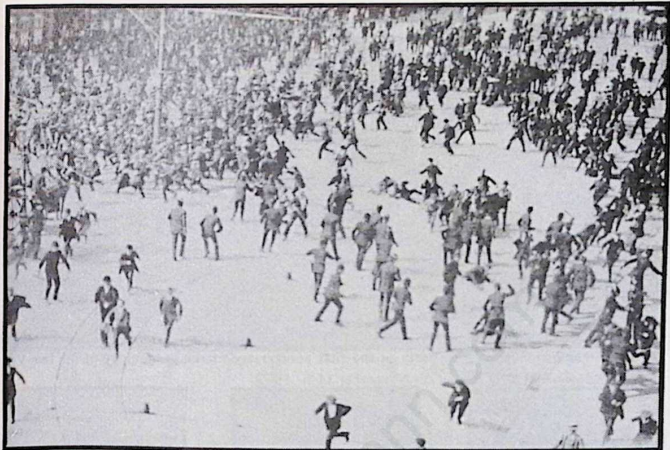
● Liverpool Fianna Eireann Slua in the 1940's



● SEAN SABHAT



● JOE McKELVEY



● The Dublin Metropolitan Police baton-charge of the workers demonstration on Bloody Sunday 1913 where Fian Patsy O'Connor received the injuries he died from



● The first appearance of Fianna Eireann Colour party at Newry's Easter commemoration, 1951. Oliver Craven who died in the Edentubber explosion, 1957, is in the background wearing a hat



● The Fianna Eireann Colour Party at the first anniversary march in memory of the five Volunteers who died at Edentubber on November 11th, 1957



● GERALD McAULEY



● ROBERT ALLSOPP



● SEAN O'RIORDAN



● JOHN DEMPSEY



● JOHN DOUGAL



● PAUL McWILLIAMS



● The Padraig Pearse Slua on summer camp in County Leitrim, August 1968



● Fianna Eireann marching in Belfast



# POBLACHT NA H-ÉIREANN. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

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

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

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

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

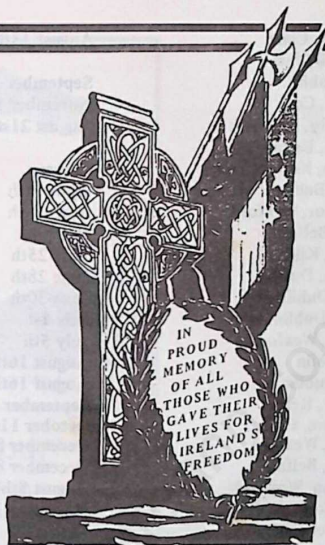
Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs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

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

Signed on behalf of the Provisional Government

*Thos. J. Clarke*  
*Seán MacDermott* *John MacDonagh*  
*B. M. Keane* *Erasmus Curran*  
*James Connolly* *Joseph P. Kehoe*





# roll of honour

## Fuair siad bás ar son saoirse

Fian Patsy O'Connor, Dublin	July 17th	1915
Fian Brendan Donelan, Galway	April 24th	1916
Fian Sean Healy, Dublin	April 24th	1916
Fian James Fox, Dublin	April 25th	1916
Fian James Kelly, Dublin	April 25th	1916
Fian Gerald Keogh, Dublin	April 27th	1916
Fian Sean Howard, Dublin	April 27th	1916
Fian Frederick Ryan, Dublin	April 27th	1916
Fian Con Colbert, Limerick	May 8th	1916
Fian Sean Heuston, Dublin	May 8th	1916





● Tricolour flying on the GPO during the Easter Rising

## The Tricolour

THE FLAG of the Irish Republic is a Tricolour. The Irish flag was formerly a gold harp on a green background.

In 1848, Thomas Francis Meagher, the Young Irelander, returned from France with a gift of a Tricolour from the citizens of France. When he presented it to a meeting of the Irish Confederation, set up by militant nationalists who had broken with the Repeal Association led by Daniel O'Connell in 1847, in Dublin, John Mitchel commented, *'I hope to see that flag one day waving on our national banner.'*

With republicanism gaining a foothold in Ireland, it was realised that a flag representing the republic should be symbolic of the unity of people of different religious beliefs. Sectarianism was always promoted by the common enemy in order to keep Irishmen and Irishwomen divided, so that there would never be a united effort towards the fulfilment of the national objective — a 32-County democratic socialist republic. Green represents the nationalists and Orange the other loyalists. White is a symbol of peace and good-will between all.

### THE GREEN HARP FLAG

The significance of the combination of the colours green and orange seems to have been lost sight of for long periods in the years that followed Meagher's dramatic display of the flag of green, white and orange in 1848 where William Smith O'Brien and John Mitchel hoped to see it adopted as the Irish flag.

It appears that the combination of the colours green, white and orange had a limited use for nationalist favours (flags, badges and armlets) with a separatist

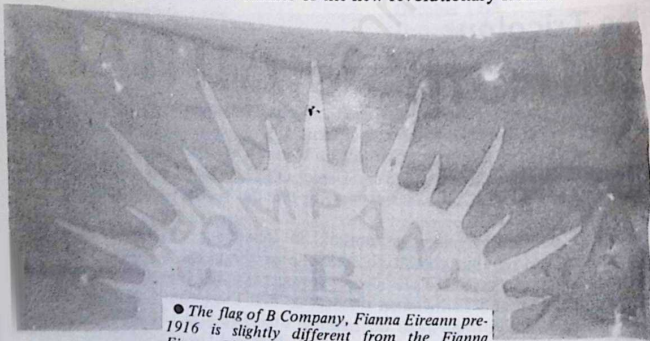
connection prior to 1916. The flag adopted by the Irish Volunteers after their formation in November 1913, was a gold harp on a plain green field – the Green Harp Flag.

The Green Harp Flag was in use for almost fifty years before the 1798 Rising. During 1798, the flag of the United Irishmen was a gold harp on a green field, although many other flags were carried depicting various symbols on a green background.

During the Fenian Rising, a green flag with a gold harp was carried by the Fenians at Tallaght, County Dublin along with other flags showing various symbols on a green background. The Green Harp Flag continued in use up to 1916.

There is no question that the Tricolour was known as the republican flag before the Rising of 1916. In the years leading up to the rising the IRB deliberately concealed their acceptance of it with a view to its sudden display when the republic would be proclaimed.

At 12.20pm on Easter Monday, April 24th 1916, following the reading of the Proclamation of the Republic by Padraig Pearse, the Tricolour was raised over the GPO. The flag, displayed over many other buildings during Easter Week captured the national imagination as the banner of the new revolutionary Ireland.



● The flag of B Company, Fianna Éireann pre-1916 is slightly different from the Fianna Éireann Flag

## Fianna Éireann Flag

THE FIANNA ÉIREANN FLAG, first displayed at the organisation's Ard Fheis of 1912, was designed by Countess Markievicz, possibly earlier that year. A group photograph of the Fianna who attended this convention, taken outside the Mansion House, shows the Countess surrounded by the boys and with two flags displayed in the background, one a Green Harp Flag and the other, the Fianna Flag.

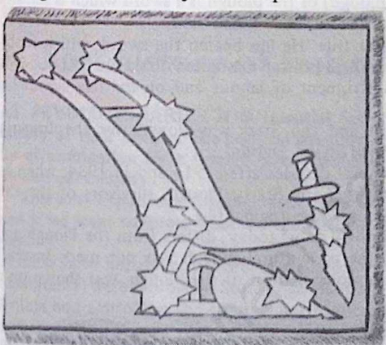
The Fianna flag shows a device of a sunburst (the rising sun) coloured orange, in



the lower part of a sky blue field and the inscription, *Fianna Eireann* across the field above the rays of the sun. It symbolises the passing of the long night of sadness and the dawning of a new era of hope in Ireland. It was the banner of, the Fianna of Fionn, known in Irish folklore as the 'Gil Greine'.

Captain Robert Monteith, recalled the 'pride and amazement' of Dubliners who saw the Fianna Eireann boys 'marching down O'Connell Street, across the bridge, fifes playing, the Fianna Eireann Flag flying, rifles with bayonets fixed, glittering in the sun, a year before either the Irish Volunteers or the Irish Citizen Army had been formed.

The Fianna Eireann Flag of today is the same as the one designed in 1912, though it does not carry the inscription *Fianna Eireann* on it.



## The Plough and the Stars

**THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS**, different from any flag previously known, was the flag of the Irish Citizens Army – a citizens defence league, formed in November 1913 in response to the brutality of the police and to defend the workers from attack by the hired bullies of the employers during the Great Lock-Out of 1913.

The original flag which still exists and is preserved in the National Museum made its first appearance at a Citizen's Army meeting in April 1914. The suggestion that the army should have its own flag came from the labour leader James Larkin.

The person who actually designed the flag is disputed. Some say that AE (George Russell), the poet and playwright, designed the flag while others believe the concept of the Starry Plough was that of a Belfast artist, William M. Megahy. However, the working out of the design of the Citizen Army colour is credited to Megahy.

The flag shows a stylised representation of an agricultural plough, (a golden-brown colour, reamed with a rusty red), with, superimposed upon it, a representation of the constellation Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough of the Heavens all in a deep poplin green field bordered by a gilt fringe. The star symbols, which were originally painted silver, are disposed along the members of the field plough – which is coloured yellow – in the same relative positions as those which the stars they represent occupy. The flag was resplendent as a composition of green, white (that is, silver) and yellow.

The symbolism of the design of the Plough and the Stars is most appropriate – its symbols showing labour's near and higher ideals. The coulter (a vertical blade in front of the share in the plough) of the plough is a sword which is serrated on one edge of the blade, a weapon that has been much used.

Here is the workers' dream come true. He has beaten the sword, which represents the struggle – and represents all the bitter memories of the 1913 Lock-Out. The plough is the unmistakable instrument of labour and on the flag labour has been hitched to the stars.

During Easter Week the Plough and the Stars was flown over the Imperial Hotel (now the Gresham) in O'Connell Street, Dublin.

The original flag was lost for several decades after 1916 and in 1934, when an attempt was being made to re-construct the Starry Plough, survivors of the Citizen Army were asked for recollections of the original flag.

The new flag, the one that is known to us today, differs from the Plough and the Stars of 1916. The device of the agricultural plough was not used. Instead, the device of seven white stars, the constellation of the plough, was shown on a blue field and not a green one.



## Fianna Éireann Badge

IN 1910, Countess Markievicz, the founder of Fianna Éireann, designed a badge for the new organisation – a white sixpence-sized circle enclosing a green circle and a yellow sun crossed by a pike.

The colours of the Fianna badge are green, white and orange. The sunburst on the badge is a symbol of our forefathers' never-ending fight against foreign oppression. There are fifteen rays on the sunburst – twelve represent the Code of Honour and three the Fianna Motto, Purity in our hearts, strength in our arms and truth on our lips.

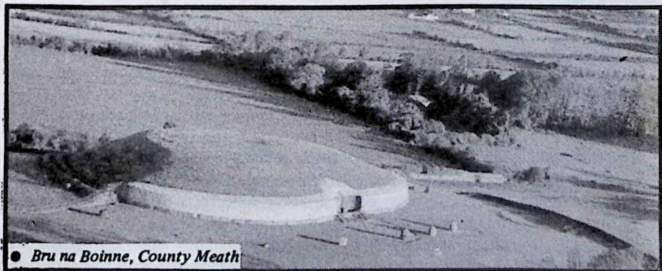
The pike across the centre of the blade symbolises the victories and defeats that Ireland has suffered in its long fight for freedom.

## A short history of Ireland

**AS REVOLUTIONARIES** it is essential for Irish republicans to understand the history of their people. The political situation in Ireland today is a result of centuries of domination by a foreign power which has stolen from, made war on and divided our country.

This long experience together with our cultural traditions make us what we are and if we want to know what we can become we must first try to understand our past.

**THERE** have been people living in Ireland for many thousands of years. The first inhabitants were probably Stone Age people who made their way here through Britain and settled on the coast of north Antrim. Over the years other groups came and lived in different parts of the island, which was then covered in woods and forests. There are many monuments still standing which show how early Irish people lived and how advanced they were. They huge passage grave at Bru na Boinne (Newgrange) in County Meath is just one example.



Over two thousand years ago a group of people called the Celts came to Ireland. They mixed with the races who had come before them and soon became the dominant culture. From the language they spoke came what we now call the Irish language. The Celts were great storytellers and many of their myths and legends have survived down to the present day – such tales as those of Fionn Mac Cumhail and Cu Chulainn.

The Irish Celts (or Gaels as they became known) had their own unique legal and social system. While there were rich and poor people, the land was not owned by individuals but belonged to the local tuath (community or family groups). In general it was a much fairer system than that which operated in the Roman Empire and later in Britain and Europe.

The Romans reached as far as Wales and the lowlands of Scotland but they never attempted to invade Ireland which they called Hibernia – the land of wintry weather! But Roman influence came in another form when, in around the year 432 AD, St Patrick and other missionaries brought Christianity to Ireland.

In the space of a couple of hundred years Ireland became a centre for learning and scholarship for the whole of Europe. Many students came here to study in the great monasteries like Clonmacnoise and Glendalough.

Irish monks and craftspeople produced treasures at this time which showed the richness of the culture that had evolved. As well as manuscripts like the Book of Kells they produced gold and silver objects such as the Tara Brooch and the Cross of Clonmacnoise. In other parts of Europe where people knew how to write they did so only in Latin. But the Irish also wrote down their poetry, stories and legends in their own language. Irish was thus the first native literature in Western Europe to be written down.

## INVASIONS

The next group to come to Ireland were the Vikings. At first they came as raiders by sea and plundered the monasteries. They then settled around the coast and from their settlements grew the towns of Dublin, Waterford, Wexford and others. This was an important new development because up to this the native Irish had lived in scattered settlements around the coastline.

In 1169 the Normans invaded Ireland. They were knights and adventurers from England and Wales who had originally come from Normandy in Northern France and became the ruling class in most of Britain. Two years later Henry II the king of England claimed Ireland as a province with the backing of the Pope in Rome. The English settled along the east coast and from their bases they raided the countryside and took over land from the natives. Because the Normans had superior weaponry and because the Irish had no strong king or central government of their own, the English were very quickly able to win control of most of the country.

Something similar happened in Africa centuries later when European colonists settled on the coastline and by both trading and making war with the natives gained control of the territory.



The Norman lords grew rich from their Irish lands but they also began to mix with the Irish, speak their language and adopt their customs. They soon had more in common with the Gaels than with the English monarchy which only remained in control of a strip of territory on the east coast called the Pale.

The English passed laws similar to the apartheid laws of South Africa today, which made the native Irish into second class citizens. The English, the Anglo-Normans and the people of mixed race who lived in the Pale were forbidden to marry, dress like or speak the language of the Irish who lived "*beyond the Pale*".

The English feared that their subjects in Ireland were becoming absorbed into Irish culture, thus making it impossible for the English to rule.

Many efforts were made to subdue the 'wild Irish' as they called them but it was not until the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547) that the English began in earnest the reconquest of Ireland. Henry declared himself King of Ireland and sent English governors and soldiers to subdue the Irish.



● King Henry VIII

## PLANTATIONS

It was at this time also that the policy of plantation began. This meant that English or Scottish farmers were given land in Ireland by the government who had driven out the natives and who protected the planters from attack. By this means the English extended their area of control and by either making war on or buying off the Irish leaders made Ireland for the first time into a province of England.

As this process went on there were decades of bloodshed and famine in Ireland. Under various leaders the Irish attempted to fight back and defend their land and their culture. Religion played a part in the conflict too since England had become a Protestant country and attempted to impose Protestantism on the Irish who were mainly Catholic. They failed to change the religion of most of the Irish but they were able to use religion to create bitterness and division.

The nine counties of Ulster were the last to be planted and it was there that the Irish held out the longest against the foreign settlers. Throughout the 1640s there were bloody uprisings, mainly concentrated in Ulster. At the same time in England a civil war was going on between the king, Charles I and the parliament. The king lost the war and was executed and the leader of the Parliamentarians, Oliver Cromwell, became ruler in his place.

In 1649 Cromwell came to Ireland and during the winter of 1649/1650 carried out a campaign of slaughter which resulted in the almost total subjugation of the population and takeover of their lands by the English. The Irish landowners were banished to the poorest lands of the country, 'to Hell or to Connacht' while the victorious Cromwellian army ruled with an iron fist. Thousands of people died of hunger, thousands more were sent into slavery in the West Indies. All religious practice (Catholic and Protestant) was banned except the Calvinism of the conquerors and the penalty for priests and rebels alike was death.

In 1688 the Catholic King James II of England was overthrown by the Protestant King William of Orange.

James came to Ireland and with the help of the French King Louis XIV (who was at war with William) raised an army with the aim of regaining the English throne. The Protestant planters of Ulster supported William and opposed James who sent his army there to subdue them. In 1690 William himself came over and defeated James at the Battle of the Boyne.



● King William of Orange

Loyalists today look on the Boyne as a victory for the *"Protestant way of life"* but the war in 1690 was not a war of religion nor was it a war for the freedom of Ireland. It was a struggle between two English kings for control of both England and Ireland.

At the end of the 17th century Ireland was probably at the lowest point in its long history of oppression. The remaining few leaders had fled abroad and the mass of the people lived in dire poverty as tenants subsisting on estates owned by the ruling class of landlords. A series of Penal Laws were enacted by the English at this time. These laws excluded Catholics and Presbyterians (all who did not practice the official religion of the Church of Ireland) from education, from voting, practicing law and other professions and, most importantly, from full land ownership rights. The Penal Laws were not designed to further the cause of the Protestant religion but to keep the majority of the Irish people in economic, social and cultural subjugation.

### **SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE**

For nearly a hundred years then the Irish were landless and voiceless. The social and cultural systems which had evolved over thousands of years was destroyed but their spirit was not broken. It was in this period that the songs and poet

of the people kept the spirit of resistance alive and handed it on to the next generation.

In 1790 in Belfast the United Irishmen were founded. This society joined together Catholics, Protestants and Dissenters in demands for reform of the Irish parliament, civil rights and the lifting of restrictions on Irish trade. The United Irishmen took their example from the French Revolution and though initially reformist, soon became the first republican organisation in Ireland seeking, in the words of one of their leaders, Wolfe Tone, *"to break the connection with England, the never-failing source of all our political evils"*.



● WOLFE TONE

Wolfe Tone sought the aid of the French and in 1796 sailed to Ireland with an expeditionary force. The invasion attempt failed but the English unleashed a reign of terror afterwards. The resistance to this culminated in the insurrection of 1798. Mainly concentrated in the counties of Wexford, Down and Antrim the rebels fought heroically that summer but the rising ended in defeat.

Two years later in 1800 the Irish Parliament was abolished and the Act of Union (making Britain and Ireland one kingdom with one parliament) was passed. In 1803 another rebellion led by Robert Emmet in Dublin ended in failure.

From 1823 until 1843 the political scene was dominated by the movements led by Daniel O'Connell who campaigned not for Irish freedom but for reform under the English crown and for an Irish parliament. At the same time the mass of the people (who supported O'Connell in their hundreds of thousands) lived in great poverty as small tenants on the estates of the wealthy landlords. The Irish economy was not geared to feed the people but to supply the needs of English trade and the result of this was the so-called Great Famine of 1845-1849 in which over a million people died of disease or starvation and over a million were forced to emigrate. It was not a famine because there was enough food in the country to feed the population.

The genocide of the 1840s started a wave of emigration which did not subside until well into the 20th century. It was a catastrophe which reduced the population from over eight million in 1841 to four million in 1911.

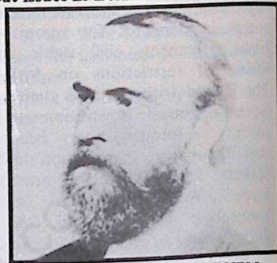
Irish emigrants in America played a major part in the biggest Irish freedom movement of the 19th century — the Fenians or Irish Republican Brotherhood which was founded in 1858. The Fenians won strong support at home and abroad but their planned rising never took place in 1865 and failed in 1867. However, the Fenians stayed in existence and kept the revolutionary tradition alive into the next century.



## LANDLORDISM, LOYALISM & HOME RULE

In the years between, the campaign of tenant farmers against rack-renting landlords and of Parnell and his party at Westminster for Home Rule (an Irish parliament within the British Empire) were the great issues in Ireland.

Charles Stewart Parnell led the Irish MPs at Westminster and succeeded forcing the British government to support Home Rule. The united opposition of British Tories and Ulster Unionists defeated Home Rule in 1885/'86 and again in 1893.



● CHARLES STEWART PARNELL

In north-east Ulster loyalism had been fostered among the Protestant population through the Orange Order. The Order was used by the wealthy employers to keep the Protestant workers (who always got the top jobs) on their side. This was important because the area around Belfast was the only part of Ireland with big manufacturing industries. The big businessmen and their Tory allies in England feared they would lose money in a Home Rule Ireland and encouraged their Protestant workers to fear Home Rule too as a threat to their jobs and their religion. Sectarian hatred was stirred up by the Tory/Unionist leaders and many Catholics were killed or driven from their homes by Orange mobs as a result.

At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries organisations like Conradh na Gaeilge (Gaelic League) and the Gaelic Athletic Association began to give people a new sense of nationality, fostering pride in the Irish language and all aspects of Irish culture.

Meanwhile the campaign for Home Rule continued and in 1910 a Liberal government was in power in Westminster with the support of the Irish Party. They pushed through the Home Rule Bill which was due to come into effect in 1914.

Under the leadership of Edward Carson loyalists mobilised against Home Rule and to resist it in 1912 set up their own paramilitary army, the Ulster Volunteer Force. The Unionists were supported by the British Tories who shared their pledge to use force against the British government if Home Rule went through.

In 1913, in Dublin, workers were locked-out by their bosses who refused to allow them to organise in trade unions. Starvation eventually forced the workers to accept the employers' conditions but the lockout was a heroic struggle which strengthened the labour movement in Ireland.





● Fianna Eireann members at Howth in 1914 helping unload the arms from the *Asgard* and relaying them to safe houses

During the dispute the Irish Citizen Army was founded to protect workers against police attack. Also in 1913 the Irish Volunteers were founded to secure the rights of nationalists threatened by the Tory/Unionist campaign. The Volunteers were not a Home Rule army but were founded and led by separatists and republicans of the IRB. John Redmond, leader of the Irish Party at Westminster, split the Volunteers when, in the summer of 1914, he urged them to fight for the British Empire in exchange for Home Rule. Tens of thousands of Irishmen, both nationalists and loyalists died in the First World War.

### MASS RESISTANCE

The IRB, the Volunteers who remained faithful to their national ideals, the Irish Citizen Army, Fianna Eireann and other separatists now began to organise for an armed uprising against British rule. Led by Padraig Mac Piarais and James Connolly the Rising took place at Easter 1916 when the Irish Republic was proclaimed and the republican forces held out in Dublin for a week. After the surrender sixteen of the leaders were executed and hundreds of people were imprisoned without trial. The events of 1916, the heroism of the republicans who defied an empire and the brutal repression of the British changed the course of Irish history.

In 1918 when the British threatened conscription (compulsory military service) they were met with mass resistance. In the general election that November Sinn Féin won an overwhelming victory over the constitutionalist Home Rulers of the Irish Party. On January 21st 1919 republicans assembled the first Dail Eireann and re-affirmed the 1916 Proclamation of the Republic.

For the next three years the Irish Republican Army with mass support from the people waged a guerrilla war against the British garrison which was forced to withdraw from large areas of the country leaving them in republican hands. The British government replied with savage repression in the form of the Black and Tans and Auxiliary RIC.

In 1921 a truce was declared and the Irish leaders entered negotiations with the British. But the agenda had already been set out because with the collusion of the Ulster Unionists the British had decided to partition Ireland and maintain their rule through two artificial states in the Six and 26 Counties.

These were the terms of the Treaty signed by representatives of the Dail in London in December 1921 and which led to the setting-up of the Free State. Those republicans who remained faithful to the 32-County republic were in a minority when the Dail voted on the Treaty. The Free State had the backing of the business class, the Catholic hierarchy and the right-wing press.

When the IRA held out against the Treaty they were met with force by the Free Staters who, armed with British guns hunted down, imprisoned and killed their former republican comrades. The establishment of the Six-County state was equally bloody with thousands of Catholics being driven out of their homes and many killed in pogroms carried out by the newly-formed sectarian RUC, B-Specials and other loyalists with the approval of the Unionist regime.



● IRA Volunteers on guard during the Civil War period

In April 1923 the IRA in the South dumped arms and the war there (not a civil war but a counter-revolution) came to an end.

Republicans were now faced with the question of how to carry on the struggle for an all-Ireland republic. In 1926 Eamonn de Valera who was the main leader in the 1919-1921 period split from Sinn Fein and founded Fianna Fail. He entered the Free State parliament in Leinster House in 1927 and in the 1932 general election won power. Fianna Fail remained in government in the Free State until 1946.

In the Six Counties the unionists had a built-in majority in their artificial neo-colonial statelet. The first prime minister in the Stormont parliament, James Craig described *Northern Ireland* as "*a Protestant state for a Protestant people*". The nationalist and mainly Catholic minority in that state were systematically discriminated against in jobs, housing and education by the Orange regime for over 50 years.

## CONTINUITY OF STRUGGLE

In every decade since the Twenties the Republican Movement carried on the struggle against partition and British occupation. In the 26 Counties the IRA was suppressed by de Valera's government after he had used them first to gain power and then to fight the fascist Blueshirt movement during the early Thirties. Republicans were executed, died on hunger-strike and hundreds were interned without trial during the Second World War.

It took the IRA years to recover from this dark period but by 1956 they were ready to launch a military campaign directed at British forces in the Six Counties. The Border campaign continued until 1962 but failed to smash partition.

In the Sixties nationalists in the Six Counties became increasingly militant in their opposition to sectarian discrimination. The Civil Rights Movement in 1967 and 1968 campaigned to end the injustices of the Orange state. They were met with naked force from the RUC, the B-Specials and loyalist paramilitaries. The peaceful Civil Rights campaign sought reform within the Six Counties but the reaction of the Stormont regime, the Orange mobs who burned hundreds of nationalist families out of their homes and eventually, the role of the British army soon convinced the majority of nationalists that reform of the sectarian state was not possible.

In an attempt to stabilise the situation the British army was sent onto the streets of the North, supposedly to 'keep the peace'. Their guns were soon turned against the nationalist people. In this crisis the IRA at first acted to defend the nationalist areas from attack by loyalist and state forces. They quickly went on the offensive and began the present and final phase of armed struggle in the Irish people's war of national liberation.

In 1971 and 1972 the armed struggle grew in momentum and support as the British government responded to Irish resistance with internment without trial (August 1971), murder (14 civilians killed by the British army in Derry, January 1972) and torture of internees and prisoners.

The Six Counties became an armed camp besieged by foreign troops, with hundreds of people imprisoned and daily resistance on the streets of nationalist areas. Faced with mass opposition from nationalists the British determined to break the Republican Movement, the spearhead of that resistance. They branded republican prisoners (and through them the Irish struggle) as criminal, taking away their political status in 1976.

Then began the long and heroic struggle of the men and women prisoners in





● IRA Volunteers on active service against the British occupying forces

the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and Armagh Jail. That struggle culminated in the hunger-strikes of 1980 and 1981. The 32-County and world-wide campaign in support of the prisoners and the deaths of ten hunger-strikers raised the republican struggle onto a new phase.

In electoral interventions in 1982 and 1983 Sinn Féin challenged the monopoly of the SDLP on nationalist politics and won over 40% of the nationalist vote in the Six Counties. This heightened support for the Republican Movement, resulting in its growth on both sides of the border made the British and their 26-County allies rethink their tactics. In an effort to shore up partition and isolate the Republican Movement they signed the Hillsborough Agreement in November 1985.

This Agreement is but the latest in the long series of attempts from Ireland's oppressors to try to destroy that quality that has lasted through centuries of Irish history — the unbreakable will of the people to achieve their freedom.





## Booklist

- The Informers* by Andrew Boyd (Mercier).  
*Bobby Sands and the Tragedy of Northern Ireland* by John M Feehan (Mercier).  
*Round up the Usual Suspects* (Magill).  
*War on an Irish Town* by Eamonn McCann.  
*Northern Ireland – The Orange State* by Michael Farrell (Pluto/Brandon).  
*Glimpses of an Irish Felons' Prison Life* by Thomas J Clarke.  
*The IRA* by Tim Pat Coogan (Fontana).  
*The Secret Army* by J. Bowyer Bell (Sphere Books).  
*Northern Ireland – Britain's Longest War* by Kevin Kelly (Zed Books).  
*My Fight for Irish Freedom* by Dan Breen (Anvil).  
*Guerrilla Days in Ireland* by Tom Barry (Anvil).  
*On Another Man's Wound* by Ernie O'Malley (Anvil).  
*The Singing Flame* by Ernie O'Malley (Anvil).

*Labour and Irish History* by James Connolly.  
*Erins Hope, the New Evangel* by James Connolly.  
*Labour, Nationality and Religion* by James Connolly.  
*James Connolly, his Life and Times* by Desmond Greaves. (Lawrence and Wishard).  
*Principles of Freedom* by Terence MacSwiney.  
*We Shall Rise Again* by Nora Connolly-O'Brien.  
*The Sovereign People* by Padraig Pearse.  
*The Murder Machine* by Padraig Pearse (Mercier).  
*Freedom the Wolfe Tone Way* by Sean Cronin (Anvil).  
*The Gates Flew Open* by Peadar O'Donnell (Mercier).  
*The Irish Civil War* by Eoin Neeson.  
*Ireland's Civil War* by Charlton Younger (Fontana).  
*The Rising (1916)* by Desmond Ryan.  
*The Easter Rebellion* by Max Caulfield (Four Square).  
*Our Own Red Blood* by Sean Cronin.  
*The Supergrass*, (Concerned Community Organisation), Belfast 1984.  
*One Day in My Life* by Bobby Sands (Mercier).  
*Notes for Revolutionaries* (Republican Publications) 1982.  
*Irish Nationalism* by Sean Cronin (The Academy Press).  
*The Fenian Movement* edited by T.W. Moody (Mercier).  
*Liam Mellows and the Irish Revolution* by C. Desmond Greaves (Lawrence, Wishard).  
*Arming the Protestants* by Michael Farrell (Pluto).  
*Sheltering the Fugitive* by Michael Farrell (Mercier).  
*Northern Ireland – between Civil Rights and Civil War* (CSE Books).  
*The Course of Irish History* edited by F.X. Martin (Mercier).  
*The Irish Republic* by Dorothy Macardle (Four Square).  
*Ireland Since the Famine* by F.S. L. Lyons (Fontana).  
*The Great Hunger* by Cecil Woodham-Smith (NEL).  
*Ireland, the Propaganda War* by Liz Curtis (Pluto).  
*Unmanageable Revolutionaries* by Margaret Ward (Pluto/Brandon).  
*Leaders and Workers* (Mercier).  
*Women in Irish History* (MTH Books).  
*Kevin Barry* by Sean Cronin.  
*The Gill History of Ireland* (Gill, Macmillan).  
*Gill Irish Lives* by various authors.  
*Eire Amach na Casca/The Easter Rising 1916* (Republican Publications) 1986.  
*The Politics of Irish Freedom* by Gerry Adams (Brandon Books) 1986.  
*The Good Old IRA* (Republican Publications).  
*A History of the Irish Working Class* by P. Beresford Ellis (Pluto).  
*Readings from Fintan Lalor* (Republican Press Centre).  
*Frank Ryan, The Search for the Republic* by Sean Cronin (Repsol).  
*Harry* edited by Unseann Mac Eoin (Argenta).  
*Survivors* edited by Unseann Mac Eoin (Argenta).

## REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS

**THE PRODUCTION** of the new *Fianna Eireann Handbook* must be welcomed and *Fianna Eireann* are to be congratulated on this step forward.

Republican Publications produce T-Shirts, badges, magazines, pamphlets, books, posters, leaflets, tickets, calanders and diaries.

Republican Publications  
51/53 Falls Road,  
Belfast.

or  
44 Parnell Square,  
Dublin 1

# Republican Publications

**IRIS** - the republican magazine. Full colour glossy magazine. Issue Number 11 now on sale. Contains features on RUC attacks on republican funerals and 'Turning Back Thatcher' - an analysis of British politics in the aftermath of the June 1987 general election.

**BACK ISSUES** also available including Issue Number 8 which features a special focus on *Irish Women in Struggle* and an analysis by Belfast republican Rita O'Hare, the first woman editor of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, Ireland's largest selling political weekly.

**The Killing of John Downes** - A report on the use of plastic bullets concentrating on the murder of Belfast man John Downes in August 1984.

### BOOKS:

**The Good old IRA** - a look at IRA military operations during the Tan War, 1919 - 1921.

**Belfast Graves.** A unique book comprising over 150 penportraits of republican men and women from Belfast who have given their lives in the struggle for Irish freedom.

**Newry** - the republican struggle. An historical account of Newry's contribution to the Irish struggle.

### PAMPHLETS:

**The Nationalist Nightmare.** reporting on the effects of the Hillsborough Agreement. Contains articles by Bernadette McAliskey, and Mary Nellis



REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS also stock a wide range of T-Shirts, posters and badges.

Catalogue available on request.

**BULK ORDERS AVAILABLE**

### POSTER PAMPHLET:

**The plight of Republican Prisoners and their families.** Folds out into a full colour A1 poster.

**Stop Strip-Searching.** Recently updated.



## Uniform

**ALL UNIFORMS** are issued by General Headquarters (GHQ) subject to the instructions of an Ard Choiste. They are available from the Quartermaster General's Department and should not be purchased elsewhere. Part uniforms may not be worn on any occasion. The uniform for both Sinsir and Oga are as follows :

**Fianna Sinsir:** Green beret with Fianna badge, orange neckerchief, biege shirt, white lanyard, green jumper (winter only), black trousers/skirt, black socks/tights, black woggle, Fianna flash, and a Sam Browne Belt.

**Fianna Oga:** Green beret with Fianna badge, orange neckerchief, white shirt, green lanyard, green jumper (winter only), black trousers/skirt, black socks, black woggle, and a Fianna flash.

### HOW A UNIFORM IS WORN

**Flashes:** Flashes are worn above the left pocket on the shirt and on the left side of the jumper levelling with the V-neck.



**Lanyard:** Lanyards are worn on the left shoulder underneath the shirt lapel with the end held under the pocket button. The braided part of the lanyard goes to the back.

**Neckerchief:** A neckerchief is worn by folding down the longest side three times about a half an inch for each fold. It is then placed under the collar at your shirt coming down in the shape of a tie with the triangle at the back having its point going level with your spine. A woggle is put around the two loose ends of the neckerchief and moved up to the collar so as the neckerchief is held in place.

**Sam Browne Belt:** The Sam Browne Belt is worn around the waist like any ordinary belt. The strap is worn over the right shoulder and buckled at the front. The right lapel is unbuttoned and placed over the strap and then rebuttoned.

**Berets:** A beret is worn over the forehead. The cap badge is put on the left side level with the left eye. The side is pulled down. It can be pinned down to sit better.

## On parade

WHEN Fianna members are taking part in a commemoration parade, etc, the way they dress is extremely important. It is up to the O/C in charge at Fianna Colour Party, etc, to inspect everyone before proceeding with any march.

All earrings, rings, watches, and all other types of jewellery must be removed. This is done for two reasons the first being neatness of the Colour Party and the second being security as jewellery is easily recognised and could lead to the identification of Fianna members, especially our members in the occupied Six Counties.

After a full check is completed the Colour Party will then be ready to march. As soon as the order *luigh isteach* (fall in) is given the Colour party is no longer to have contact with other people until they have been told to *luigh amach* (fall out). Members of a Colour Party must never talk while on parade, it is important that members can march and act disciplined while marching or standing.

It is also important that orders are listened to and acted upon quickly. No matter what happens in the course between the falling in of a Colour Party and the falling out, no member can leave his/her place. No member can take it upon his/herself to leave or move within a Colour Party without the order being given by the O/C.

The O/C of a Colour Party should always be in contact with stewards etc, and have a good idea of the route and proceedings at the march, etc.

## Public parades

Only the full uniform can be worn on public occasions. The officer-in-charge at the time, is responsible for ensuring that this is enforced. All jewellery etc are to

be removed. If some members parade with jewellery or have missing items they will spoil the effect of smartness and uniformity required and expected by the general public and supporters, of a disciplined uniformed organisation.

Smoking, eating, and drinking in uniform are not allowed unless the officer-in-charge grants special permission.

Smart appearance, discipline and good conduct in public will help to win new recruits and support for Fianna Éireann.

Fianna should always remember what their uniform represents, they should take good care of their uniform and wear it with pride.

# **Design and folding the National Flag**

## **DESIGN**

The flag should be rectangular in shape, the width being twice its depth. The three colours — green, white and orange — should be of equal size, and vertically disposed. The flag should normally be displayed on a staff, the green being next to the staff, the white in the middle and the orange farthest from the staff.

Provided that the correct proportions are observed, the flag may be made to any convenient size.

## **PLACING AND PRECEDENCE**

No flag or pennant should be flown above the National Flag.

When the National Flag is carried with another flag or flags, it should be carried in the place of honour, i.e. on the marching right — or on the left of an observer to whom the flags are approaching.

When the National Flag is displayed with another flag from crossed staffs, the National Flag should be on the right, i.e. the flag's own right or on the left of an observer facing the flags, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

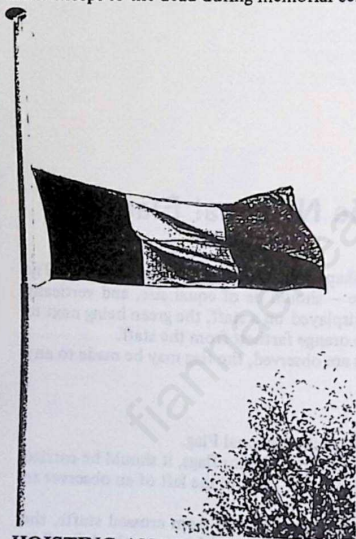
Where either an even or an odd number of flags is flown in line on staffs of equal height, the National Flag should be first on the right of the line (i.e. on the observer's left as he/she faces the flags). Where, however, an odd number of flags is displayed from staffs grouped so that there is one staff in the centre and higher than the others, the National Flag should be displayed from the staff so placed.

Normally, only one National Flag should be displayed in each group of flags or at each location. In all cases, the National Flag should be in the place of honour.

When the flag is displayed either horizontally or vertically against, say, a wall or other background, the green should be on the right (observer's left) in the horizontal position or uppermost in the vertical position.

When displayed on a platform the flag should be above and behind the speaker's desk.

While being carried the flag should **not** be dipped by way of salute or compliment **except** to the dead during memorial ceremonies.



## HOISTING AND LOWERING THE FLAG

The flag should always be hoisted rapidly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. In raising or lowering, it should **not be allowed to touch the ground**. When being hoisted to half-mast, the flag should first be brought to the peak of the staff and then lowered to the half-mast position. It should again be brought to the peak of the staff before it is finally lowered.

*Note:* A flag is at half-mast in any position below the top of the staff **but never below the middle point of the staff**. As a general guide, the half-mast position may



be taken as that where the top of the flag is the depth of the flag below the top of the staff.

## **SALUTING THE FLAG**

When the flag is being hoisted or lowered, or when it is passing by in a parade, all present should face the flag, stand at attention and salute. Persons in uniform who normally salute with the hand should give the hand salute. The salute to the flag when it is being borne past in a parade is rendered when the flag is six paces away and the salute is held until the flag has passed by. Where more than one National Flag is carried, the salute should be given only to the leading flag.

When *Amhran na bhFiann* is played in the presence of the flag, all present should face the flag, stand at attention and salute it, remaining at the salute until the last note of the music.

## **WORN-OUT FLAG**

When the flag has become so worn or frayed that it is no longer fit for display, it should not be used in any manner implying disrespect.

## **PRACTICES TO AVOID**

The flag should never be used as a decoration. In particular, it should not be festooned over doorways or arches, tied in a bow knot or tied in a rosette. Bunting of the National Colours may, however, be used for decorative purposes.

When displayed on a platform, the flag should not be used to cover the speaker's desk, nor should it be draped over the platform.

**No lettering or picture of any kind should be placed on the flag.**

The flag should not be draped on a train, car or boat; it should not be carried flat, but should always be carried aloft and free, except when used to drape a coffin; on such an occasion, the green should be at the head of the coffin.

**The flag should not at any stage be let touch the ground, trail in water or become entangled in trees or other obstacles.**

The flag should be displayed, in the open, only between sunrise and sunset, except on the occasion of public meetings, processions, or funerals, when it may be displayed for the duration of such functions.

## **FOLDING THE FLAG**

When folding the flag both orange corners should be held by one person while another person holds both green corners. Length-ways the Tricolour should be folded in three. Beginning with the orange-coloured end, the person should fold the flag to form a neat triangle. This practice should be continued until the corners of the green colour is reached. When this process is completed, the flag should be in the shape of a triangle, with the green being the dominant colour visible. **The flag should not be folded in any other manner.**

## Drill

**DRILL** inspires an individual Fian to be a member of a team — a team working confidently together in unison and to a measured cadence. No team is any better than its weakest member. Drill practice teaches Fianna to march in step, keep straight lines and turn uniformly.

The purposes of drill are to:

1. Move a unit from one place to another in a standard, orderly manner.
2. Teach discipline by instilling habits of precision and automatic response to orders.
3. Improve morale by developing team spirit.
4. Give junior officers and non commissioned officers the confidence of command and of giving proper commands.

## COMMANDS

A command is the direction of the commander expressed orally and in prescribed wording. Foot drill commands are given at attention. Commands must be delivered in a loud, clear voice and all Fianna should fix their attention at the first word of command. All commands must be given in Irish — the English version is merely given for explanatory purposes. A cautionary word such as "*Fianna*", "*Parad*", or "*Buñon Brat*" (Colour Party) should always precede the command. There are two kinds of commands:

1. The preparatory command, such as "*Coisceim*", which indicates the movement to be executed.
2. The command of execution, such as "*Mairseáil*" or "*Stadaigh*", which causes the desired movement to be executed. In certain commands the preparatory and executionary commands are combined eg. "*Aire*". The correct positions to be assumed upon receiving various commands are given in detail here.

### Aire (attention)

A Fian stands properly at attention by having his/her head erect, stomach in chest out, hands down by his/her sides, fists loosely clenched with thumbs in front. The feet are placed, heels together and toes apart, at an angle of 45 degrees.



● Ag Seasamh Ar Ais

### **Seasaigh Ar Áis (stand at ease)**

In the one movement the left foot is placed comfortably apart from the right, while the hands are placed behind the back – left hand in right palm, left thumb over right.

### **Ar Socair (stand easy)**

This is a rest position. The feet remain as in *Seasaigh Ar Áis*, but the hands may be moved freely.

### **Ar Chlé Iompaigh (left turn)**

Turn on the right heel and the left toe, bringing the left foot up smartly to the right foot.

### **Ar Thart Iompaigh (about turn)**

Turn to the rear on the right heel and the left toe, bringing the left foot up to the right. An about turn is always taken to the right.

### **Luigh Isteach (fall in)**

Fianna form a line – the tallest moving to the right.

### **Luigh Amach (fall out)**

Take a pace forward, come to attention and remain for an instant before moving away. When this instruction is given, Fianna remain nearby for call to duty.

### **Ar Dheis Deasaigh (right dress)**

The first Fian in the line remains at attention, while the rest take one pace forward on the left foot, — looking to the right all the time. Shuffle back into position, until the chin of the second Fian to the right is barely in sight. The purpose of this movement is to form a straight line.

### **Ar Aghaidh Feacaigh (eyes front)**

All Fianna look straight ahead in a quick uniform movement.

### **Ó Dheis Coraigh (right number)**

Each Fian answers his/her number, smartly — from the right.

## **FORMING TWOS**

The following are the drill movements and the rules for the formation.

### **I mBeirtibh Gluaisigh (form double line)**

Take one pace to the rear on the left foot, moving the right foot to the right directly behind the Fian in front, bringing the left foot smartly up to the right. These movements are executed without pause.

### **Líne Amháin Gluaisigh (form single line)**

Take one pace to the left on the left foot — one pace forward on the right foot, bringing the left foot smartly up to the right. These movements are also executed without pause.

The rules for forming twos are:

1. Odd numbers stand fast.
2. Even numbers move.
3. The last Fian always moves.
4. The second last Fian never moves.

The following examples should be carefully studied. 1. If a line consists of six Fianna, numbers 1, 3 and 5 stand fast, 2, 4 and 6 move in behind 1, 3 and 5 respectively. 2. If the line consists of an uneven number such as 7; 1, 3, 5 and 6 stand fast; 2, 4 and 7 move in behind 1, 3 and 6 respectively.

1. Before formation: 654321.

After: 5 3 1

6 4 2

2. Before formation: 7654321.

After: 6 5 3 1

7 4 2

## **FORMING THREES**

The following are the drill movements and the rules for the formation.

### **I dTriuraibh Gluaisigh (form threes)**

Number 1 takes one pace forward on the right foot, moving the left foot across in front of Number 2, bringing the right foot smartly up to the left. Number 2



stands fast. Number 3 moves in behind Number 2 as in the forming of a double line. These movements are executed without pause.

Example:

Before formation: 321, 321, 321, 321.

After 1 1 1 1

2 2 2 2

3 3 3 3

Before giving the command to form threes, it is necessary to number off in threes, from the right. The command is...

**IdTriúraibh Coraigh**

Fianna number off... 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, etc. To reform a single line, the procedure for forming threes is reversed.

**Miscellaneous Drill Movements:**

**Coiscéim Ar Aghaidh** (one pace forward)

Take one pace forward on the left foot.

**Coiscéim Ar Chúl** (one pace to the rear)

Take one pace to the rear on the left foot.

**Ranganna Oscailte** (open ranks)

Odd numbers take one pace forward on the left foot. Even numbers take one pace to the rear on the left foot.

**Scaipigh** (dismiss)

Take a right turn and disperse. When this command is given, Fianna may do as they wish and need not remain at call.

**Beannaigh** (salute)

1. Raise the right hand smartly until the tip of the forefinger touches the lower part of the head dress slightly to the right of the right eye, thumbs and fingers extended and joined, palm down, upper arm horizontal, forearm inclined at 45 degrees, hand and wrist straight; at the same time turn the head and eyes towards the person saluted.

2. Return the hand smartly in one motion to its normal position by the side, at the same time turn the head and eyes to the front, unless facing that direction.

## MARCHING

The following are the usual commands received and movements performed by a body of Fianna while on the march.

**Ar Aghaidh Mairseáil** (forward march)

Commence marching on the left foot. The step is taken from the Fian in the front rank, on the extreme right.

**Ar Chlé Casaigh** (left wheel)

The Fian on the left marks time, while turning left. The Fian on the extreme right lengthens step, while wheeling left in a semi-circle. The Fian in the middle keeps in step with the Fian on the right. When the movement is completed, continue in the normal manner.



**Ar Dheis Casaigh (right wheel)**

The motions in this movement are similar, except that they are to the right.

**Ar Chlé Druidigh (left incline)**

The Fian on the extreme left, shortens his/her step and takes a half turn to the left, while on the march. The Fian on the right lengthens his/her step while taking a half turn to the left on the march. The Fian in the centre keeps in step with the Fian on the right.

**Ar Dheis Druidigh (right incline)**

The motions in this movement are similar, except that they are to the right.

**Stadaigh (halt)**

The command is given as the left foot touches the ground. Take one more pace, coming to a halt, bringing the left foot up to the right smartly. Remain at attention awaiting the next command.

**Gradaigh Fúibh (mark time)**

Complete pace with moving foot, commence marking time with the other, raising each foot alternatively about six inches from the ground. Arms and body remain as at attention.

**Athraigh Coiscéim (change step)**

Complete pace of the advancing foot, bringing ball of the other up to the heel of the advancing foot, again stepping forward with the advancing foot. In marking time, change step by making two successive beats with the same foot.

**Ar Aghaidh Go Mall Mairseáil (slow march)**

Commence the march by taking a pace forward on the left foot, bringing the right toe up to the left heel. Take a pace forward on the right foot and complete by bringing the left toe up to the right heel, — and so on. The arms remain by the sides at attention.

## Fianna Oga quiz

1. Who founded Fianna Eireann?
2. When was Fianna Eireann founded?
3. Where was the first Fianna Eireann meeting?
4. Where was the first official meeting?
5. Who founded Sinn Fein?
6. When was it founded?
7. When did Sean Sabhat die?
8. Who died with him?
9. Name the ten 1981 hunger-strikers?
10. How many were not IRA Volunteers?
11. In what years was the Great Famine?
12. How many died and how many emigrated?
13. Who brought guns from Germany for the 1916 Rising?
14. What was the name of the boat?
15. What happened to the gun-runner?
16. Name the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation?
17. Who was the first signatory?
18. Why was he the first?
19. Who founded the Fenians?
20. What was it's other name?
21. When was the Fenian uprising?
22. Who founded the United Irishmen?
23. What other name is he known as?
24. Name the Manchester Martyrs?
25. Who had been rescued prior to their capture?
26. What happened?
27. Where was Robert Emmet from?
28. Who posed as his housemaid?
29. What is the newspaper of the Republican Movement?
30. Who was the first republican activist to lose his/her life during the present phase of Ireland's freedom struggle?



*Answers on page 138*



● At O'Donovan Rossa's graveside, August 1st, 1915

## Patrick Pearse's oration at the graveside of O'Donovan Rossa

A Ghaela,

Do h'iarradh orm-sa labhairt inniu ar son a bhfuil cruinnithe ar an láthair seo agus ar son a bhfuil beo do Chlanna Gael, ag moladh an leoin do leagamar i gcré anso agus ag griosadh meanman na gcarad atá go brónach ina dhiaidh.

A chairde, ná bíodh brón ar éinne atá ina sheasamh ag an uaigh seo, ach bíodh buíochas againn in ár gcoíthe do Dhia na ngrás do chruthaigh anam uasal álainn Dhiarmada Uí Dhonnabháin Rosa agus thug ré fhada dó ar an saol seo.

Ba chalma an fear thú, a Dhiarmaid. Is tréan d'fhearaí cath ar son cirt do chine is ní beag ar fhuilingis; agus ní dhéanfaidh Gaeil dearmad ort go bráth na breithe.

Ach, a chairde, ná bíodh brón orainn, ach bíodh misneach in ár gcoíthe agus bíodh neart in ár gcuisleanna, óir cuimhnímís nach mbíonn aon bhás ann nach mbíonn aiséirí ina dhiaidh, agus gurab as an uaigh seo agus as na h-uaigheanna atá in ar dtimpeall éireochas saoirse Ghael.

It has seemed right, before we turn away from this place in which he have laid the mortal remains of O'Donovan Rossa, that one amongst us should, in the name of all, speak the praise of that valiant man, and endeavour to formulate the thoughts and the hope that are in us as we stand around his grave. And if there is anything that makes it fitting that I, rather than some other, I rather than one of the grey haired men who were young with him and shared in his labour and in his suffering should speak here, it is perhaps that I may be taken as speaking on behalf of a new generation that has been re-baptised in the Fenian faith, and that has accepted the responsibility of carrying out the Fenian programme. I propose to you then that



here by the grave of this unrepentant Fenian, we renew our baptismal vows; that, here by the grave of this unconquered and unconquerable man, we ask of God, each one for himself, such unshakable purpose, such high and gallant courage, such unbreakable strength of soul as belonged to O'Donovan Rossa.

Deliberately here we avow ourselves, as he avowed himself in the dock, Irishmen of one allegiance only. We of the Irish Volunteers, and you others who are associated with us in today's task and duty, are bound together and must stand together henceforth in brotherly union for the achievement of the freedom of Ireland. And we know only one definition of freedom: it is Tone's definition, it is Mitchel's definition, it is Rossa's definition. Let no man blaspheme the cause that the dead generations of Ireland served by giving it any other name and definition than their name and their definition.

We stand at Rossa's grave not in sadness but rather in exaltation of spirit that it has been given to us to come thus into so close a communion with that brave and splendid Gael. Splendid and holy causes are served by men who are themselves splendid and holy. O'Donovan Rossa was splendid in the proud manhood of his, splendid in the heroic grace of him, splendid in the Gaelic strength and clarity and truth of him. And all that splendour and pride and strength was compatible with a humility and a simplicity of devotion to Ireland, to all that was olden and beautiful and Gaelic in Ireland, the holiness and simplicity of patriotism of a Michael O'Clery or of an Eoghan O'Growney. The clear true eyes of this man almost alone in his day visioned Ireland as we of today would surely have her: not free merely, but Gaelic as well; not Gaelic merely, but free as well.

In a closer spiritual communion with him now than ever before or perhaps ever again, in a spiritual communion with those of his day, living and dead, who suffered with him in English prisons, in communion of spirit too with our own dear comrades who suffer in English prisons today, and speaking on their behalf as well as our own, we pledge to Ireland our love, and we pledge to English rule in Ireland our hate. This is a place of peace, sacred to the dead, where men should speak with all charity and with all restraint; but I hold it a Christian thing as O'Donovan Rossa held it, to hate evil, to hate untruth, to hate oppression, and, hating them, to strive to overthrow them. Our foes are strong and wise and wary; but strong and wise and wary as they are, they can not undo the miracles of God who ripens in the hearts of young men and the seeds sown by the young men of a former generation. And the seeds sown by the young men of '65 and '67 are coming to their miraculous ripening today. Rulers and Defenders of Realms had need to be wary if they would guard against such processes. Life springs from death; and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations. The Defenders of this Realm have worked well in secret and in the open. They think they have pacified Ireland. They think that they have purchased half of us and intimidated the other half. They think that they have forseen everything, that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! — they have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.

## Stories of Resistance

### BOY MARTYR OF 1798

**WILLIE NELSON**, at the age of 15, was one of the youngest, courageous and fearless United Irishmen of 1798 to face martyrdom at the hands of the English. He lived with his mother and older brothers John and Samuel and his younger brothers and sisters at Red Hall, near Ballycarvy, County Antrim.

In May 1798, the adjutant general for County Antrim, Robert Simms, resigned his post because he did not approve of any immediate rising. On June 1st, just six days before the Rising was to have taken place, Henry Joy McCracken of Belfast was appointed in his place as adjutant general of Antrim with the addition of rank of commander-in-chief of the province of Ulster.

Despite the very short period left to make effective plans, McCracken was determined that the North would play its part in the restoration of the independence of the Irish nation or he would die in the attempt.

On the morning of June 7th, Willie Nelson, a lad of only fifteen years being young and enthusiastic in the cause in which the United Irishmen were engaged, heard that the United Irishmen were marching on Antrim town. Immediately the boy mounted a horse and rode around the countryside relaying the good news and

urging the men to rally to McCracken's side. After this he went off with a column of men to Antrim town.

With McCracken and his gallant band they converged on the town, and displaying terrific courage and fighting qualities, they had actually forced some of the enemy garrison to retreat towards Randalstown. At this point the United Irishmen marching in from Randalstown met the fleeing enemy and mistook them for enemy reinforcements. Panic crept into their ranks and they began to retreat. McCracken tried desperately to rally them but his efforts failed and he had to disperse his men.

Willie Nelson came through the battle unscathed and he returned to his home. Because of his extreme youth, his friends did not fear for his safety. Soon he was informed upon and arrested, lodged in Carrickfergus Jail, 'tried' and sentenced to be hanged. In jail, the boy seemed to be quite unconcerned about his intended fate. When friends visited him in prison they found him relaxed and engaging in all types of recreational activities with his brother, John.

At midnight on a night in late June 1798, an order came for his removal to another jail. He was torn from the arms of his eldest brother, John, who was confined to the same cell, and hurried to the new jail, near Belfast, where his brother Sam was confined. Here he was offered a pardon on condition that he would inform on his fellow comrades in Antrim. He refused to betray them and strenuous efforts were made to persuade him to change his mind, but they had no effect on him. In fact, they made him all the more determined to reject these proposals.

The next morning he was brought to his native village of Ballycarvy and within a mile of the town he was met by his distraught mother, who was then on her way to visit her imprisoned family. She made her way through the soldiers who attempted to keep her back, but the poor boy caught her hand, saying, "*Oh my mother*" before he was dragged from her.

Her son was brought to her door to be executed but he requested that he might not die there. The young boy was then taken to the end of the village and was placed underneath a huge sycamore tree. He made a last appeal on behalf of his brothers, asking that their lives might be spared, and that his body might be given to his mother. Here his mother pitifully witnessed the hangman's noose being placed around the boy's neck, while the other end of the rope was thrown over one of the branches of the tree and with a tug of the rope the fair-haired boy was left dangling in the air, until his lifeless body no longer moved.

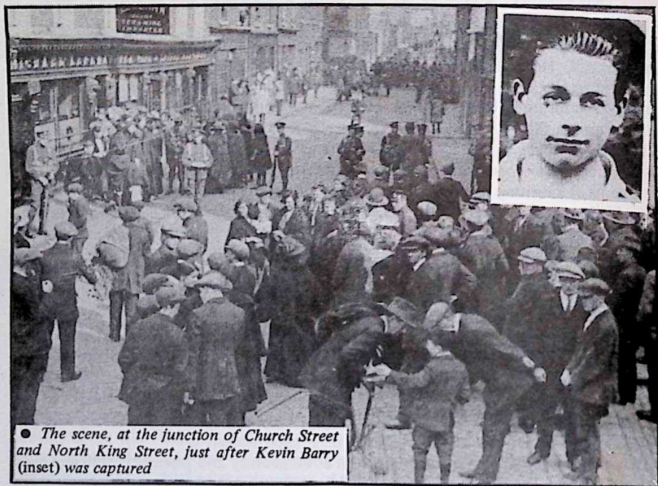
Willie Nelson had faced his martyrdom courageously and fearlessly, refusing even to allow his eyes to be covered saying: "*I have done nothing to be ashamed of*". His comrade, Henry Joy McCracken was to meet the same fate in Belfast some five weeks later.

That night some yeomen surrounded his mother's house and prevented his friends from attending his wake. The following morning, being a Sunday, his funeral was followed to the place of his burial by his distraught mother, his little brothers and two young sisters — the only members of his family who were not in prison.

Many years later his mother described her martyred son to the historian of the United Irishmen, Dr Richard R Madden as being *"a courageous, brave and fearless youth, a very handsome boy, fair and blooming with light hair, and with his open neck shirt, looking younger than he was as he stood at his place of execution."*

After his death, his two other brothers were transported. One of them died on the transport ship during the long voyage, and the other escaped to the United States where he became a famous architect.

Willie Nelson's mother was thrown out of her home and she found refuge with a relative, but the ordeal and agony of losing her three sons proved too much for her and her mind became deranged. She lived to an old age, but to the day of her death she always had the fear that the yeomen were coming to arrest her also.



● The scene, at the junction of Church Street and North King Street, just after Kevin Barry (inset) was captured

### KEVIN BARRY

THE PEOPLE OF DUBLIN were making their way towards Mountjoy Jail in their thousands. People from all over Dublin, women in the shawls, young boys in their short pants, some warm, some cold but all in low spirits. They knelt down outside



the prison in prayer for the last minute reprieve or for the repose of the soul of young Kevin Barry a medical student of Universtiy College Dublin. All of Ireland knew his story.

He was a member of 'H' Company, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who attacked a party of troops at Monks' Bakery at the junction of Church Street and North King Street, Dublin. One British soldier was killed and a number wounded, two subsequently dying. The Volunteer casualties were two wounded and Section Commander Kevin Barry, a youth of eighteen, captured. He carried a Colt automatic pistol. The gun jammed and he took cover under a lorry, to free his gun, and was then surrounded and taken.

Kevin Barry was tried by court-martial and condemned to death by hanging. He received his sentence with the courage and dignity befitting a soldier, having committed not a crime but an act of war against his country's oppressors. The sentence was greeted with shock and horror. The people of Ireland could not believe the British would really hang a mere lad of eighteen years, who had been captured on active service. *"He was a prisoner of war they told themselves."* The British could not condemn a POW to a criminal's death.

The Archbishop of Dublin Dr. Walsh and Lord Mayor of Dublin, Larry O'Neill went to appeal to General Macready for a reprieve, he referred them to Dublin Castle, from the castle they were sent to Lord French, the viceroy, who assured the archbishop that his appeal would be forwarded *"to the proper authorities, the British government"*.

As it was now clear that the British intended to go ahead with this despicable act, Dail Eireann sent the following message to the *"Civilized Nations:"*

*"The English Government now proposed to set aside the high standard set by the Irish Volunteers and to execute prisoners of war, previously attempting to brand them before the world as criminals. Such an outrage upon the law and customs of nations cannot be permitted to pass in silence by civilisation. It may be in the power of England to hang an Irish boy of eighteen under such circumstance, but it is not in her power to prevent the conscience of mankind reprobating with horror such an action."*

Hopes of a reprieve were entertained in many quarters, but the Volunteers were hoping that they could effect a rescue. They planned that a relative should look for a visit with Kevin. Such a visit would normally be granted in the Governor's Office near the main gate. This taking place a number of men were detailed to storm the gate and shoot the guards. That done what remained would be easy enough. Unfortunately Kevin's relatives, hoping as they were entitled to do, that the British government would realise the immensity of the crime that they were about to prepare and reprieve Kevin, would not consent to the action.

The Brigade decided to go ahead with changed plans for the rescue on the very eve of the hanging. The rescue party had taken up positions and were ready to execute their plan when news arrived from GHQ that Barry had been reprieved.

That was the rumour which spread throughout Dublin freely, on the eve of the execution.

Yet the 1st of November came and no confirmation was yet given. Thousands made their way towards the jail hoping and praying that the British government would confirm the reprieve. As time advanced slowly towards eight o'clock a great hush fell upon the crowd as they abandoned their last minute hopes for Kevin. Whispers could be heard among the crowds. *"They are going to hang him", "The English hangman's arrived all right"*

Men, women, children, old and young alike, knelt in prayer and old veterans told stories of Fenian times and the story of bold Robert Emmet. Somewhere, a clock struck the hour of doom, eight ominous strokes Kevin had gone to join the many other fallen heroes of the Irish cause but who will never be forgotten by the generations to come.

He had gone to the scaffold smiling. Fearless in the face of the miserable earthly tyrants who had offered him his life if he would inform on his comrades. Kevin died bravely, he was defiant to the end and it was this defiance which re-echoed throughout Ireland and encourage thousands of young Irish people, some even younger than Kevin, joined the IRA. His persecutors had hanged him as an example to other. If they had troubled to read Irish history they would have known the consistent reaction to such example.

But Barry was not the first nor the last to die for Ireland, he was joined by men/women such as Liam Mellows, Fergal O'Hanlon, Maire Drumm and Bobby Sands.

## BATTLE OF BRUNSWICK STREET

**DUBLIN'S** Pearse Street, (formerly named Brunswick Street) holds a proud tradition of resistance.

Brunswick Street as it was called then, in 1921, was renowned as a republican stronghold in Dublin. The headquarters of the IRA was Saint Andrew's Club, 144 Brunswick Street. A constant patrol was kept around the area by the IRA as was by the enemy forces.

Ambushes of troops in the vicinity were frequent by members of the HQ, so therefore not much attention was given to the sound of gunfire, as was the case on March 14th 1921. The men in 144 heard the sound of a bomb not so far off, at around 8.10pm, but little attention was given to it. Inside, the men of 'B' Company



● IRA Volunteers patrolling Grafton Street, Dublin

were sorting out ammunition which was to be sent to other areas and districts, while other members of 'B' Company patrolled outside.

At around 8.10pm two lorry loads of Auxiliaries, and an armoured car mounted with a machine gun, drove up Brunswick Street, heading in the direction of 144. As the Auxiliaries' lorries passed by the corner of Erne Street a section of 'B' Company opened fire and immediately the British went into action.

Although outmatched, the IRA showed gallantry in their attack. Their lack of ammunition in comparison to the enemy forces whose machine guns poured a deadly fire into the IRA's ranks did not deter the brave Volunteers.

Many brave Volunteers died that night, the youngest of which was Volunteer Bernard O'Hanlon, of Dundalk who was seventeen years old. He had just been released on account of his youth (he was arrested in connection with the shootings on Bloody Sunday). He was not long home from prison and was not on duty that night, but getting word of the attack on Headquarters, he rushed down to take part in the defence. He was shot dead outside 144 and he is buried in his native Avondale, where he was brought by the men of his battalion some days later.

Another splendid young Volunteer was Leo Fitzgerald, who lost his life that night. He had seen active service in 1916 when he was a member of Fianna Eireann.

The bravery and courage of the people in the surrounding area saved many a Volunteer's life. Householders who were caught 'habouring a rebel' suffered every kind of cruelty and sometimes death at the hands of the Black and Tans and military. Their homes were destroyed, they were beaten and tortured, yet the civilian population stood with the Volunteers and gave them shelter, food and procured medical help for them in spite of all the danger that threatened them.

The people in the cottages in Erne Terrace kept the escaped men safe during the curfew hours, and gave first aid to the wounded. One such brave civilian was a



dairy shop owner who saved the life of Volunteer Tom Kelly, who was seriously wounded and was lying on the street. He would have died, bled to death, or have been captured by the enemy, if it had not been for the dairy owner, who carried him indoors, hid him, and took care of him until the men from his battalion were able to bring him to hospital. Kelly was later one of those who was captured in the Four Courts in 1922, and afterwards endured 33 days on hunger-strike in prison for the sake of the Republic.

Not all Volunteers were as fortunate as Kelly. One such Volunteer was Tom Traynor. He was taken prisoner early in the night, and was executed in Mountjoy Prison on April 25th, 1921. He was a very typical Volunteer, a Dublin working man who never thought of asking for 'exemption from military duty' although he was middle aged, with a large family depending on him. He had also taken part in the 1916 Rising and in many other battles with his unit.

The enemies casualty list was nearly as heavy as the IRA's, proof that the Volunteers though at a great disadvantage put up a great fight.

Also killed that night was a true friend of the cause, David Kelly, who was accidentally killed while passing along the street. He had done great work for the Republican Movement and Sinn Féin.

Early the following morning the men who had succeeded in escaping into Erne Terrace (over the backwall of 144), returned over the backwall and recovered arms ammunition and important papers which had to be abandoned the night before. By this prompt action they saved a lot of valuable material as well as preventing the enemy from finding names and other information in the documents left behind.

The following day HQ was raided by the British, who, finding nothing of importance, wrecked St Andrew's Club as a revenge.

## FROM A FIAN TO A VOLUNTEER

Charles English was born in Derry in 1964. He lived in the nationalist ghettos and was the eldest in a family of 4 boys and 2 girls. At the age of 5 the final phase of Ireland's struggle was beginning. By the time Charles was 11 years of age he was rapidly becoming aware of British repression and intimidation of Irish republicans, his uncle was being detained in Long Kesh concentration camp for his republican beliefs.

By 1978 he was being educated in St Peter's Secondary School, where he quickly gained the admiration of his tutors as a hard-working, intelligent student. At this time also he was hearing how republicans were being ill-treated and forced to live in horrible conditions on the blanket in the H-Blocks, and wondering how he could strike a blow against this.

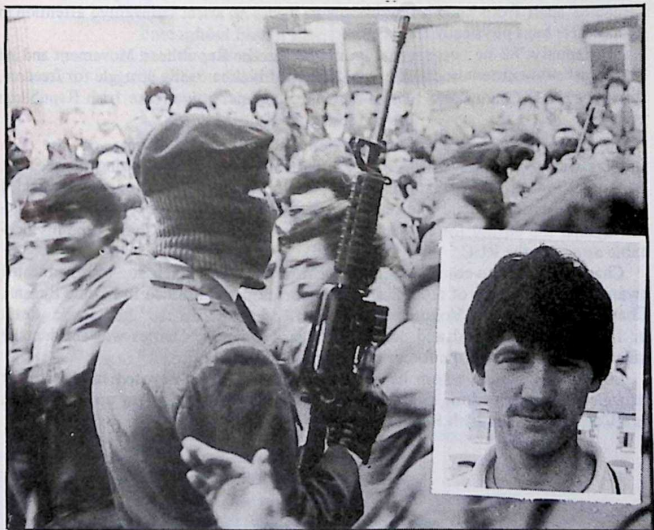
In 1981, Charles English, aged 17, was unemployed like many other youths of



his age. But unlike some he was now thinking of a more active involvement in republicanism. Bobby Sands had begun the second republican hunger-strike in the H-Blocks and he was fast approaching death. Charles was angered by British intransigence and now thought about using the disciplined force of the Republican Movement to fight back. Before he made his final decision to join Fianna Eireann, tragedy struck the English family. On Easter Sunday 1981 his older brother Gary was killed by British troops driving a jeep. (The soldiers were later to be charged and cleared of dangerous driving.) Charles' uncle was refused compassionate parole from prison for refusing to compromise his republican principles.

Charles now had to rethink his position taking into account his family's grief and the effect of his brother's death on his closest relatives.

Throughout the remaining months of 1981 Charles remained aware of the republican struggle. He watched the ten hunger-strikers go to their deaths one by one. He read in *AP/RN* about their lives and came to admire Bobby Sands more and more. He read the writings of Bobby Sands and became greatly influenced by his struggle and sacrifice. Charles thought of the course of action he wished to take, of



● Volunteer Charles English (inset) in full uniform at the 1985 Derry Easter Commemoration

his brother's death, of how his choice would affect his family, of the possibility of jail or death. Finally, in January 1982, Charles joined Fianna Eireann. The most important phase of his life had begun.

On entering Fianna Eireann, Charles had many talents and merits in his favour. One of these stood out from the rest: his consciousness of personal security. This is one of the reason why he delayed his entrance into Fianna Eireann. He realised after his brother's death that he would be subject to British surveillance.

Although Charles was an intelligent young man, he used every opportunity available to him in Fianna Eireann to re-educate himself in republican history. He studied Irish history from a republican point of view. He read about republican politics and was really impressed with the working of a 32-County, socialist Ireland. In the Fianna he received slua lectures and discovered that Ireland as a 32-County socialist republic was workable. His resolve and determination to achieve this grew within him. Through his education in the Fianna he developed a cultural awareness and began to privately teach himself Gaelge. His Fianna comrades grew to admire him for his enthusiasm and unselfish devotion to republicanism. He remained apart from known republicans so as not to attract unwanted attention to himself. He kept physically fit.

By January '83 he became totally involved in the Republican Movement and led an almost non-existent social life, devoting all his time to the struggle for freedom. In June 1983, Charles left Fianna Eireann and later joined the Irish Republican Army.

In the IRA he acquired his comrades' respect. Some of the Volunteers were completely surprised by his involvement, thus proving his security. In April 1984, on Easter Saturday night, another tragedy occurred which affected Charles. A personal friend and fellow comrade, Richard Quigley, was killed in action against the enemy forces. This led to suspicion falling on Charles and his inevitable arrest by the RUC.

Charles was able to come through the tortures of Castlereagh due to his educated awareness of the right of republicans, the education he obtained in Fianna Eireann. Charles remained a Volunteer in the IRA right up to his tragic death in 1985. Like his friend and comrade, Richard Quigley, Charles was accidentally killed in action against the forces of imperialist occupation.

Like Bobby Sands, whom he greatly admired, Charles devoted his life to the struggle for Irish freedom, from his young days in Fianna Eireann up to his death as a Volunteer in the Irish Republican Army.

## Amhrán na bhFiann

*Seo dhíbh, a chairde, duan óglaigh,  
Cathréimeach, bríomhar, ceolmhar,  
Ar dtinte cnámh go buacach táid,  
'S an spéir go mún réaltógach.  
Is fonnmhar faobhrach sinn chun gleo,  
'S go tiúnmhar glé roimh thíocht don ló,  
Faoi chúinas caomh na hoíche ar seol,  
Seo libh, canaig amhrán na bhFiann.*

*Sinne laochra Fáil,  
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,  
Buíon dár slua  
Thar toinn do rainig chugainn,  
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,  
Seantír ar sinsear feasta  
Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán na faoin traill.  
Anocht a théam sa bhearna baoil,  
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil,  
Le gunna-scréach, faoi lámhach na bpiléar,  
Seo libh, canaig amhrán na bhFiann.*

*Cois bánta reidhe, ar arda sléibhe  
Ba bhuach ar sinsear romhainn,  
Ag lámhach go trean fā'n sār-bhrat sein,  
Atá thuas sa ghaoith go seolta:  
Ba dhúchas riamh d'ár gcine cháidh  
Gan iompáil siar ó imirt air,  
'Siul mar iad i gcoinne namhaid  
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann*

*A buíon nach fann d'fhuil Gaeil is Gall,  
Sinn breacadh lae na saoirse,  
Tá scéimhle 's scanradh i gcroíthe namhad,  
Roimh ranganna laochra ár dtíre;  
Ar dtínte is tréith gan spréach anois,  
Sin luisne ghlé san spéir anoir,  
'S an bíobha i raon na bpiléar agaibh:  
Seo libh, canaig amhrán na bhFiann.*

# Songs of Resistance

**KEVIN BARRY**

In Mountjoy Jail one Monday morning  
High upon the gallow's tree,  
Kevin Barry gave his young life,  
For the cause of liberty.  
Just a lad of eighteen summers,  
Yet no one can deny,  
As he walked to death that morning,  
Proud he held his head on high.

Just before he faced the hangman,  
In his dreary prison cell,  
British soldiers tortured Barry,  
Just because he would not tell,  
The name of his brave comrades,  
And the things they wished to know,  
"Turn informer or we'll kill you",  
Kevin Barry answered "No".

Calmly standing to attention  
While he bade his last farewell,  
To his broken-hearted mother,  
Whose sad grief no one can tell.  
For the cause he proudly cherished,  
This sad parting had to be,  
Then to death walked softly smiling,  
That old Ireland might be free.



## WOMEN TOGETHER

Look not on us with sorrow  
Your sisters behind the wire,  
Our dwelling place may be gloomy  
But our hearts instill a fire,  
Many years we've been in prison  
Many tears we've shed,  
For each and every one  
Of our comrades fallen dead.

And throughout our bondage, sisters,  
You've inspired us on our path,  
In amending harsh injustices  
All of ours since birth,  
Let no man put asunder  
The need that we all treasure,  
To seek equality for womankind  
And freedom in our land forever.

Let us not bow or kneel to any  
Whether army, man or race,  
For we are not as slaves  
Wishing to halt pace,  
With spirits raised and tracks set firm  
Along with you we'll go,  
We'll raise our voices loud and clear  
And let the people know.

That far beyond these bars of steel  
And bricks and barbed wire,  
We soon will see beyond a doubt  
Our lark fly higher — yet higher.

*By AM. Quinn, POW*

Sent out of Armagh jail in February 1982

## ONLY OUR RIVERS RUN FREE

When apples still grow in November  
When blossoms still grow from each tree  
When leaves are still green in December,  
It's then that our land will be free.  
I wander her hills and her valleys  
And still through my sorrow I see  
A land that has never known freedom  
And only her rivers run free

I drink to the death of her manhood  
Those men who would rather have died  
Than to live in the cold chains of bondage  
They'd bring back their rights where denied.  
Oh, where are you now when we need you?  
What burns where the flame used to be?  
Are you gone like the snows of last winter  
And will only our rivers run free?

How sweet is life, but we're crying  
How mellow the wine, but we're dry  
How fragrant the rose, but it's dying  
How gentle the wind, but it sighs.  
What good is youth when it's ageing?  
What joy is in eyes that can't see?  
When sorrow and sadness have flowers  
And still only our rivers run free

## THE BALLAD OF LONG KESH

There's a place just outside Lisburn  
A place we all should know,  
Where a band of Irish rebels  
Is held by Prior's crew.  
They are forced to live in cages  
Like the animals at Bellevue  
But the spirit of 1916  
Will surely see them through

The men that's in that prison  
They come from near and far,  
Some from the Derry Bogside,  
And Omagh town so dear,  
And some of them from Belfast  
From the Markets and the Bone  
From the narrow streets of Ardoyne,  
And from all around Tyrone

On that black day in August  
When Faulkner showed his hand  
He thought that by internment  
He could shake our rebel band,  
But the boys of Ballymurphy  
How they showed the way that night,  
And they showed the English soldiers  
How Irishmen could fight

Long Kesh is known to everyone  
The system must be broke,  
Ardoyne, New Lodge, and the Falls Road  
Will see the system choke  
No more the Special Powers Act,  
Those cruel deeds will revoke,  
And Long Kesh will be the stone  
On which the system broke

So come all you Irish people  
Be you far or near,  
Remember our brave prisoners  
In Long Kesh this year,  
And by civil disobedience  
Or by your chosen means  
Let's make our stand until the day  
Each one of them is free

### **THE RIFLES OF THE IRA**

In nineteen hundred and sixteen  
The forces of the Crown,  
For to capture Orange, White and Green  
Bombarded Dublin town.  
But in 'twenty-one Britannia's sons  
Began to earn their pay  
When the Black and Tans like lightning ran  
From the rifles of the IRA

They burned their way through Munster.  
Laid Leinster on the rack,  
Through Connaught and through Ulster  
Marched the men in brown and black.  
Well they murdered women and children  
In their own horrific way

Till the Black and Tans like lightning ran  
From the rifles of the IRA

They hanged young Kevin Barry high  
A lad of eighteen years.  
Cork city's flames lit up the sky,  
But our brave boys knew no fear,  
For the Cork Brigade with hand-grenades  
In ambush waiting lay  
And the Black and Tans like lightning ran  
From the rifles of the IRA

Now the Tans were taken out and shot  
By a brave and fearless crew,  
Sean Tracey, Dinny Lacey,  
And Tom Barry's men so true.  
Well, we're not free yet  
But we won't forget  
Until our dying day  
How the Black and Tans like lightning ran  
From the rifles of the IRA

## TAKE IT DOWN FROM THE MAST

Chorus:

Take it down from the mast, Irish traitors,  
It's the flag we Republicans claim,  
It can never belong to Free Staters  
For you've brought on it nothing but shame

You have murdered our brave Liam and Rory  
You've slaughtered young Richard and Joe  
Your hands with their blood are all gory  
Fulfilling the work of the foe

We stand with Sean and with Fergal  
With McGrath and Russell so bold.  
We'll break down the English connection  
And bring back the nation you've sold

So leave it to those who are willing,  
To uphold it in war and in peace,  
The men who intend to defend it  
Till England's tyrannies cease



## ANN DEVLIN

In Dublin town they sing of a brave Wicklow woman:  
Of her troubles and her times in cruel Kilmainham Jail:  
All the way from Butterfield Lane, Ann Devlin was her name.  
A friend of Robert Emmet she served his cause in vain.

### *Chorus:*

And its low lie low, Liffey keep on flowing,  
And its low lie low, Ann your legend's growing

Not torture or the bribe could sway Ann Devlin's purpose,  
Three years of lonely hell in solitary shame,  
How proud Emmet met his fate on the scaffold of the tyrant,  
She saw her family passing like poor lilies in a storm

In 1851 Ann Devlin met her maker,  
But her story's with us still as a lesson for the wise,  
Not poverty nor fear can kill the heart of freedom,  
Ann Devlin was a servant to the spirit of our land.

## ON THE BLANKET

The truth comes as hard as the cold rain  
On your face in the heat of the storm  
And the stories I'm hearing will shock you  
To believe such deeds can go on.  
You can starve them and take all their clothing,  
And then beat them up till they fall,  
You can break up the bodies but never the spirit  
Of those on the Blanket

### *Chorus:*

England your sins are not over  
The H-Blocks still stand in your name,  
And though many voices have cried out to you,  
It's still your shame.  
And if we stay silent we're guilty  
While these men lie naked and cold  
In H-Blocks tonight  
Remember the fight  
Of those on the Blanket

But the truth must be told so I'll tell it  
It all began five years ago.  
Kieran Nugent refused to be branded  
A criminal and wear prison clothes,  
So they threw him in naked to H-Blocks  
And spat out their filthy abuse,  
And they kept him awake till the cold break of day  
With only a blanket

But this one man's courage was steady  
And soon he was joined by some more  
Refusing criminal status  
These men were prisoners of war.  
The screws tried to break them with beatings  
And searches no human can stand.  
From morning to night  
It's a daily routine  
For those on the Blanket

## **TOM WILLIAMS**

Time goes past and years roll onward  
Still a memory fresh I'll keep  
Of the night in Belfast prison  
Unashamed, I saw men weep

As the time was fast approaching  
A lad they sentenced for to die  
On the second of September  
He goes to meet his God on high

Now he's marching to the scaffold  
Head erect, he shows no fear  
And while standing on that scaffold  
Ireland's cross he holds so dear

Brave Tom Williams, we salute you  
And we never will forget  
Those who planned your brutal murder  
We vow we'll make them all regret

Now I say to Irish soldiers  
If from Tom's path you chance to stray  
Just keep the memory of that morn  
When Ireland's cross was proudly borne  
By a lad who lies within the prison clay

## GRÁ MO CHROÍ

(Old Ireland Free Once More)

An oíche aréir, is mé tuireach tráith  
Im' shuan do chonaic mé ffs  
Gur shaoraigh Gaeil ár dtír go léir  
'S bhí Éire saor arís.  
Ba mhór mo bhrí is m'ardú croí  
Ar phléasc na ngunnaí is gleo  
A ghrá mó chroí is é mo mhian  
Ar dtír bheith saor go deo

Bhí laochra Gael go cróga tréan  
I gcúis na hÉireann riamh  
Ó Néill, Ó Domhnaill, is Wolfe Tone  
An Sairséalach bhí go groí,  
Is Emmet breá mór ghéill roimh fheall  
A thug a mhaoín is a bheo  
A ghrá mó chroí is é mo mhian  
Ar dtír bheith saor go deo

Ar chroch go hard a fuair siad bás  
Ó Lorcáin, Ó hAilín, Ó Briain  
Ach tiocfaidh lá is imreofar ár  
Ar Shasanaigh is a mbuíon.  
Is troidfidh Gaeil gan sos gan staon  
D'oíche is de la  
A ghrá mó chroí is é mo mhian  
Ar dtír bheith saor go deo

## ORO SE DO BHEATHA 'BHAILE!

(Dord na Féinne um Cháisc 1916)

Curfá:

Óró! sé do bheatha 'bhaile!

Óró! sé do bheatha 'bhaile!

Óró! sé do bheatha 'bhaile!

Anois ar theacht an tsamhraidh

Sé do bheatha! a bhean ba léanmhar!  
B'é ár gcreach tú bheith i ngéibheann,  
Do dhútaigh bhreá i seilbh méirleach  
Is tú d'folta leis na Gallaibh

Tá Gráinne Mhaol ag teacht thar sáile,  
Óglaigh armtha léi mar gharda,  
Gaeil iad féin is ní Gaill ná Spáinnigh,  
Is cuirfid ruaig ar Ghallaibh

A bhuí le Rí na bhfeart go bhfeiceam,  
Muna mbeam beo 'na dhiaidh ach seachtain,  
Gráinne Mhaol agus m'le gaiscíodh  
Ag fógairt fáin ar Ghallaibh  
— Padraig Mac Piarais





## The man from God knows where

THOMAS RUSSELL, of Co. Cork, bosom friend and devoted comrade of Emmet, organised Co. Down for the United Irishmen in 1795. One night he entered an inn or tavern in Killyleagh, where a number of local men were gathered. They were United Irishmen, but Russell didn't know it, and they didn't know or why he was there. One of them, long years after, tells of that night, and where and under what circumstances he saw Russell again. The Warwick man in the poem was a young republican Presbyterian minister who was hanged at Newtownards. Thomas Russell was hanged on 19th October, 1803.

Into our townlan', on a night of snow,  
Rode a man from God-knows-where;  
None of us bade him stay or go,  
Nor deemed him friend, nor damned him foe.  
But we stabled his good roan mare:  
For in our townlan' we're a decent folk.  
And if he didn't speak, why none of us spoke.  
And we sat till the fire burned low.

We're a civil sort in our wee place,  
So we made the circle wide  
Round Andy Lemon's cheerful blaze,  
And wished the man his length of days,  
And a good end to his ride,  
He smiled in under his slouchy hat —  
Says he: "There's a bit of a joke in that,  
For we ride different ways."

The whiles we smoked we watched him stare  
From his seat fornenst the glow,  
I nudged Joe Moore, "You wouldn't dare  
To ask him who he's for meetin' there,  
And how far he has got to go?"  
But Joe wouldn't dare, nor Wully Scott,  
And he took no drink — neither cold nor hot —  
This man from God-knows-where.

It was closin' time, an' late forbye,  
When us ones braved the air —  
I never saw worse (may I live or die)  
Than the sleet that night, an' I says, says I.  
"You'll find he's for stoppin' there."  
But at screek o' day, through the gable pane  
I watched him spur through the peltin' rain,  
And I juked from his rovin' eye.

Two winters more, then the Trouble Year,  
When the best that a man could feel  
Was the pike he kept in hidlin's near,  
Till the blood o' hate an' the blood o' fear  
Would be redder nor rust on the steel.  
Us ones quet from mindin' the farms —  
Let them take what we gave wi' the weight o' our arms,  
From Saintfield to Kilkeel.

In the time o' the Hurry, we had no lead —  
We all of us fought with the rest —  
An' if e'er a one shook like a tremblin' reed  
None of us gave neither hint nor heed,  
Nor ever even'd we'd guessed.  
We men of the North had a word to say,  
An' we said it then, in our own dour way,  
An' we spoke as we thought was best.

All Ulster over, the weemen cried  
For the stan'in' crops on the lan' —  
Many's the sweetheart an' many's the bride  
Would liefer ha' gone till where he died.  
An ha' murned her lone by her man,  
But us ones weathered the thick of it,

And we used to dandher along, and sit  
In Andy's side by side.

What with discourse goin' to and fro,,  
The night would be wearin' thin,  
Yet never so late when we rose to go  
But someone would say: 'Do ye min' thon snow,  
An' the man what came wanderin' in?  
And we be to fall to the talk again,  
If by any chance he was *one of them* —  
The man who went like the win'.

Well, 'twas gettin' on past the heat o' the year  
When I rode to Newtown fair;  
I sold as I could (the dealers were near —  
Only three pound eight for the Innish steer,  
An' nothin' at all for the mare!)  
But I met McKee in the throng o' the street  
Said he, "The grass has grown under our feet  
Since they hanged young Warwick here."

And he told me that Boney had promised help  
To a man in Dublin town  
Says he, "If ye've laid the pike on the shelf,  
Ye'd better go home hot-fut by yerself,  
An' once more take it down."  
So by Comer road I trotted the gray  
And never cut corn until Killyleagh  
Stood plain on the risin' groun'.

For a wheen o' days we sat waitin' the word  
To rise and go at it like men,  
But no French ships sailed into Cloughey Bay,  
And we heard the black news on a harvest day  
That the cause was lost again;  
And Joey and me, and Wully Boy Scott,  
We agreed to ourselves we'd as lief as not  
Ha' been found in the thick o' the slain.

By Downpatrick Gaol I was bound to fare  
On a day I'll remember, feth;  
For when I came to the prison square  
The people were waitin' in hundreds there,

An' you wouldn't hear stir nor breath!  
For the sodgers were standin', grim an' tall,  
Round a scaffold built there fornenst the wall,  
An' a man stepped out for death!

I was brave an' near the edge o' the throng,  
Yet I knowed the face again,  
An' I knowed the set, an' I knowed the walk  
An' the sound of his strange up-country talk,  
For he spoke out right an' plain.  
Then he bowed his head to the swingin' rope,  
While I said, Please God" to his dying hope  
And "Amen" to his dyin' prayer.  
The the Wrong would cease and the Right prevail  
For the man that they hanged at Downpatrick Gaol  
Was the Man From God-knows-where!



● THOMAS RUSSELL



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# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Six Counties

AS FIANNA EIREANN members are regularly harassed, and even arrested by the RUC, UDR and British forces in the Six Counties, it is important that you know your rights under the law. Remember that Fianna Eireann is a proscribed organisation in the North, so be very careful when being questioned by the police and soldiers. A basic grasp of your rights should make you more confident and better able to deal with acts of British army/RUC/UDR harassment.

## STOPPED AND QUESTIONING

Section 18 of the Emergency Provisions Act (EPA) allows British troops and RUC forces to stop and question any person at any time, and to stop vehicles and question their occupants. If they are in uniform, they don't have to identify themselves, but if in plainclothes or out of uniform, he/she has to produce documentary evidence for you, to show that they are members of the crown forces.

Section 20, Paragraph 8: You have to give you your name and address and state where you are coming from and going to. The answer about your movements can be very general: for example name the last place you left and the next place on the road.

Do not answer any other questions. You do not have to tell them your date of birth, your school, occupation, or identify any passengers that may be in a car with you or anyone else or give details of your family. You can not be photographed under this section.

## BODY SEARCHES

The British army and RUC have the right to search you. Women should only be searched by female members of the British army or RUC. Children under the age of eleven should be searched in the presence of parents or guardians.

## ARREST AND DETENTION

Under the emergency legislation in the North it is possible to be arrested and detained under the authority of several different sections.

### Four Hours

Under Section 14 of the EPA British army and UDR personnel can arrest and detain people for up to four hours. The soldier does not have to state the reason for the arrest. This is the only section under which a UDR member or British soldier can arrest people.

If arrested under this section, give your name and address and nothing else. Keep demanding to see a solicitor. The soldiers can only question you about a specific 'offence'. They have no legal authority to ask you anything else. **Apart from your name and address, say nothing else.**

### Seventy-two Hours

Under Section 11 of the EPA, the RUC can arrest you and hold you for up to 72 hours. You can be finger-printed, palm-printed and be photographed. This is the only section which allows them to do this. The RUC member has to tell you the reason why you are being arrested and that you are being arrested under Section 11 of the EPA. Give your name and address and say nothing else. After 48 hours you are entitled to see a solicitor.

### Seven Days

Under Section 12 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) you can be arrested by the RUC in the North (or British police in England) and held for up to seven days. After 48 hours in custody you are entitled to see a solicitor and an independent doctor and every 48 hours afterwards.

They will only permit you to see a solicitor if you request one and give them the name of the solicitor you wish to see. Therefore, everyone should know the name of at least one competent solicitor.

If arrested under this section give your name and address and keep demanding to see a solicitor. Say nothing else. Remain silent for the seven days.

You do not have to sign 'no damage' forms etc, at checkpoints or to sign for your property in a barracks. In custody say **nothing apart from your name and address and sign nothing.**

## HOUSE SEARCHES

Under various sections of the EPA (11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20) British soldiers and the RUC can search you and your home. They can enter your home without a warrant in search of people. They are not permitted to search



in places where people are incapable of hiding (e.g. drawers, letters, etc).

Section 15 of the EPA enables them to enter, without a warrant, to search your home for explosives and transmitters.

The leader of the raiding party should be asked under what section they are acting and if they are looking for arms or explosives (Section 15) they still have no authority to look at photographs, or to read letters or books or to seize any personal possessions.

You should insist on accompanying the searchers from room to room. They can not confine everyone to one room during a search. "House arrest" is illegal.

You should make a list of all damage caused during the raid. Request that they sign your damage form and include a provision that it is subject to any further change. A complaint should be lodged with the RUC.

## 26 COUNTIES

**FIANNA EIREANN** is an open legal organisation in the 26 Counties, however, you will possibly be stopped, harassed and arrested by the Gardai Special Branch, therefore it is important that you know your rights.

The piece of repressive legislation most commonly used against republicans in the 26 Counties is the Offences Against the State Act 1939, though the recent Criminal Justice Act 1984 may also be used to stop and arrest you. However, it is more than likely that the Gardai and Special Branch will continue to use the Offences Against the State Act to harass republicans, as, they believe, they have greater powers under this act. A basic knowledge therefore of what they can and can not do is essential.

## ON THE STREET

Under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act (OASA) a Garda or member of the Special Branch can without warrant "stop, search, interrogate and arrest" any person on suspicion of committing, having committed or who is about to commit an 'offence'. Under this section they can also stop a vehicle, by force if necessary. You can also be arrested under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984 (CJA).

However, whether under the OASA or the CJA, a Garda, not in uniform (i.e. plain-clothes officer or special branch) has to produce identification when stopping a person if requested to do so, although not when stopping a vehicle. Once the vehicle is stopped, however, he/she must produce identification.

When stopped in the street by a Special Branch detective, if he/she has not clearly identified him/herself as being a Garda, ask to see identification. Flashing an identification card is not sufficient, he/she must clearly identify him/herself as being a Garda. Ask under which Act you are being stopped. It will be either under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act 1939 (OASA) or under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1984. Ask why you are being stopped. They do not have to tell you why you are being stopped but when asked they usually tell you. They do, however, have to tell you why you are being arrested. Ask what 'offence' they believe you have committed — they have to tell you.

If asked in the street, you have to give your name and address, as, if you don't or give a false one you could be arrested and imprisoned for up to five years. The gardai or Special Branch can ask you (under Section 2 of the OASA (amendment) Act 1972 to account for your movements i.e. where you are coming from, but not where you are going to. A very simple general answer as to where you are coming from will suffice. For example you are coming from Cork or coming from O'Connell Street. The gardai or Special Branch have no right to ask you what you saw, or heard or did in the place you said you were coming from. They have no right either to ask you where you are going to. Should they ask you these questions, firmly tell them that under the law you do not have to give this information.

Other than your name, address and a general answer as to where you are coming from, they have no right to ask for any other information such as your date of birth, places of work or school or details of friends or relatives.

The may threaten to arrest you for refusing to give this further information, but they will not arrest you as they know that such an arrest is illegal and that you could pursue a civil court action against them for unlawful arrest.

## SEARCH

The Gardai or Special Branch can search you on the street. They can also search a vehicle. They can frisk you and search your pockets, insist on you removing items from your pockets, empty one pocket at a time. They usually let you do this then frisk your pocket. When searching a vehicle, let them search the boot while you

observe them closely, then watch them closely while they search the back and then the front of your car. It is your right, they can not stop you from closely watching them while they search different parts of your car.

## ARREST

No one, under any circumstances whatsoever should be induced by the gardai or Special Branch to go voluntarily to a Garda station. This could lead to their detaining you for an indefinite period. So if they say "come along to the station with us", ask: "Am I under arrest. "If the answer is "no", then you don't have to go along with them. If they wish to take you to a police station they will have to arrest you.

If you are being arrested they have to tell you why you are being arrested (i.e. what 'offence' they suspect you of having committed). Ask also under which act you are being arrested. It will most likely be Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act 1939 (OASA '39), but it could be under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984 (CJA '84).

Arrest under Section 30 of the OASA allows for you to be detained for a period of 24 hours and, by direction of a Garda not below the rank of chief superintendent, this can be extended by another 24 hours. The maximum possible period, that they can detain you for without charge is 48 hours (i.e. two days).

But, if you are arrested under the Criminal Justice Act, they can detain you without charge for six hours, and, by direction of a Garda not below the rank of Superintendent, this can be extended by another six hours. If allowed to rest between midnight and 8am, while the interrogation is suspended (something which you should not agree to) you may be held for a further eight hours. The maximum period of detention without charge under this Act is 20 hours.

## ARREST UNDER SECTION 30

Once in custody, you should immediately demand to see a named solicitor, it is your right. You have to ask for a solicitor by name. You should all know the name of at least one competent solicitor. You should also be allowed to telephone a relative or close friend to inform them that you have been arrested. You are also, at the discretion of the gardai, entitled to see a doctor and allowed a visit from a close relative or friend.

In custody you have to give your name and address. You can be searched, photographed, finger-printed and palm-printed. They can also take swabs from your hands and take a sample of your hair for forensic tests. They can also seize your clothes, though not your underclothes, for forensic tests. If you refuse or hinder them while they are doing any of these, you can be charged and imprisoned for up to five years.

Other than giving your name and address you should keep your mouth shut and say nothing until you see your solicitor. A refusal to say anything until legal advice has been obtained, is not a refusal to answer questions, it is merely delaying your



answer until you have seen your solicitor. A solicitor will advise you to remain silent.

When you are arrested under the OASA, the gardai or special branch may ask you to account for your movements under Section 52 of the OASA. Section 52 states that, "while in custody a person if requested under Section 52 must account for his/her movements during any specified period." Don't be intimidated by Section 52 or threats by the Gardai of charges under this Act and do not answer any questions. It is very unlikely that they will charge you with refusing to answer questions when requested under Section 52 as they do not want this section to be challenged in the courts. So give your name and address, once only, and after that keep your mouth firmly shut. **Do not engage in any conversation what so ever with them.**

#### **Arrest under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984**

The powers of the gardai in relation to persons detained under the Criminal Justice Act 1984 are similar to those under the Offences Against the State Act, 1939. In custody under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984, the gardai or Special Branch detectives can demand your name and address; photograph, fingerprint and carry out forensic tests (i.e. hair samples, swabs etc) on you. They can also search you; and strip-search you (on the authority of a Garda Superintendent). Obstruction of these powers or giving a false name and address can carry a penalty of one to five years imprisonment.

Sections 15 and 16 of the CJA '84 requires you to give information to the gardai about arms, ammunition or stolen property — including money — in your possession and how you got them. Do not give the information, demand to see your solicitor and remain silent.

Inferences (certain conclusions) can be drawn by a court from your failure to account, while in custody, for marks on your clothing, objects in your possession or your presence at a particular place where an alleged offence has been committed, should you be charged before a court. You can not be convicted solely because you failed or refused to account for these. These inferences (conclusions) can only be used to back-up other evidence.

Do not account for any of the above while being detained in garda custody. Remain absolutely silent until you have seen your solicitor. Your solicitor will advise you to remain silent.

While in garda custody, do not sign anything other than your bail bond.

### **INTERROGATION**

Before interrogation the Garda and detective Garda conducting it is obliged to identify him/herself and any other member present by name and rank.

No more than two gardai should be allowed to question you at any one time, with no more than four gardai permitted to be present.

If an interrogation has lasted for four hours, it should be stopped or adjourned "for a reasonable time."



When you ask to see a solicitor, you should not be asked to make a written statement until a reasonable time for the solicitor's attendance has elapsed. If you are under 17 (seventeen), your parent or guardian should be allowed to be present during the interrogation.

**Note:-** You should never make a statement either orally or written, at any time while in Garda custody. Remember, say nothing and sign nothing.

### **Conditions in Custody**

In custody you should be allowed a reasonable time for rest. You have to be given two light meals and a main meal during any 24 hour period in custody. You can ask for meals to be supplied at your own expense (i.e. for a Garda to purchase food for you but you should not make such a request) or food may be sent in by your family, but this is subject to the discretion of the member-in-charge.

The gardai are forbidden to ill-treat you in custody or make threats against you, your family or any person connected with you. However, they are permitted to use 'reasonable force' in self-defence, should you attack them. **Note:-** You should never allow yourself to be provoked while in custody. This is exactly what they want and it will give them the excuse to assault you. Remain passive, despite the provocation; and do not act or react to anything they may say or do to you.

The member in charge also has discretionary power as to whether he/she will allow you to see a doctor, if you request to see one, the member-in-charge will usually allow such a visit.

The member-in-charge in addition to logging all matters carried out by gardai in relation to you while in custody, is also required to record all enquiries made about you and all complaints and requests made by you. The custody record is then retained as part of the complaints procedure. When you cease to be in custody, you are entitled on foot of a request made within 12 months, to receive a copy of your custody record.

### **Complaints Procedure (Ill-treatment)**

While in custody in a garda station, the member-in-charge is responsible for your well-being. If you are being threatened, blackmailed, beaten or ill-treated in any way, complain to him/her and make it clear that you will hold him/her legally responsible. If you are ill-treated or threats are made against you or your family, inform your solicitor and parent or guardian when they visit you also make a formal complaint to the member-in-charge who has to record your complaint in your custody record. Despite what the special branch detectives interrogating you may say, do not be afraid to complain about being ill-treated or threatened.

Upon release consult the Fianna authorities and a solicitor before making a formal complaint to the 'Independent' Complaints Board set up under the Garda Síochána (complaints) Act 1986.

## HOUSE RAIDS

Under Section 29 of the OASA 1939 amended by Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act 1976, the gardai can search your home. This section empowers a Garda, not below the rank of superintendent, to issue a search warrant to a named Garda, not below the rank of sergeant, to search your home.

The named Garda, with other gardai or Free State soldiers, may enter within one week from the date of the warrant, using force if necessary, any premises named in the warrant and search it and anyone in it. Free State soldiers cannot enter your home on their own, they would have to be accompanied by a Garda.

The gardai searching your home can demand the name and address of any person found in it and can arrest them if they refuse or give a false name and address. You do not have to give the Garda any further information.

Obstruction of such a warrant can lead to charges carrying a term of imprisonment of up to five years.

However, before gardai are allowed into your home to search it, you should demand to examine the search warrant, check that the address on it corresponds to that of your home, that the date is not longer than seven days previously; that the Garda empowered to search by it is not of lesser rank than sergeant; and that the Garda named on the warrants is actually presenting the warrant and can identify him/herself.

Accompany the gardai as they search each room. They can not confine you to one room. Make a note of any items being taken from your home, and make a note of any damage done to your property. Consult a solicitor about recovering items taken during a raid on your home.

## SUMMARY OF RIGHTS IN 26 COUNTIES

**If stopped in the street by the Special Branch**

Demand to see identification.

Ask why you are being stopped.

Ask under what act you are being stopped.

If requested, give your name and address and a very brief account of your movements and **no more**.

You can be searched in the street.

**If arrested by the Special Branch.**

You can be arrested under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act 1939 or under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1984.

Ask why you are being arrested.

Ask under what act you are being arrested.

If they try and get you to "come along to the station", and you are not sure if you are under arrest, ask, "Am I being arrested?" if the answer is "no", do not go along with them.

**In custody under Section 30 of the OASA or Section 4 of the CJA 1984.**

If arrested under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act 1939 you can only be held for a maximum of 48 hours.

If arrested under Section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984, you should only be held for a maximum of 12 hours. (Note: — You should refuse to allow the suspension of the interrogation between midnight and 8pm — this will mean that you will be in custody for a maximum of 12 hours. If you were to agree to the suspension, you could be held for an extra 8 hours — ie, a total of 20 hours.

In custody give you name and address once and after that remain silent throughout your period in custody.

Ask to see a named solicitor.

Ask to telephone a relative or that a close relative be informed of your detention.

Do not sign anything, ie finger-print forms, blank pieces of paper, etc.

You can be searched (and strip searched on the orders of a Garda Superintendent).

You can also be photographed, finger-printed and palm-printed.

They can also take swabs from your hands and hair samples for forensic tests.

They can also seize your clothes, though not your under clothes, for forensic tests.

If threatened with six months imprisonment under Section 52 of the OASA 1939 for refusing to account for your movements, remain silent and do not answer any questions.

Never make a statement either verbally or in writing. Say nothing and sign nothing.

**If the gardai raid your home:**

The gardai, with a warrant, can enter and search your home, by force if necessary if you refuse to let them in.

Before the gardai enter, ask to look at the warrant.

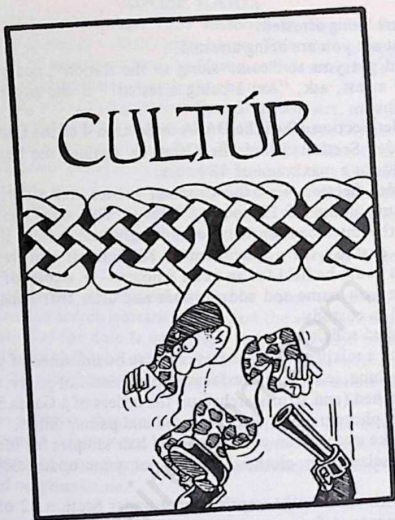
Make sure that the address is correct. That the date on the warrant is not longer than seven days previously, that the Garda empowered to search your home is not below the rank of sergeant. That the Garda sergeant named on the warrant is actually presenting it.

Make a note of any items taken from your home and any damage done.

The members of your family can not be held in one room during a raid on your house.

The gardai can request the name and address of anyone in the house.

You don't have to give them any further information.



## Culture

CEANN de na príomhaidhmeanna ag Fianna Éireann is ea ár gcultúr dúchas a chur chun cinn inár ngníomhaíochtaí. Féach orainn nuair atáimid ag mairseáil — bíonn na hordaithe go léir trí Ghaeilge. Nuair a bhímid ag taistil ar bhus nó ar traen bímid ag casadh amhrain Ghaeilge agus ag ar gcruinnithe muinimid Gaeilge d'ar mbaill.

One of Fianna Éireann's primary aims is to promote our native culture — our language, our music, our dance and our heritage. Through our activities and our meetings Fianna come into contact with the Irish language and learn the songs and music of our people. We visit sites of historical interest and always encourage a love of our country and heritage.

Foremost of our attempts to promote our culture is the use of Irish in most of our activities. For example, when we're marching the orders are always given in Irish and Irish is taught as much as possible through our meetings. Of course, it is not possible to become fluent in Irish by being in Fianna alone, to become fluent a Fian must put in the effort to learn the language and to use it at every opportunity.

As a language Irish isn't too difficult to learn. Many people know even a few words and there are usually plenty of night classes where it is taught for a small fee. If you're enthusiastic about practicing your Irish the Gaeltachtaí are never too



far away but always remember, is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Bearla cliste.

The teaching of ballads is an important aspect of Fianna activities and many's a night hike and camp have been held without much sleep because of sessions lasting into the early hours of the morning! Ireland has hundreds of ballads about our history and many of them are being lost because they are banned from the state radio and television.

We in Fianna are proud of our ballads because they tell stories of bravery and courage, starvation and oppression, emigration and resistance, Ireland's political history is recorded in the great wealth of ballads we possess — ballads from the 1798 rebellion to songs of H-Blocks and torture. Of course, Irish music extends beyond ballads to city and country folk songs, sean-nós singing traditional songs in Irish, traditional music and ceili music. We also have several native instruments most famous of which are the uilleann pipes, the bodhran and harp.

Irish music is still very popular and several bands are internationally renowned. Ballad and traditional music sessions are common in rural and urban areas and the music continues to develop in an exciting way. Moving Hearts, Clannad and Christy Moore are very different from the Chieftains or John McCormack but their music is no less Irish. In fact their popularity is a sure guarantee that our musical heritage will continue into the next century.

Irish dancing is also very popular and ceilis still flourish in many parts of the country. Dancing is taught privately and is mainly competitive though that doesn't stop men, women and children having a whale of a time learning the steps at a ceili.

Among the other aspects of our culture Fianna tries to promote are Gaelic foot ball and hurling both of which are widespread in every city, town and village. Also of importance to us are archaeological sites such as Bru na Boinne (Newgrange) and Emhain Macha and sites of historical significance such as Vinegar Hill and Kilmain ham Jail.

Clearly, there is no danger of our culture dying out by the end of the century. However, as the Coca Cola culture and values take over our own culture declines. Because of this onslaught by a foreign and capitalist culture, our language is in a weak position overall (though in places like Derry, West Belfast and Tallaght, etc there is a revival occurring). As part of the whole attempt to suppress the national struggle our cultural identity, our music, our sports etc, are under attack, whether on the streets or in the prisons.

We in Fianna are proud of our efforts to promote and preserve our culture and needless to say it will be an important part of our work in the future.

### Some simple phrases to learn

Dia dhuit (*dee dit*) — Hello

Dia's Muire dhuit (*dee iss mwireh dit*) — Hello (Response to Dia dhuit)

Conas atá tú? (*kunass taw too*) — How are you?

Caidé mar atá tú? (*coj-ay mor taw too*) – How are you?  
 Tá mé go maith (*taw may guh mah*) – I'm fine  
 Tá mé tinn (*taw may teen*) – I'm sick  
 Tá an lá go breá (*taw a law goh bra*) – The day is fine  
 Tá an lá fliuch (*taw a law fluch*) – The day is wet  
 Led' thoill (*led hull*) – Please  
 Go raibh maith agat (*guh rev mah ag-ut*) – Thanks  
 Pól is ainm dom (*Pole iss ainim dum*) – My name is Paul  
 Is dalta mé (*Iss dol-ta may*) – I'm a student.  
 Cónaím i mBaile Átha Cliath (*kone-eem ih mlaw clea*) – I live in Dublin  
 Níl post agam (*neel pust agum*) – I don't have a job  
 An bhfuil teach agat? (*Will tyoch ag-ut*) – Do you have a house?  
 Buíochas le Dia (*bwée-chus leh dee*) – Thanks be to God  
 Bhí an t-ádh leat (*vee a taw lat*) – You were lucky  
 Go n-éirí leat (*guh neiree lat*) – May you succeed/good luck  
 Slán leat (*slawn lat*) - Good-bye  
 Slán agat (*slawn ag-ut*) – Good bye (response to slán leat)

# AN IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING POLITICAL WEEKLY PHOBLACHT Republican News



AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS congratulates Fianna Éireann on the production of their new handbook.

Fians should realise the importance of An Phoblacht/Republican News as an education aid in understanding the realities of the struggle, the policies of Sinn Féin and the role that we all have to play in this struggle.

Beir bua a chomradaithe.  
 Is linn an todhchái.

# Tracing your ancestry

## STARTING THE SEARCH

Tracing or researching family history is an interesting pastime. If you are Irish or of Irish extraction you may wish to learn a little more of your family history. You may plan to visit the ancestral village/town or seek out living relatives. In your initial research, however, often the most valuable information is that gleaned from family sources. Living relatives, family papers or traditions can be very important. Wherever possible, verify family tradition and items spoken about old people.

Dublin City is the location for all of Ireland's centralised genealogical records. While some non-Catholic marriages are recorded from 1845 onwards, registration of births, deaths and marriages generally commenced in 1864. These records are held by the **Registrar General** and housed in Joyce House, 8/11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2. Tel. (01) 711000.

The **National Library**, Kildare Street, houses a major collection of genealogical material. An extensive range of trade directories – particularly for the 19th century – can be consulted, as well as **journals of local historical and archaeological societies, published topographical and local histories and some newspapers.**

The library also has a microfilm section. This contains an extensive collection of parish records, for births and marriages.

A manuscript section includes deeds, letters, rentals and other papers relating to many families.

The library also has an extensive indexing system which enables the searcher to identify the material he/she needs to consult.

**The Public Record Office**, Four Courts, Dublin, was bombed by Free Staters in 1922. Many valuable source documents were lost. Despite this, numerous records, rich in genealogical interest, remain. These include Griffith's Primary Valuation of Ireland, dated 1848, which records the names of all those owning land or property in Ireland at that time. The Tithe Applotment books of the 1920's/30's although not as comprehensive, do list the names of people whose holdings were subject to tithes (church payments). Indexes to wills, administrations, licence and wedding bonds can be consulted.

**The Genealogical Office**, which incorporates the Office of the Chief Herald and the State Heraldic Museum, 2 Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Enquiries relating to heraldry, genealogy and associated matters should be addressed to the Chief Herald, Genealogical Office.

Other centres, likely to prove of interest to the determined are: **Land Registry Office**, Ely Place, Dublin, where records enable the researcher to trace the ownership of specific land from the present day to 1850. **Register of Deeds**, Henrietta Street, Dublin 1. Its records date from 1708 and relate to all the usual transactions affecting property, notably leases, mortgages and settlements.

**The State Paper Office**, Dublin Castle, houses records of the former Chief Secretary's Office. Among several series of interest to the genealogical searcher are rebellion reports and records relating to the period 1798; crime and convict records and details of those sentenced to transportation.

## LOCAL RECORDS

Birth, death and marriage records are also held at county level, relating to the county in question only, and again dating from 1864. Church records vary widely in age and, on average, date from the 1830's and are in the care of the parish priest.

Several Church of Ireland Parochial Registers were destroyed in 1922. Those that survived are kept by the incumbents of parishes throughout the country. Many date to the 18th century with some even older.

Presbyterian enquiries are referred to the Presbyterian Historical Society, Church House, Fisherwick Place, Belfast 1. The Society itself holds a number of registers and can usually provide information on others still retained by local ministers.

Local libraries are worth consulting. Most contain fact sheets, giving details of books and documents of local genealogical interest. Ask if there is a local historic or genealogical society, some of which have undertaken the task of recording memorials of the dead.

The erection of headstones or tombstones was not prevalent before the middle of the 18th century. Sometimes they can provide names and details not available from any other source.



## Local history

**MOST FIANNA** are aware to some extent of national republican history, but surprisingly, few have any knowledge of the local republican history of their own locality.

Understanding of local history undoubtedly leads to a better appreciation of national republican history, and indeed adds the flesh to the bones of Irish national and republican history which you learn at school, home and at your Fianna slua meeting. It is vital that we know about the past to enable us to understand the present.

Every Fianna Eireann member should know the republican, social, cultural and economic history of the area covered by his/her slua and it is the duty of their O/C to ensure that all Fianna are familiar with the local history of their own area.

Most streets, roads, etc, in every village, town and city and almost every highway and byway of the countryside throughout the 32 Counties of Ireland is steeped in local republican history. History has been made in literally every street, road and laneway in Ireland — on your own doorstep — in the street or road where you live or close to your home. It might be that some prominent local republican was born in your area or that houses and hills in your area were used as meeting places for republicans from the days of the United Irishmen of the 1790's throughout the years to the present day or that your slua area is situated near the site of some battle of the 1641, 1798, 1848, 1867 or 1916 Risings. Without a doubt, some battles of the Tan War and Civil War were fought close to where you live or near the area covered by your slua.

In the North in particular, every slua area contains the sites where pogroms occurred during the 1920's and each decade since right up to the present day; places where encounters between the IRA and the infamous 'B' Specials, the RUC and British troops took place from the 1920's, throughout the 1949's campaign, and the 1956-62 Border Campaign right up to 1969. During the present phase of the struggle for freedom, sites where engagements between the IRA and British occupation forces. Places where IRA Volunteers and members of Fianna Eireann were killed in action are dotted across the Six Counties throughout the countryside and in every village, town and city.

The villages, towns, cities and countryside throughout Ireland is steeped also in local social and economic history. Your locality, especially in rural Ireland, for example, possibly contains the remains of homes and indeed whole areas left devastated following the Great Famine from 1845 to 1849, or the scenes of evictions during the Land War from 1879 to the late 1880's.

Your locality also probably contains factories and other places of employment where famous labour struggles (strikes and lock-outs) between workers and employers took place during the early years of the century, led by the Labour leaders, Jim Larkin and James Connolly in pursuit of social reform for the working class.

On the cultural side, your locality, mostly rural areas, is more than likely to be steeped in old Irish legends and folklore: of Fionn Mac Cumhail and Cu Chulainn etc, over the past two thousand years.

The name of a street, road, bridge, townland, etc, is often a guide to local republican history and to what historical event took place there. A road or street called after some person could mean that a prominent local republican was born in a house there, lived there, was murdered there by the British occupation forces or was killed on active service there against the crown forces.

As the number of roads, streets, etc, in villages, towns and cities throughout Ireland called after republicans are too numerous to list, a few examples should illustrate the point, Kickham Street, in the village of Mullinahone, County Tipperary is called after Charles J. Kickham, the Fenian who was born there in 1828. Joseph Murphy Road in Cork city, is called after Volunteer Joseph Murphy, Cork, who died on hunger-strike in Cork Jail in October 1920; and Pearse Street in Dublin is called after Padraig Pearse, the first president of the Irish republic and one of the 1916 leaders executed by the British, who was born here on November 10th, 1879. From enquiries in your own area you will find many more examples of streets, roads, etc, being called after prominent local republicans.

The sources for local republican history are many and varied. The names of streets, roads, etc, plaques, monuments, the recollections of older local republicans and of course, your local library, are an invaluable indication and guide for knowledge and information about the local republican history in your area.

Today, many local libraries have information on display in the building about local history. Most libraries will be only too willing to assist you in your search

for information on the local republican history associated with your area.

Plaques, roadside monuments, and wayside crosses throughout Ireland, but especially in rural areas, mark the places where republicans were born, the sites of battles and ambushes, spots where republicans were hanged or murdered by the British forces and the scenes where republicans were killed in action against the occupation forces from 1798 right throughout the years to the present day.

Older republicans in your area will prove to be a fount of knowledge for information on places of local historical interest — many of whom will know their locality and its local history like the back of their hands.

With the assistance of your slua O/C, go out and get to know the history of your own area. It will give you a greater understanding of national historical events, but more importantly, it will show you that history was made by ordinary people, who perhaps were born or lived, fought or died in the area where you live.

## First Aid

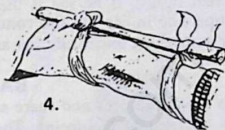
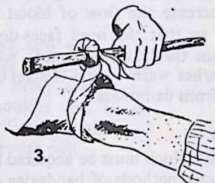
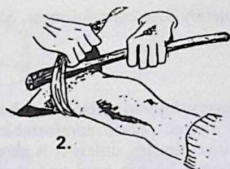
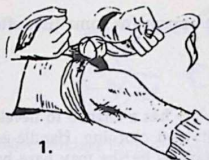
**FIRST AID** means the medical measures you can carry out for yourself or for your companions before treatment can be given by the doctor. There may be a time when you will have to depend on your knowledge to save your own life or that of your companions. You can save a life if you know what to do and what not to do, and if you can act quickly and calmly. If you are injured, do not lose your head and just call for help. Apply first aid and then seek medical attention as soon as possible. The basic rules for first aid given in this chapter are to help you to help yourself and your fellow Fianna and companions when necessary.

### THREE STEPS FOR SAVING LIFE

The first thing to do for any wound is to stop bleeding, because loss of too much blood causes death. Place an opened first aid dressing over the wound and press hard. If the blood soaks through this, put on another dressing. Place your hands over both dressings and spread pressure over the entire wound. Wrap the bandage around the injured part and tie the ends so that the dressing is secure but not too tight. Bleeding may not stop when instant pressure is applied so keep it firm and constant until it stops or when you are sure that it is not going to stop.

If the wound is in the arm or the leg and simple pressure does not stop the bleeding, raise the limb. If the wounded arm or leg is raised the blood will not flow into the limb so fast and the bleeding from the wound will be slowed. Some blood will always flow through the limb so it will still be necessary to use the bandage and pressure. The injured person should lie down and the injured limb should be held as high as possible. If it is thought that there is a broken bone, do not raise the limb. Moving a fractured limb is dangerous, painful and may increase shock. If the bleeding does not slow down considerably in a few minutes, it is time to try a **tourniquet**. However never apply a tourniquet until all the other methods to stop bleeding have failed.





### How to make a tourniquet

1. Make a loop around the limb with a belt, a neckerchief, a strip of cloth or some such item.
2. Pass a stick, or knife sheath under the loop.
3. Tighten the loop enough to stop bleeding.
4. Bind free end to limb, in order to keep the tourniquet from unwinding.

The tourniquet should always be placed above the wound but in the case of bleeding just above the knee or elbow, it should be placed above these joints. Protect the skin by putting the tourniquet over the sleeve or trouser leg. **Never loosen a tourniquet** except in extreme emergency. Only trained medical personnel should do this, since the additional loss of blood from loosening the tourniquet may cause death. If there is no hope of medical aid for several hours, the tourniquet should be slowly and gently loosened every quarter hour. If the bleeding has stopped the tourniquet need not be tightened but should be left in place, lest bleeding should start again. See diagrams.

### TO PROTECT THE WOUND:

Place a sterile dressing on the wound and bandage over the dressing, taking care not to let dirt etc. get on the part of the dressing which is being placed next to the wound.

### TO PREVENT SHOCK:

Shock is a condition of great weakness of the body and can result in death. The worse the injury, the greater the shock that will accompany it. A person in a state of shock may tremble and appear nervous; may be very pale, wet with sweat,

and completely lose consciousness. Shock may not appear for some time after the injury.

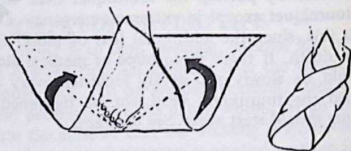
Treat every injured person for shock before he/she has a chance to develop it. Make the injured person comfortable. Loosen belts and clothing. Handle gently. Do not move him/her unless it is absolutely necessary as he/she may have broken a bone. Lower his/her head and shoulders to increase the flow of blood to the brain. If the ground slants, turn him/her gently so that the head faces downhill and the feet uphill. If he/she is unconscious, turn the face downwards, with the head to one side in case he/she vomits. Keep him/her warm with a blanket or coat and place something under him/her as protection from dampness.

## BANDAGING

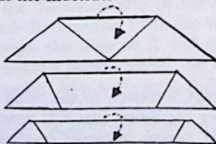
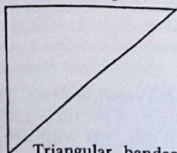
This is a wide subject and there are many skills, which must be acquired before a Fian is efficient at bandaging. There are different methods of bandaging different parts of the body. We do not propose to deal with these here but each Fian should secure a book and be thoroughly acquainted with the subject. The object of bandaging is to keep the dressing in place. Tie reef-knots (square knots) whenever possible and where the victims will not lie on them. The two types of bandages most used in first aid are the triangular and the roller. See the diagrams for the application of the respective bandages to the various parts of the body.

Field dressings are preferred to a separate dressing and bandages as they are already prepared and the dressing is attached to the bandage, thus making it easier to apply.

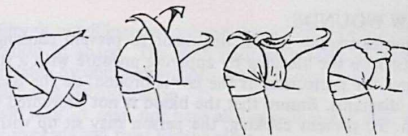
For foot injury, apply dressing and place foot on bandage. Pull the point up and fold in front corners. Wind the ends around the ankle and tie at back.



For an eye injury, place dressing over the eye and secure with bandage as shown in the illustration.



Triangular bandage may be folded to form a roller bandage.



Make knee bandage as in illustration.

To make arm sling place triangular bandage as shown. Bring lower end over shoulder and tie at back. Fasten point of bandage with pin.



To apply a head bandage over a dressing. Make a hem in triangular bandage. Place bandage on head with the hem over forehead, just above the eyebrows. Cross ends in back and tie in front. Pull the back point tight and tuck in.

## WOUNDS

The three golden rules of first aid, which you have learned apply to the treatment of all wounds, but there are special types of injuries which require special attention. These are chest wounds, face and jaw wounds, abdominal injuries, burns and fractures.

### CHEST WOUNDS:

Chest wounds through which air is being inhaled and exhaled, are extremely dangerous. The wound itself is not as dangerous as the air which passes through it into the chest cavity. The air squeezes and compresses the lungs and prevents breathing. A person's life may depend on quickly making the wound airtight. Apply a dressing, which completely covers the wound. Pack the dressing firmly over the wound to prevent the flow of air. Cover the dressing with a rain-cube or some such article and bind it with whatever material is available e.g. belts, strip of cloth, neckerchiefs, lanyards. Encourage the patient to lie on his/her injured side, but if he/she wishes to sit up, help as this may ease the breathing.

## FACE AND JAW WOUNDS:

Face and neck injuries require special treatment to prevent choking from blood. The first step is to stop the bleeding by applying pressure with a sterile dressing. Bandage the wound for protection. If the jaw is broken, tie the bandage so as to give support. See diagrams. Ensure that the blood is not prevented from draining out of the mouth. To prevent choking, the person may sit up with his/her head held forward and down or may lie face downwards. This position will allow the blood to drain out of the mouth instead of down the windpipe. Treat for shock.



Stop bleeding by putting pressure on bandage.



Tie bandage to protect wound and support the fracture.



Keep face down and treat for shock.

## ABDOMINAL INJURIES:

Cover the wound with a sterile dressing and bandage securely. Treat for shock. Do not replace organs protruding from the abdomen. Any attempt to do so will cause severe shock and infection. Do not give or take food or water because anything eaten or drank will pass out through the intestines, spreading infection throughout the abdomen.

## BURNS:

Severe burns usually cause shock. There is also great danger of infection. Clothing should not be pulled off but cut or torn and removed gently from the burned area. Pieces of cloth which stick to the skin, should be allowed to remain as they are. Cover the burned area with a sterile dressing carefully, and do not touch or break the blisters. Treat for shock. Give the patient plenty of water because burns cause a great loss of body fluids. They also cause loss of body salts, therefore a quarter teaspoonful of salt should be added to each quart of water. At least three quarts of water should be drunk in 24 hours. For severe burns never apply ointment, as it has to be removed in hospital.

## FRACTURES

When a bone is broken it is said to be fractured and the following are the symptoms:

- Tenderness, when pressure is exerted over the injury, with pain on movement.



- Inability or unwillingness to move the injured part.
- Alteration in shape. The limb may be twisted, bent or shortened. This is easily appreciated by comparison with the uninjured limb.

- Swelling and discolouration.

A fracture may or may not have all these signs but if in doubt always assume that a fracture exists and treat for the same.

There are two kinds of fractures:

- A simple break in the bone.
- A broken bone with a wound from the outside.

This may be caused when the broken end of a bone cuts through the skin at the time of injury or when a bullet, axe or some other object penetrates the skin and breaks the bone. This is called a Compound Fracture.

Simple Fracture



Compound Fracture



The primary object of first aid treatment of fractures is to prevent as far as possible any movement of the broken bones, and so limit the injury to the neighbouring nerves, muscles and blood vessels.

#### General Rules for Treatment:

- Make the person lie where he/she is unless the position is likely to cause additional injury. If you must move him/her be very gentle and ensure that the fractured part does not move by first making it immobile.

- Stop the bleeding, usually by direct pressure, and apply a bandage and dressing.

- Immobilise the injured part.

- Treat for shock.

To keep the bone fragments from doing any further damage and to reduce shock, the injured limb must be splinted where the victim is lying. Never move a patient with a fracture unless to avoid more serious injury e.g. a collapsing wall.

#### SPLINTING:

The simplest methods of splinting a fracture of the lower limb is to tie it to the other leg above and below the break. Belts, strips of cloth, neckerchiefs and handkerchiefs tied together serve well as material with which to tie the parts. For a

fracture of the upper limb, a sling provides the most readily available support. There are several ways of making a sling. See diagrams.



Turn jacket or shirt tail up over the injured limb and button.



Tie limb to chest, supported by a belt, gives extra support.



Support the forearm in a sling and bind to the chest.

### **BROKEN BACK:**

A broken back, although requiring all the general rules of treatment applicable to fractures, presents additional dangers. Therefore extra precautions must be taken in handling these patients.

It is not always easy to be certain whether or not a patient has a broken back, but one must consider the possibility in any case, where the back has been struck or bent, or the patient has fallen. A person may become permanently paralysed in the body and legs as a result of being moved, if the sharp bone fragments cut the spinal cord.

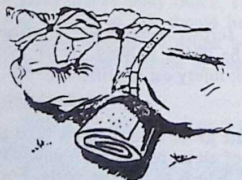


If left in this position, bone fragments will cut spinal cord.



In this position, bone fragments cannot cut spinal cord.

Extreme care must be taken to support the lower curvature of the back with a blanket roll, sleeping bag or clothing. If he/she must be moved, at least four men are required to lift him/her onto a litter or board without permitting any movement of the back. Do not raise his/her body even for a drink. Do not allow any movement whatever of the body, neck or head.



Support for a broken back.



Broken Neck. Prevent head from moving.

## BROKEN NECK:

The same principles that apply to a broken back also apply to a broken neck. Movement of the head in this case may cause death.

Place a blanket roll or sleeping bag, etc. around the head and neck for support and keep the neck motionless by placing stones, logs or haversacks on either side of it.

If it is necessary to move the patient, one Fian should support the head while the others lift him/her onto a board or some hard stiff support.

## ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION:

The most effective method of artificial respiration is mouth-to-mouth breathing. You breathe air into the victim's lungs with your own mouth. This method has been widely adopted in many countries.

When a person has stopped breathing, artificial respiration should be started immediately. Speed is important. Place the victim face up. Tilt his/her head back so that his/her chin is pointing upwards. Pull the jaw into a jutting-out position to clear the tongue from the air passage at the back of the throat. Pinch the nostrils to prevent air you blow into the mouth from escaping through the nose. Place your mouth tightly over the patient's mouth and blow until you see the chest rise. remove your mouth, turn your head to the side and listen to the outrush of air that indicates air exchange. Repeat blowing.

For an adult, blow vigorously at a rate of about twelve breaths a minute. For a young child, take relatively shallow breaths appropriate to the child's size, at the rate of about twenty a minute. When applying artificial respiration to a child place your mouth over the mouth and nose of the child.

If you are not getting air exchange, recheck head and jaw position, turn the patient on his/her side, and give several sharp blows between the shoulders to dislodge foreign matter. Sweep the fingers through the patients mouth to remove it.

In training for this method, it is not necessary to demonstrate or practice the blowing part.



Tilt the head back so that the chin is pointing upwards.



Pull the jaw into a jutting-out position to clear tongue from air passage in back of throat.



Pinch the nostrils to prevent the air you blow into the mouth from escaping through the nose.



Place your mouth over the patient's mouth tightly and blow until you see the chest rise.

### **WHEN ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION IS USED:**

Artificial respiration may save life if breathing has stopped because of electrocution, drowning, hanging, strangulation, choking, gas poisoning, lack of oxygen, suffocation by smoke, compression of the chest under sand, rocks, etc., and poisoning by drugs or alcohol. When artificial respiration is needed, the person is unconscious — blacked out — and is not breathing or is breathing very slowly and feebly. Artificial respiration is very seldom helpful and could be harmful in cases of traffic accidents, falls, stroke or heart attack.

### **COMMON EMERGENCIES**

Some types of accidents occur frequently and every Fian should know the principal signs or symptoms of common injuries and the simple first aid measures to use.

#### **MINOR WOUNDS AND BURNS:**

Simple cuts seldom bleed severely and they usually stop bleeding as soon as a dressing is applied. Use one which is sufficiently large to cover the wound completely. Keep the wound clean, do not touch it and protect it with the dressing.

As in the case of simple wounds, small burns are a constant hazard unless adequately protected, because they are easily infected. Apply vaseline if available and then cover the burned area with a sterile dressing.

#### **FOREIGN BODY IN THE EYE:**

If a foreign body lodges in the eye, close the eye gently and allow the tears to accumulate; then while the lid is down grasp the lashes of the upper lid and gently lift the upper lid from the eyeball, slowly rolling the eyeball up and down. Unless the foreign body is embedded it will usually be washed away by the accumulated tears.



If this method fails, the upper lid may have to be turned back with a match stick and the foreign body removed with a cotton wool swab on a match stick or with the corner of a soft, clean handkerchief. Flushing the eye with cold water will often remove a foreign body but never rub the eye. If an acid gets into the eye, flush it out with a mild alkaline solution such as baking soda. If an alkali gets into it, flush it with a mild acid solution such as diluted vinegar or lemon juice.

### **NOSEBLEED:**

Nosebleed is fairly common but many people do not know how to stop the bleeding. Get the patient to sit down and tilt his head back very slightly. Do not allow him to walk around, laugh or talk, blow his nose or cough, as this increases the bleeding. Press the nostrils together for several minutes and the bleeding may stop. The application of a wet towel or ice-pack may help also. Never bend the head forward. If the bleeding continues call a doctor.

### **FOREIGN BODIES IN THE EAR, NOSE, OR THROAT:**

Do not try to remove an object from the ear with a pin, wire or stick. Get a doctor to remove it. A few drops of oil will kill an insect and it may then be flushed out with water as are other objects except dried peas and beans etc, which swell on contact with water.

To remove an object from the nose, blow gently. This type of disorder is not serious. Remain calm therefore if the object will not move and get a doctor to remove it as soon as possible.

Foreign bodies in the throat that can be reached, may be taken out with the fingers while the head is forward. Be careful not to push the object further back. A good slap in the back may dislodge an object in the throat. If these measures fail, the immediate attention of a doctor is necessary.

### **INSECT BITES AND STINGS:**

These can be prevented by applying insect repeller to the uncovered skin surfaces. In the case of bee or wasp stings, the application of a cold wet cloth will relieve discomfort on the removal of the sting itself. Do not scratch the affected area, as this increases the danger of infection. Stings to the tongue caused by a wasp in jam etc. must have immediate medical attention as the tongue may swell and block the air passages.

### **UNCONSCIOUSNESS:**

It may result from a number of causes and treatment must be along general lines. It is always wise to consider the possibility of apoplexy and skull fracture in every case of unconsciousness. In examining an unconscious person, look carefully for the cessation of breathing and the symptoms of poisoning, bleeding, or sunstroke, as special treatment must be given at once in these cases. In all cases of unconsciousness, it is vital to secure a doctor immediately. Do not move the patient unless

it is absolutely necessary, then do so very carefully. Keep him/her warm and do not give anything by mouth until he/she regains consciousness.

## **FAINTING**

This is seldom very serious. Lay the patient on his/her back, with the head lower than the rest of the body. Loosen the clothing and allow plenty of fresh air. Give water carefully and slowly when he/she regains consciousness. A cold compress on the forehead or the back of the neck is beneficial. Cold water may be sprinkled on the face or neck instead of a compress.

## **EFFECTS OF HEAT:**

Get the patient into the shade and remove any heavy clothing. Apply a cold, wet cloth to the head and face; sprinkle water over the body and fan him/her continuously. If conscious or when he/she regains consciousness, give him/her cold salted water i.e. a quarter teaspoonful of salt in a quart of water. Give him/her plenty of water. The warning signs of heat exhaustion are: headache, dizziness, red or purple spots before the eyes, shortness of breath, vomiting, cramps in the abdomen and muscles and a sense of weakness.

## **FROSTBITE AND FREEZING:**

These are mostly preventable but when they do occur, the victim may not be aware of their occurrence. In extreme cold, the best plan is to look out for your pal and he/she will look out for you. The symptoms are, exposed parts turning white, numbness and stiffness.

**Preventative Measures:** Keep the body warm and dry, but prevent sweating. Avoid constricting bands and tight clothing. A good circulation is important. Do not allow the exposed skin to come into contact with icy metal.

**Protection from Additional Injury:** Thaw the injured part gradually by applying body heat, eg. place frostbitten fingers under the arm or across the chest. Do not apply direct heat before a fire and never rub the affected parts. Casualties with severe frostbite of the legs should not be allowed to walk and should be carried.

## **POISONING:**

Poisons may be divided into two groups — corrosive and non-corrosive. The corrosive group includes acids, alkalis and some disinfectants. The non-corrosive group includes barbiturates, strychnine, mercury and many others.

### **General Treatment:**

1. Dilute the poison by giving plenty of soda water.
2. If the casualty is unconscious, send for a doctor at once giving brief particulars including suspected cause of poisoning. Preserve any remaining poison and vomited matter for examination.

### Corrosive Poisons:

These burn the mouth and food passages and turn the tongue and lips a yellowish grey colour that is easily recognised. **Do not make the patient vomit.** Neutralise the poison by giving an antidote. For example, when an acid has been swallowed give an alkali such as chalk, bread soda or milk of magnesia. When an alkali has been swallowed, give an acid such as diluted vinegar, lemon juice, lime juice or orange juice.

### Non-Corrosive Poisons:

If conscious, **make the patient vomit** by giving a emetic eg. two tablespoons of salt in a tumbler of water, preferably tepid, or a tablespoon of mustard in a glass of water. Tickling the back of the throat with two fingers or a spoon may also induce vomiting.

When the poison is known specific treatment should be given as follows

- **ASPIRIN:** Make the patient vomit. Give water to which two teaspoons of bread soda to the tumbler may be added. Give strong tea or coffee.

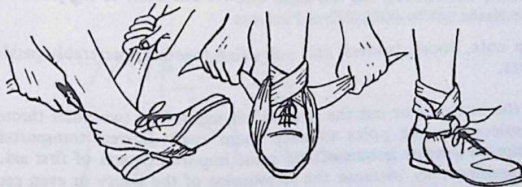
- **BARBITURATES:** Make the patient vomit. Give two teaspoonfuls of Epsom Salts in a tumbler of water. Give strong coffee. **Do not allow the patient to fall asleep.**

- **MERCURY:** Give the white of an egg followed by milk. Then make the casualty vomit.

- **STRYCHNINE:** Make the casualty vomit, if conscious. Keep very quiet. If breathing stops apply artificial respiration immediately.

### SPRAINS:

A sprain occurs when the ligaments and tissues around a joint become torn. The signs and symptoms are: a. Pain in the joint. b. Swelling and discoloration. c. Increased pain when the joint is moved. The application of a firm wet bandage will relieve pain and give support. The bandage should be kept wet by moistening frequently. Place a sprained wrist or shoulder in a sling. If the ankle is sprained out of doors, do not remove the boot or shoe. Apply a figure of eight bandage over it. Rest the foot as much as possible. All doubtful cases should be treated as fractures.



Bandage for a sprained ankle is placed over the shoe. If the shoe is removed, swelling may prevent putting it back on.



## **ELECTRIC SHOCK AND BURNS:**

These result from contact with wires or equipment carrying high tension current. The most important thing to do is to remove the person from contact. This is dangerous and their rescuer should always have some means of insulating him/herself otherwise he/she may electrocute him/herself. First, take steps to have the power cut off. Stand on a heavy rubber mat or dry boards and protect the hands with some insulating material such as several coverings of dry cloth or heavy rubber gloves, before attempting to separate the victim and the source of current. Push the wires aside with a long dry wooden pole or platform. Then treat for shock. If breathing has stopped, start artificial respiration. Electric burns are treated like any other burns.

## **DROWNING:**

When a person drowns breathing stops. If the victim is taken out of the water quickly, life may be saved by artificial respiration. Get him/her out of the water and lay face downwards. Stand over patient and raise the hips to allow the water to drain out of the mouth. Lower patient to the ground, turn the head to one side and remove any obstruction from the mouth e.g. dentures. Pull the tongue forward and commence artificial respiration. Do not give up hope of starting breathing for at least two hours. When the patient recovers keep him/her quiet and warm and give him/her hot drinks.

## **LITTERS:**

Many objects may be used to make improvised litters in an emergency. The material available and their resourcefulness of the first aider are the dominant factors. A litter may be prepared in the following way.

- Turn two or three Fianna jackets inside out and button them up, sleeves turned in. Then pass poles through the sleeves. The back of the jackets form the bed.
- Camp cots, doors, ladders, and poles tied together, preferably padded, serve well as litters.
- Rip the bottoms or cut the corners off sacks. Pass two poles through them, tying crosspieces to the poles to keep them apart. Correct transportation of a seriously injured person is one of the most important parts of first aid. Careless or rough handling may increase the seriousness of the injury or even cause death. Therefore never move an injured person except in a case of extreme necessity. Litter transport is preferred to hand carries but the hand carries should be learned also.





**Pack Strap Carry:** If the patient is unable to walk, yet not very seriously injured, he/she may be carried this way.



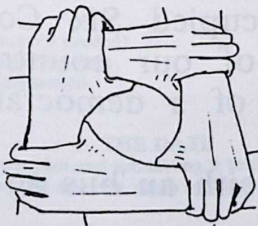
**Walking Assist:** If patient is not seriously hurt and is able to walk he/she may be assisted this way.



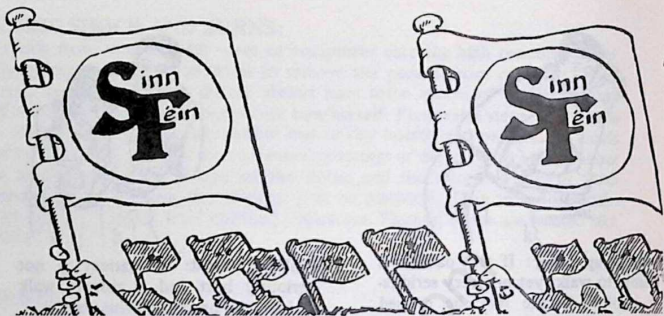
**Two Hand Carry:** For unconscious person.



**Chair Carry:** For conscious person. The arms of the patient are placed around the shoulders of the carriers.



**Chair Carry — position of arms**



**COMHGHAIRDEAS ó Shinn Féin le  
Fianna Éireann as ucht a lámhleabhar nua  
a foilsiú.**

Membership of Sinn Féin is open to people from 16 years of age upwards. There are Sinn Féin cumainn throughout the 32 Counties involved in various social, economic and national issues, aimed at forcing a British withdrawal from the occupied Six Counties, the reunification of our country, and the establishment of a democratic socialist republic.

Le chéile beith an bua ag muintir na hÉireann.

## Camping

**CAMPING** is a major part of Fianna work as a scouting organisation. In order to plan a camp your slua must elect a camp committee, who's responsibility it would be to organise the camp.

The committee at its first meeting should draw up a plan which will consist of the following:

- The date and duration of the camp.
- A list of equipment needed.
- A list of equipment needed by each Fian.
- A suitable site.
- Menu and food list.
- Transportation.
- Plan of events.
- Permission of parents (if needed).
- A date for checking equipment.
- A date for a training session.
- The cost involved.

### THE DATE

After drawing up your plan and submitting it to the slua, put a notice up of the dates on which you will be away on camp so that people are constantly reminded of it.

## EQUIPMENT FOR THE SLUA

Your list of equipment needed will consist of the items listed. Anything that the slua hasn't got in their stocks should be purchased as soon as possible so that they can be tested fully beforehand. The equipment you bring on camp is very important and should always be kept dry and clean. After you return from a camp you should pitch your tents in a field or back garden and let them air out for a day. This keeps them dry and clean for your next camp. All your other equipment should be washed and dried thoroughly.

## PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Each Fian will also need his/her own personal equipment. On camp a Fian will have to depend on his/her equipment. Make sure that everything is in working order, clean and free of rust. Take warm clothes and good foot wear. Also make sure that you take a note of everything you bring when packing so that you don't forget anything. When packing make sure that your equipment is packed tightly and securely. Items like clothes, toilet paper and soap should be wrapped in plastic before packing into your haversack.

## SLUA CAMPING EQUIPMENT TENT CREW

5-6 person tents, with poles, pegs, and guy lines including fly sheet.

Storage tents for food and equipment.

Axe, saw, camp spade.

Tent repair kit.

Sharpening stone.

Twine or nylon line.

File for sharpening axe.

Sewing kit, containing, thread, needles and safety pins.

First aid kit.

Toilet paper (wrapped in plastic).

Torches.

## COOKING CREW

Pots (large)

Frying pans.

Cups.

Carving knife.

Large catering fork.

Spatula

Potato peeler

Can opener

Large spoons

Ladle

Water container (collapsible)

Plastic food bags

Plastic washbasin

Aluminium Foil

Plastic sheeting

Matches in waterproof case

Dish mop

Scouring pads

Washing-up liquid

Large plastic bags (heavy duty)

Axe

Saw

Camp spade

Plastic buckets



## PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

### Camping equipment

Haversack  
Sleeping bag or 2/3 blankets  
Plastic ground sheet  
Foam pad or air mattress  
Clothes  
Sweaters  
Raincoat  
Wellingtons (1 pair)  
Runners (1 pair)  
Camp uniform  
Socks  
Underwear  
Pyjamas or night shirt  
Swim wear  
Eating kit  
Knife, spoon, cup  
Fork, plate, bowl

### Toilet kit

Soap in box  
Toothbrush  
Comb  
Hand towels  
Wash cloth  
Toothpaste  
Bath towel  
Metal mirror  
Toilet paper (wrapped in plastic)

### Repair Kit

Needles, thread, buttons, safety pins, shoelaces

### Extras

Torch, scoutknife  
Watch, camera,  
Notebook, pencil  
Canteen, air pillow  
Handbook

## CHOOSING A SITE

In order to select a suitable site, the camp committee must draw up a list of sites, then visit each one to see how suitable it would be. The most suitable site would be the site that has an easy access to water (lake, river), a gentle slope so rain can't swamp site, tree cover from strong winds. It must also be close to a village, town or house where an ambulance can be telephoned in emergencies. The distance travelled to a campsite must also be economical to the slua's funding. The choice of a camp site is very important.

## MENU AND FOOD LIST

Draw up a menu for the camp — breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper. It's important that the food is nourishing and healthy, also make sure that you vary the slua's diet. From the menu make a list of the food stuffs required and submit it to the slua.

## TRANSPORTATION

After the site is selected, you should decide how you are to get there, whether you should hike it, or arrange transportation. If travelling by bus, you should obtain a timetable, and a price list. Perhaps a discount will be given for groups.

## PLAN OF EVENTS

Depending on the time of year and how many are on camp your activities will vary. However, a plan is quite easy to draw up as well as good fun. A weekend camp for 20 Fians will usually consist of the following plan:

### Saturday

#### AM.

- 7.00 – Meet at bus station
- 7.15 – Take roll call
- 8.00 – Arrive at site
- 8.15 – Take roll call
- 8.20 – Set up camp
- 9.50 – Inspection
- 10.00 – Drill
- 10.30 – Tracking

#### PM

- 1.00 – Lunch
- 1.30 – Wash-up
- 2.00 – Skills – knots
- 4.00 – Target practice
- 6.00 – Dinner
- 6.30 – Wash-up
- 7.00 – Night hunt
- 9.00 – Supper
- 9.30 – Wash-up
- 10.00 – Bed

### Sunday

#### AM

- 7.00 – Awake, roll call
- 7.15 – Exercises, including run
- 7.45 – Breakfast
- 8.15 – Wash up
- 8.45 – Scouting skills, build a bridge out of rope, set up a pulley

#### PM

- 1.00 – Lunch
- 1.30 – Wash up
- 2.00 – Take camp down and pack
- 4.00 – Drill
- 5.00 – Home

## CHECKING EQUIPMENT & TRAINING SESSION

A date should be made in order to check all equipment especially tents. This would also serve as a training session for new members. Pick a site in a field near by or in someone's back yard. Pitch your tents and check them for small holes, clean the tents out and take them down again and pack them away properly.

Take out your tools and clean off any excess mud, grass, etc. Check your first aid kit to make sure all is in order. Do this to all your equipment. After this regroup everyone and explain what tools are needed for each job. This will give them a good idea of what to expect on camp.

## COST

By now you will know how much money you will need for your camp. Get the Quartermaster to go over the figures and make sure that you can afford the camp, and see if some costs can be cut down.

## SETTING OUT

The day has arrived, the slua will meet either at HQ or at the local bus station. On a long-term camp the slua will meet at HQ. The Quartermaster will line all the equipment up and check to see if everything is there and in order. He/she will then distribute the equipment equally to all the members. On a short term camp the Quartermaster will arrange some of the members to go to headquarters and bring the equipment to the bus station and distribute it there and thus save a lot of time.

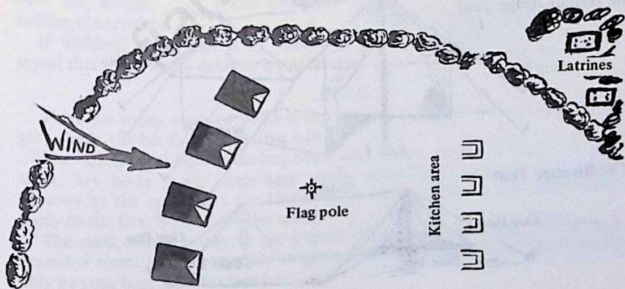
Before leaving roll call will be made and an inspection of everyone's packs. Then off you go. You should always stay close together so that no-one can get lost. The O/C will take roll call on a regular basis until camp is reached.

## ON ARRIVAL

When you arrive at the site the O/C will again take roll call. After checking that everyone is in attendance, the O/C will pick a suitable place for each area of the camp. All personal equipment will be lined up in one spot at the border of the site, the O/C will then pick three teams, one team will pitch the tents, another will set up the kitchen area and the last team will then set up the toilet area and place a boundary around the site with a rope.

## CAMP LAYOUT

The layout of the site is very important, great attention must be paid to wind direction when deciding where tents and the kitchen area is situated. The kitchen area should be shaded by the sun by trees. The tents should be pitched so that they can break the wind from the kitchen area. The toilet area should then be made beyond the kitchen area, usually between the trees.



The kitchen area will consist of one or two fireplaces, one dry pit and one wet pit, one store tent for food and utensils, a variety of helpful racks and stand for pots, plates, etc. The fireplaces should be well surrounded by large rocks and a border dug into the earth to prevent fire spreading. Two pits are then dug out beside the fireplaces. One is used for dry waste. The other for dishwater and grease. These will be about 12 inches deep and 12 inches square. The grease put is covered with crossed sticks and a top layer of grass. Keep the sods for replacing. The store tent should be kept at least 6 feet away from the fireplace. It can also be used to shield from the wind. The racks and stands can be placed around the fireplaces where the plates and pots can dry easily.

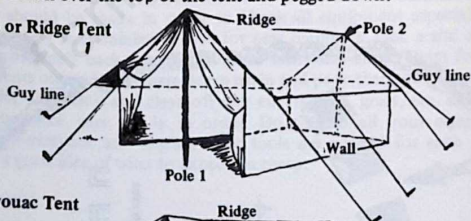
### The tent area

Tents should be pitched in a straight line or semi-circle. This means that they can be well aired after use. To set up your tent area the O/C will first of all pick a suitable site, in shelter of trees, but not too close to a branch as it may fall on the tents. After doing this mark out where each tent will go, giving suitable space between each tent for walking space — about 6 feet if possible. After the tent is pitched dig a small valley around it for drainage. Keep the sods for replacing when you've gone.

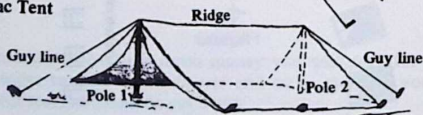
### How to pitch a tent

Take the tent, poles and pegs, out of tent bag. Place the poles and pegs together. Separate (if not already done) the tent and fly sheet. Lay the tent out in the choosen site and spread it out. Then take the pegs and peg down the ground sheet or base of tent. While doing this someone else should be sorting out the poles. Zip the tent open and place the back pole in position, then place the front pole in position. It should now start to look like a tent. Now place the top pole in on top of the other two poles. After doing this peg in the ridges on the tent and then the main pegs will be positioned and tightened. All that remains is the fly sheet, which is thrown over the top of the tent and pegged down.

### The Wall or Ridge Tent



### The Bivouac Tent





## The toilet area. Latrines

The toilet area (latrines) should be sheltered by trees and away from the main camp area, although not too far away. A torch should be left beside the toilet along with a hand basin with soap, toilet roll wrapped in plastic or covered by a tin can, and a small shovel. Two separate toilet areas should be provided. Dig a hole in the earth, about 18 inches long and 8 inches wide and 12 inches deep. The top sods should be kept to replace after use. A pole of earth along with a small shovel should be kept beside the latrine.

When closing the camp cover over the latrines and replace the sods. Leave a few inches in the difference between the the sods and the earth level as the loose earth will sink down and harden.

## SHELTER

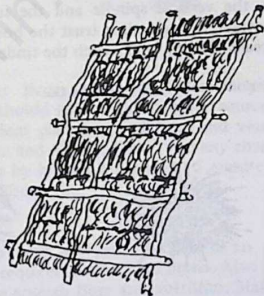
To build your own shelter in a forest is quite easy. All you have to do is collect as many large branches as possible in one location. Then send another team out to look for a suitable site for a shelter, a fallen tree, a high bank, or a cluster of large rocks. If necessary you can select a suitable site and build your own shelter from scratch.

Take your branches along to the site and start to assemble them into a gate like structure to the size you require.

The you can start to thatch it with leaves, small branches, grass, nearly anything will do for thatch. If you are using grass use long strips, fold them in half over a branch and tie some rope around the strand.

All you have to do now is place the gate over the shelter. This could be fixed to a holding if necessary.

If building a full shelter of your own just repeat this for as many gates as is necessary.



## FIRE

There are many ways to make a fire without matches. It's usually quite easy to get a spark, the hard part is getting a fire.

The solution to this is tinder, bone dry, finely divided material to catch the spark. Try birds nests, birch bark curds, cedar bark, charred cloth, cardboard. As soon as the spark hits the tinder blow on it gently to produce a flame, then apply to the fire. Now to get the spark.

The most common way to get a spark is to strike a piece of steel or hard metal against a rock. It is pretty easy to get a spark from this. Your knife would probably be your best tool for this job.

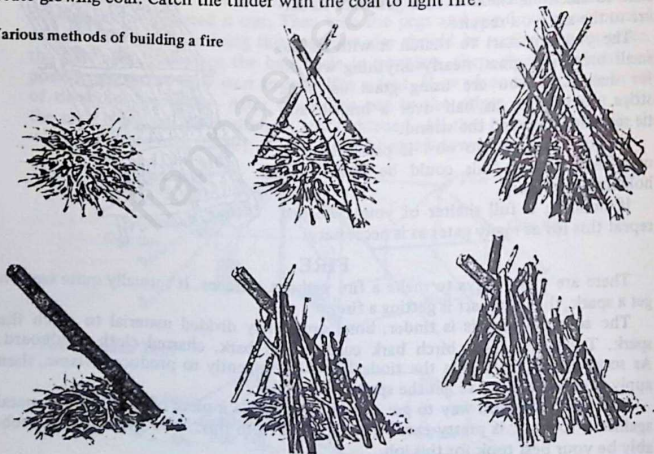
If you have some steel wool and two batteries you can create a lighting device. Hold the two batteries in your hand, one on top of the other with poles pointing upwards. Contact must be firm. Hold the wool on top of the batteries and it will begin to glow and burn brightly.

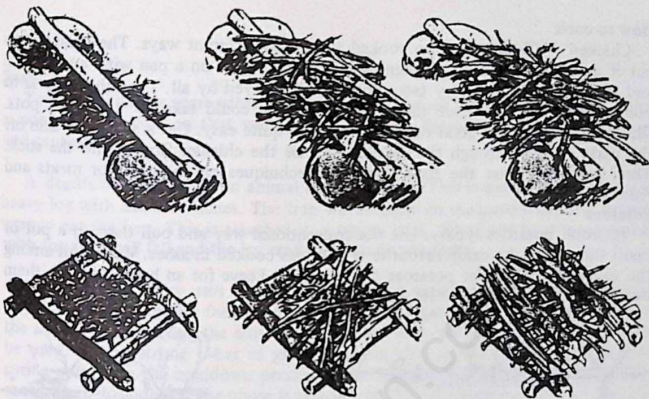
The famous scouting fire starter is a bit more sophisticated than the other two but just as effective. All you have to do is gather some dry dead wood. Shape a spindle of wood into an octagonal shape, enough to grip but also rotate smoothly. Make a rounded point on the upper end and a blunt shape on the lower, make sure to smooth these. Then cut out a piece of wood into a square shape small enough to grip steadily in your hand. Cut a notch in it to coincide with the upper shape on the spindle. This must hold the spindle in place and give you a grip to exert pressure on the base.

Now take another spindle of wood and pierce a small hole in both ends. Tie a shoelace through both holes to make a bow, a strip of leather or cloth may also be used. Pull the lace tightly. The base or hearthpiece must be flattened for stability. In it, bore a round hold to receive the spindle. This must be done carefully so that they match, and can make good contact.

Now place the lower part of the spindle in the hole of the base, affix the bow to the vertical spindle and the hand grip. Push the spindle down so that good contact is made then trust the bow back and forth, this will spin the spindle and create glowing coal. Catch the tinder with the coal to light fire.

Various methods of building a fire





## WATER

There are various sources of water other than rivers and lakes. If you find yourself in difficulty and need water you should start by looking for sources like ground water, rain, snow, ice, dew, succulent plants, sap of trees and vines on fruit. This obviously depends on the location and season. Don't take any chances with your health — always sterilize the water by boiling it for about 5 minutes. Never drink sea water or urine as these are poisonous.

## COOKING

There are various ways of cooking on camp using spits, etc. In order to enjoy a camp and have enough energy to participate requires having good meals. Always vary the meals and make sure that they include enough fibre and nutrition. Make sure also that the menu you pick out is easy to do and doesn't require too many pots and pans.

Camp cooks should have practice beforehand so that they have a good knowledge of how to prepare and cook food properly. They will have to know the temperature to keep the fire at so that everything doesn't burn or get undercooked.

Teamwork is very important as cooking a meal for 20-30 Fianna is a difficult job. Have all your vegetables cleaned and skinned, have plenty of water at hand and plenty of wood. Work out a rota for meals and put it somewhere where people can see it. The foods you need every day are meat, eggs, poultry, fish, soup, cheese, milk, vegetables, bread and cereals.

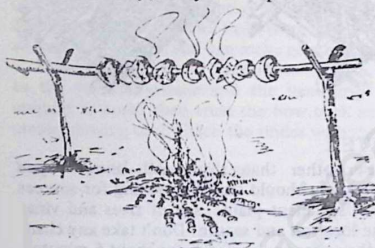


## How to cook

**Chicken** — Chicken can be cooked in various different ways. The easiest is to cut it up into four or six different segments and fry it on a pan with vegetable oil and flour. This is also very tasty and will be enjoyed by all. The other way is to boil the chicken. However this takes longer and could take up too many pots. Chicken on a spit is a great outdoor meal and quite easy. Get a stick and skin off the bark. Run it through the chicken and tie the chicken firmly onto the stick. Then just hand over the fire. The same techniques can be used for meats and fish.

## Potatoes

To cook potatoes is easy. Use the conventional way and boil them in a pot or mash them. But the camp favourite is potatoes cooked in ashes. Make a pit among the ashes and place the potatoes among them. Leave for an hour and take them out to find lovely, fluffy white spuds.



Spit cooking



Foil cooking

## Eggs

Perhaps unusual but just as effective. Clean out half an orange rind or cut the inside out of an onion and simply place among the ashes and crack the egg into it and cook for about three minutes. Another way is to pierce two holes in an egg, one on each side. Put a small stick through them and cook on a spit, this will take ten minutes.

Almost anything edible can be cooked in tin foil — potatoes, vegetables, fruit meat, fish and poultry. Take whatever you plan to cook and cover it well with tin foil. Press tightly on edges but leave some room for expansion. Place in the fire and cook for about 20 or 30 minutes, depending on how large it is.



## HUNTING

### Snares

To make a simple snare attach some slippery cord or wire to a drag stick. Make a noose in the cord so that when an animal goes through it, it will tighten up and capture it.

A deadfall trap will kill an animal by crushing it. This is made by tilting up a heavy log with small branches. The trap will collapse on the game when the animal tries to eat the bait. This is attached to a trigger stick. When the food is tampered with the stick will fall and the log crashes down on the game.

The twitch-up snare uses a spring of sturdy live sapling to haul the noose tight and lift game up off its feet. Bait the trap so that game has to put its neck into the noose before getting the bait and trigger the trap. Several kinds of trigger may be used. Here a strong U-bar of green wood is trust in the ground to offset the spring pole, with the holddown perched on an upright at one end so that any side motion will doslodge it. The noose is attached to the holddown.

## FISHING

You can make a usable fishing line from bast — the inner bark of trees. Using what's known as the spinning technique. Tie two equal strands of soaked bast in an overhand knot. Roll them in the same direction between thumbs and forefingers. The tied end will start to twist itself in the opposite direction into a laid cord that will not untwist. Continue rolling until you are near the end of the strand. Twist on a new piece of bast and continue rolling. Do the same with the other as it ends. Make gorges of wood or bone, point ends, hole or notch center for line, make hooks of wood, bones, claws or thorns. Use stone for dinker.

Fishing can also be done by using spindles of wood. Cut and carve the wood to the following shapes. Sit over the water and await fish or stand in the water. These spears can be tipped by sharpened bone, cut stone, or simply sharpen the tips of the wood.

## Hiking

**HIKING** is one of the most enjoyable activities of all Fianna activity, but alas if it is not organised and well planned out it will be fun for nobody and also it can be the cause for loss of interest in Fianna by slua members.

A hike should be organised as often as possible as it gives the slua something to look forward to, especially if they have been working very hard at something else i.e. preparing for an Ard-Fheis, fundraising or helping-out in elections.

### EQUIPMENT:

Proper equipment is necessary for comfort and safety while hiking. The principal items of equipment required are:

- **Footwear:** Boots are preferred to shoes as they are essential for cross-country routes and give better protection to the feet and ankles. They should be a comfortable fit, with plenty of room for movement of the toes. The boots should be cleaned regularly with dubbin as this keeps them soft, pliable and water-proof.
- **Haversack:** A good strong haversack is the most suitable for hiking. It should have adjustable straps for comfort.
- **Rainwear:** This is a very necessary item of equipment for wet weather. A rain-cape is better than a coat as a cape will cover the haversack as well as the body and is loose fitting, eliminating sweat. It is also very light and takes up very little space in the haversack.

● **First Aid Kit:** It is one of the most essential pieces of equipment a Fianna slua can bring with them on a hike. It should be checked a few days in advance and any items that need to be replaced should be bought before setting off.

● **Bits and pieces:** Spare stockings, spare trousers, torch, sheath knife, compass, map of the area and matches (waterproofed by dipping in grease.)

## **LEAVING THE HIKING AREA:**

All tins and bottles should be buried, papers burned, and the fire quenched. Leave the hiking area in plenty of time to return home on schedule.

## **LOST:**

A Fian who becomes separated from his/her companions and gets lost while hiking should:

● 1. Let his/her companions find him/her, rather than attempt to find them. As soon as his/her absence is noticed the search will commence. If it is unlikely that he/she will be found before night fall, he/she should build a shelter and light a good fire, and prepare a bed of bracken, heather, dry leaves etc. Lie down and await the rescuers:

● 2. Help the rescuers — this may be done by using the international distress signal which is some type of signal repeated three times and at frequent intervals. A fian may signal in following ways: Three shouts, three blasts of their whistle, by lighting three fires with leaves and grass. If it is necessary to leave the base in search of food or water, mark the trail with sticks and stones.

## **FIRES:**

Fires are useful on a hike yet they can also be very dangerous and for that reason great care should be taken when dealing with fires. All fianaidhe should have a good knowledge of fires.

**Picking of site:** The site of a fire should be dry, and clear of overhanging branches. First all twigs, leaves etc should be brushed aside for three feet all around the firesite. If there is grass growing in the area, cut a 'H' in the sod and roll back the sod from the centre bar of the 'H'. Lay this aside carefully.

**Laying and lighting the fire:** Collect dead timber, from trees if possible, because wood which is on the ground is often wet. The wood should range from match stick size to arm thickness. N.B. **Never cut a tree down or deliberately break good strong branches from trees.** Birch, bark, holly twigs, or pine twigs from excellent tinder. Over the tinder, place twigs in wigwam shape. Leave a small opening and apply a light. As the fire catches, add some more twigs and carry on adding heavier sticks until the right size fire is merrily blazing.

## Woods and their burning qualities

	Kindling	Boiling	Baking
Ash	fair	good	good
Beech	fair	fair	fair
Birch	good	good	fair
Chestnut	bad	bad	bad
Elm	bad	bad	bad
Hawthorn	good	good	bad
Holly	bad	fair	fair
Larch	good	good	bad
Spruce	good	good	bad
Sycamore	bad	fair	good

**Extinguishing the fire:** Sprinkle the fire with water, scatter the embers and sprinkle again and again. Damp the surrounding ground. Replace the sod, and the grass will grow again. Clear away any remaining firewood, and leave no trace of the fire.



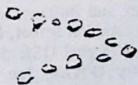
## Tracking signs



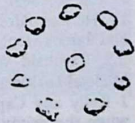
This is the way



"Turn Left" or Turn Right" depending on the direction of the objects



Arrow heads pointing out the direction



"Danger, Help"

Do not follow this trail

Gone home, end of trail

## Whistle signals

Whistles should not be blown indiscriminately and should be worn always, even when neckerchiefs and cords are removed, on a hike, etc: it is not a toy and it serves a very useful purpose. The following are the Fianna Whistle Signals:

O/C calling Squad Leaders — Three shorts and one long blast.

Rally, come together — long blasts in succession.

Scatter, get further away — short blasts in succession

Cook-house — Alternative long and short blasts.

Danger, Help — Three long blasts.

Silence — One long blast.

O.K. — Two short blasts.

## Fianna Oga quiz

### Answers

1. Countess Markievicz and Bulmer Hobson; 2. In 1909; 3. Countess Markievicz's house; 4. 34a Lower Camden Street, Dublin; 5. Arthur Griffith; 6. 1905; 7. New Year's Eve, 1956; 8. Fearghal O'Hanlon; 9. Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch; 10. Three; 11. 1845-1849; 12. Over a million people died and over a million people emigrated; 13. Roger Casement; 14. The *Aud*; 15. He was hanged in London on August 3rd, 1916; 16. James Connolly, Padraig Pearse, Joseph Mary Plunkett, Eamonn Ceannt, Thomas J. Clarke, Sean MacDiarmada, and Thomas MacDonagh; 17. Thomas J. Clarke; 18. He was oldest and most respected and he had fought before; 19. John O'Mahony and James Stephens; 20. The Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB); 21. March 1867; 22. Theobald Wolfe Tone; 23. The father of republicanism; 24. William Allen Michael Larkin and Michael O'Brien; 25. The two men rescued were Colonel Thomas J. Kelly and Captain Timothy Kelly, of the IRB; 26. A police sergeant was killed when the prison van holding the two men was attacked; 27. Rathfarnham, Dublin; 28. Anne Devlin; 29. *An Phoblacht/Republican News*; 30. Fian Gerald McAuley was shot dead on August 15th, 1969, while defending the Clonard area of Belfast from attack by rampaging loyalist mobs.

# 1968 — 1988

## 20 years of struggle



● Nationalist resistance to the 'B' Specials in Derry, 1968

1968: After years of varied agitation from different groups the Civil Rights Association took to the streets in 1968. Demonstrators were batoned by the RUC and by other, Paisleyite groups. As people increasingly rallied to the armed struggle, the NICRA declined in importance from around 1972.

**1969:** In a major attempt to intimidate nationalist demands for equality and justice, the RUC, the 'B' Specials and loyalist mobs attacked Catholic areas in August 1969, burning down hundreds of homes. Eight people, including a 9-year-old boy, were killed in these pogroms which boosted the reorganisation of the IRA.



● *British soldiers invade nationalist areas, 1970*

**1970:** The British army, which was brought out in August 1969, allegedly to protect nationalists, turned its guns on the people. In July 1970 the British army imposed a three-day curfew on the Falls Road and carried out systematic house-to-house searches for arms which were badly needed for defence. Five people were shot dead and many more were wounded. Up until then these weapons had not been used against the British army.



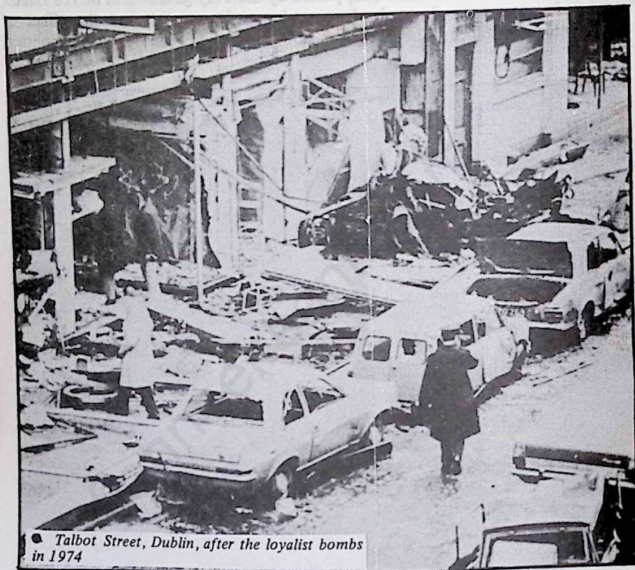
1971: With the growing conviction among nationalists that their civil rights could only be realised through British withdrawal, an end to the loyalist veto and reunification, the IRA launched urban and guerrilla warfare against the armed forces, the institutions and the infrastructure of the Six-County state. In a major attempt to repress the mass movement on the streets and the armed struggle of the IRA, the loyalist government at Stormont, supported by the Tory government of Ted Heath, introduced internment. Instead of repressing resistance this had the effect of consolidating resistance. The IRA was now putting Irish unity on the political agenda.



● A British paratrooper next to the body of one of the civil rights demonstrators shot on Bloody Sunday, January 30th 1972

1972: British paratroopers shot dead 14 civil rights demonstrators who were protesting against internment without trial in Derry. In July 1972 the British government, for the first time in 50 years, entered into truce talks with the IRA. The truce broke down after a fortnight and the British army launched 'Operation Motorman' against Free Derry and other no-go areas.

**1973:** Three leading republicans, Seamus Twomey, J.B. O'Hagan and Kevin Mallon made a daring escape from Mountjoy Jail, Dublin, in a hijacked helicopter. Following elections to a Northern assembly the British government set up the (Sunningdale) power-sharing executive between a section of the unionists led by Brian Faulkner, the Alliance Party and the SDLP.



● Talbot Street, Dublin, after the loyalist bombs in 1974

**1974:** Loyalists mobilised against the power-sharing executive and in May the UDA set off car bombs in Monaghan, Clones and Dublin, killing more than 30 people. The executive collapsed and the British government re-imposed direct rule. Nineteen prisoners blew their way out of Portlaoise Jail. Later, in the North, internees and sentenced republican prisoners burnt down Long Kesh Prison Camp. After talks between Protestant ministers and representatives of the Republican Movement at Feakle, County Clare, the IRA announced a ceasefire.

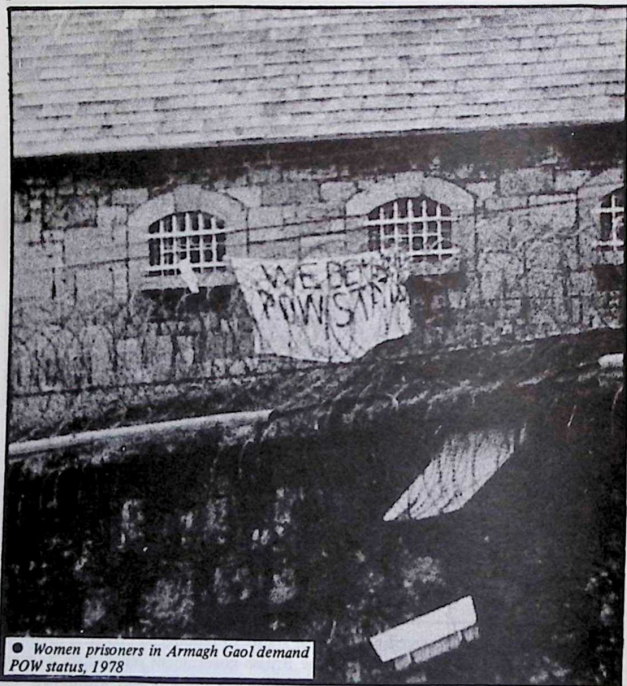
1975: The ceasefire, which expired in January, was resumed and Sinn Fein established truce incident centres to monitor its progress. (The ceasefire was eventually abandoned as it became obvious that the British government was not interested in peace.) One of the IRA's most formidable active service units in Britain was captured in Balcombe Street, London.



● *Republican prisoners opposition to the criminalisation led to the blanket protest in the H-Blocks, 1976*

1976: Four years after conceding political status to republican prisoners following a hunger-strike in Crumlin Road Jail, the British government reneged on its word and announced the introduction of 'criminalisation'. Status was withdrawn, but republicans refused to wear prison uniforms or carry out prison work. The blanket protest began in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. The pro-British 'Peace People' organisation was set up in August following an incident in which the British army shot dead an IRA Volunteer, whose car ran out of control and killed three children.

1977: To show their support for the Union, members of the British royal family have down the years visited the Six Counties in morale-boosting exercises. In August thousands of republicans protested in a march against the visit of the British queen. The IRA breached security at one of the venues, Coleraine University, to plant a bomb on long-delay timing devices.



● Women prisoners in Armagh Gaol demand POW status, 1978

1978: In the H-Blocks the protests demanding the return of political status was intensified when, after being denied proper washing and toilet facilities, the blanket men launched the no-wash/no-slop-out campaign. (In 1980 the Armagh women were forced into a similar protest.)



1979: In May the IRA — to the embarrassment of the authorities — published a secret assessment of the guerrilla organisation by Brigadier James Clover in which he contradicted the public position of the British government. In August the IRA wiped out 18 paratroopers in a double ambush at Narrow Water Castle. On the same day the IRA killed Lord Mountbatten — former supreme commander of British forces — and close confidante of the royal family.



1980: In an attempt to reach a settlement of the protest for political status, the IRA unilaterally called a halt to its campaign against prison warders. Cardinal O Fiaich and Bishop Edward Daly entered into prison talks with direct ruler Humphrey Atkins. When these failed a hunger-strike began in the H-Blocks and ended shortly before Christmas, without loss of life, when the British promised the introduction of a more liberal prison regime.

1981: When the British reneged on their reform promises prisoners in Long Kesh launched a hunger-strike to the death which lasted from March to October. Ten men died, two of them, Bobby Sands and Kieran Doherty, being elected to the parliaments in London and Dublin, respectively. In June eight IRA Volunteers escaped from custody by shooting their way out of the Crumlin Road Jail.



● The funeral cortege for Volunteer Bobby Sands, who died on hunger strike, May 5th, 1981

1982: Sinn Féin contested elections to an assembly called by direct ruler James Prior aimed at yet another 'internal' settlement. Sinn Féin took 10 per cent of the overall vote and over 35 per cent of the nationalist vote, getting five people elected. Strip-searching of women prisoners in Armagh Gaol was introduced as a policy of harassment.

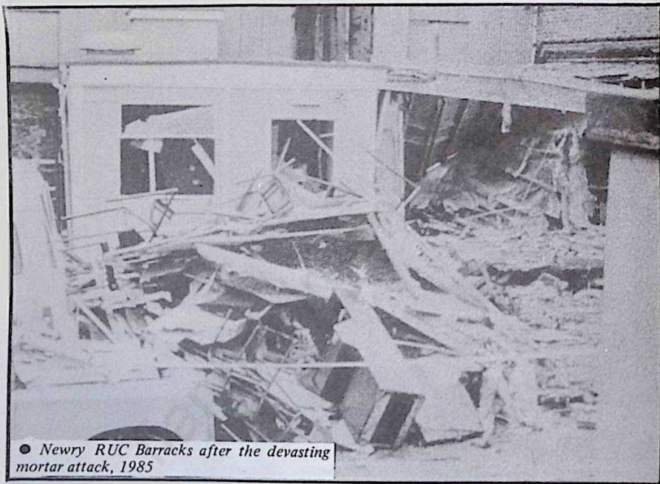
**1983:** In the Westminster general election in June, Sinn Fein took 42 per cent of the nationalist vote and Gerry Adams was elected MP for West Belfast, ousting Gerry Fitt. In September 38 republicans took over command of H-7, hijacked a prison van and escaped from the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.



● *Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, after being elected MP for West Belfast, 1983*

**1984:** The Dublin Forum Report was published after a lengthy delay and proposed three options: a unitary state, confederation or joint sovereignty. In the EEC elections Sinn Fein polled 146,148 votes throughout Ireland. On September 29th, Free State forces intercepted the trawler Marita Ann off the Kerry coast and seized its cargo of weapons, bound for the IRA. In the biggest blow to the British establishment within living memory, the IRA breached the security around British prime minister Mrs Thatcher's cabinet and detonated a 100lb bomb at the Grand Hotel in Brighton which killed five members of the British establishment (Mrs Thatcher narrowly escaped death).

1985: An IRA mortar attack on Newry RUC Barracks killed nine officers. In May in the North 59 Sinn Fein councillors were elected to 17 district councils. In local government elections in the 26 Counties Sinn Fein received 54,000 votes and had representatives elected to 39 local bodies. The IRA ordered contractors and other suppliers to cease work on building, refurbishing or supplying British army, UDR and RUC barracks. London and Dublin signed the Hillsborough Treaty which affirms the loyalist veto and British authority in the North, but which gives Dublin (and the SDLP), a consultative role. A daring escape bid by republicans in Portlaoise Prison failed when explosives failed to blow open the second last gate to freedom.



● *Newry RUC Barracks after the devastating mortar attack, 1985*

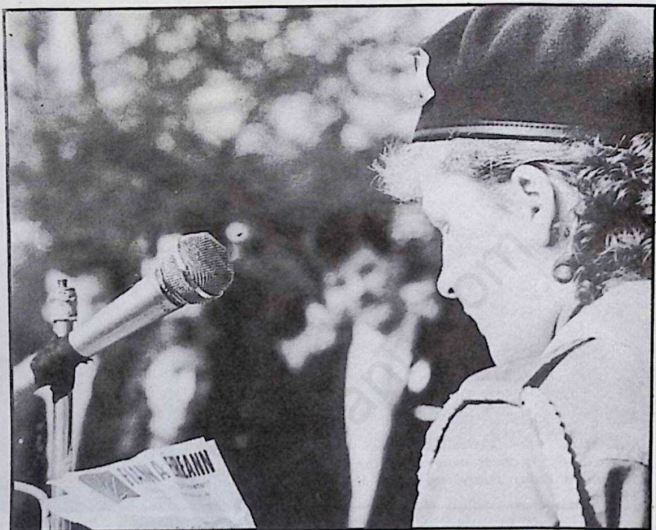
1986: Attempts by Britain (with the help of gun-toting gardai) to have Eibhlin Glenholmes extradited to London failed. Sinn Fein held a national commemoration in Dublin to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. For the first time in 16 years the IRA held a secret General Army Convention. The Volunteers rededicated the guerrilla organisation to the armed struggle and adopted resolutions which removed the ban on discussing or advocating the taking of parliamentary seats and on supporting successful republican candidates who take their seats in Leinster House. Following over a year of extensive debate, Sinn Fein took the historic decision to end the policy of abstentionism from Leinster House.





● *RUC officers attack mourners at the funeral of Volunteers Paddy Deery and Eddie McSheffrey, 1987*

1987: Nationalist resistance to RUC attacks on mourners at republican funerals eventually broke this policy. Such attacks had led to the funeral of Volunteer Larry Marley being delayed for some days and at the funeral of Vol Finbarr McKenna, the RUC used batons and indiscriminately fired plastic bullets on crowds of mourners. In the worst single blow suffered by the IRA since the Tan War, eight active service Volunteers on their way to attack Loughgall British army/RUC barracks were wiped out by the SAS. A bomb exploded in Enniskillen killing 11 people. The IRA claimed responsibility for planting the bomb but denied detonating it. The IRA expressed deep regret at what happened. In the anti-nationalist atmosphere created by 26 County and British politicians, media and church hierarchies, Leinster House passed the Extadition Act and launched a massive search throughout the state.



## Fianna Eireann today

FIANNA EIREANN exists primarily as a youth scouting organisation and a focus for young republicans interested in youth and republican activities to participate together. It is a youth section of the Republican Movement which is struggling for Ireland's freedom. Our activities include hikes, night-hikes, camps, commemorating Ireland's fallen heroes, trips to sites of historical interest and regular meetings. At meetings we learn Irish, drill, Irish history, ballads, various scouting skills and we hold discussions on issues relevant to the republican struggle. We also hold debates, quizzes, lectures as well as holding various fundraising events to keep ourselves operating.

Anyone 6-18 years may participate in our activities regardless of race, creed, sex or colour. We organise events separately for our Fianna Oga (6-13 years) and our Sinsir (14-18 years). Fianna Oga don't generally participate in fundraising activities or political discussions and usually just meet once a week. During the summer months, however, we try and organise weekly hikes and day trips. They are always properly supervised though involvement of parents at any time is always welcome.

The Fianna Sinsir are more active and in many ways their involvement is simply training for participation in the senior branches of the Republican Movement. As well as organising hikes and camps and marching, Fianna are also seen helping to organise republican events, helping Sinn Fein election campaigns and selling republican publications such as the weekly newspaper *An Phoblacht/Republican News*.

Members of Fianna Sinsir learn about the history of Ireland's freedom struggle, the many sacrifices that were made, the courageous battles fought and the gains made in our long history of oppression. Fianna also learn about socialism and its relevance to Ireland and Sinn Fein members regularly give talks on republican policies. Fianna are also encouraged to correspond with the political prisoners and as a youth organisation we support others who promote youth issues and fight for youth demands.

As the oldest Irish scouting organisation we have a proud history and have made invaluable contributions to Ireland's freedom struggle. Many of our members have sacrificed their lives in the cause of Irish freedom while countless others have served prison sentences at the hands of the Brits. However, we remain undeterred in our determination to see a united Ireland offering hope and equality to our young — indeed to all our people. There is a place for all young people in Fianna Eireann. Why not consider playing your part in Ireland's struggle for independence and socialism? JOIN FIANNA EIREANN!



## Associate membership

FIANNA EIREANN is a strong, vibrant youth organisation, making a very positive contribution to the cause of Irish republicanism, just as Countess Markievicz envisaged in 1909.

Testimony of that is evident in the number of ex-Fianna among leading republicans today. Many ex-Fianna number among our prisoners, also twenty young Fianna have given their lives in the present struggle in pursuit of justice, peace and freedom.

Obviously, not all of us can continue to devote time and energy to Fianna or, indeed play an active role in the Republican Movement. Most of our ex-members have only the most pleasant memories of their time with Fianna Eireann and for this reason many are choosing to become associate members.

You may become an associate member by forwarding us the fee of £15 (renewed annually). In turn we will forward you an attractive scroll, a copy of the constitution and your associate membership badge. Leaflets, calendars and all other Fianna material will also be sent when issued.

On public occasions eg. Bodinstown, an invitation to march behind the associate members banner will be extended to all associates. This mark of solidarity is particularly important to the morale of today's young members.

Associate members can play an active role by helping Fianna financially and politically. We have associate members committees in the USA which help us spread republicanism to young people as well as raising funds. Associate members committees can also vote within the organisation and have an advisory role.

All funds raised through associate membership will be ploughed directly into the building, strengthening and provision of facilities for today's Fianna, that it may continue its role in the ongoing struggle.

We ask all republicans and supporters to avail of our associate membership and help in the work of Fianna Eireann.

All enquiries and fees should be sent to:

Sean O Riain,

Quarter Master General,

44 Parnell Square,

Dublin 1.





## Fianna Óga

**FIANNA ÓGA** caters for children between the ages of 5 to 14. They hold weekly meetings at which they will learn the Irish language, participate in learning about the history of Ireland, play games and have quizzes. They will also have a lesson in physical fitness and learn to march.

In order to set up a Fianna Óga slua you must have at least two Fianna Sinsir members capable of looking after them as well as teach them. Then all you have to do is advertise that you will be setting up a slua and give a date for enrolment.

After this you have to set a date for your first meeting. Sit down about 15-20 minutes before the meeting with your adjutant and make out an agenda usually to last for about two hours. In most sluas it will go as follows.

1. Roll call
2. Plan of activities
3. Irish language
4. History lesson, eg. the history of Scoil Eanna
5. P. E.
6. Drill
7. Map reading.

Perhaps you will plan an event during the week. Most events for Oga are on Saturday or Sunday, however that depends on your local area. Events planned for Oga should be things like: day trips to the woods, swimming, an outing to a local park or whatever suits your area.

Fianna Oga is very important. It means that when they progress to the Sinsir they have already done all the ground work and will probably not need any further training. Most people who progress from the Ogs end up being slua officers, and make a very good job of it. So it's important for each Slua or Battalion to have a Fianna Oga slua.

The main event for an Og is the march and this is the day when all their training comes to light. Ogs pick up marching quite easily as they are at the stage in life when they are continuously learning things, and thus make good marchers. Ogs will march only throughout the summer months as it is too cold in winter. Spring and summer are the two seasons when the Ogs do practically everything.

When organising anything for Fianna Oga always make sure that:

- They have their parent/guardian's permission.
- There is a ratio of 1:4 Sinsir present.
- The weather is mild.
- They are home early.

Proper supervision of an Ogs event is vital for it to run smoothly. Children have the ability to go wild at times, this is your guideline to success. Be careful and everything will be alright.

A summer weekend camp can be organised for Ogs, as long as proper supervision is there it will run great. All events run by or for Sinsir can be run for Ogs. A good Ogs slua is a credit to its Sinsir slua.



## How to run a slua meeting

THE ABILITY to run a slua meeting is one of the most important skills an officer can learn. Remember, the slua is not just a sea of faces. They are all individual people, with different personalities. You have to win their attention and their respect. And once won, you have to maintain their attention and respect.

There is a procedure for running slua meetings. Keeping to it will help you. Below is a typical agenda that should be followed if at all possible:

1. O/C brings everybody to *aire*.
2. Adjutant brings everybody to *luigh amach*.
3. Adjutant reads out the roll call.
4. Adjutant reads out agenda for the meeting.
5. A report on the previous week's activities should be read by the adjutant.
6. Discussion on the following weeks activities should be discussed in detail.
7. O/C's report.
8. Adjutant's report.
9. Quarter Master's report.
10. Education Officer's report.
11. Discussion on reports.
12. Education-history from Fianna file or other educational material on hand.
13. Drill.
14. Irish.
15. Any other matters.
16. O/C brings slua to *aire* then *scaipigh*.

A meeting should not last longer than two hours as members will become bored and fidgety and control may be lost. An O/C should encourage his/her slua to speak freely and play a full part in the slua meeting. The O/C is not a dictator. He/she should try and direct the slua meeting, but not monopolise it. A lively discussion means disagreements — this is good. It means that people have to think for themselves. Discussions are good but remember you are the O/C, and you must keep it under your control. No discussion should be allowed to develop into a slagging match. Sometimes, Fianna will have problems accepting some aspect of policy or the direction of the Republican Movement. These questions must be answered fully and persuasively. If you do not know the answers for yourself — find out.

If a member continually misbehaves he/she should be reprimanded. If he/she continues, he/she should be expelled from the meeting and suspended from the slua at the discretion of the slua O/C. This applies to a group of Fianna as to individuals.

If a meeting is called for 8.00 it must at all times begin at that time even if all members are not present.

## Publicity in the slua

- An Ard Oifig has a supply of recruiting leaflets and posters available on demand. Leaflets can be given out on the street or door-to-door in uniform or out of uniform. Slogans can be painted on non-privately owned walls i.e. *Join Fianna Eireann, Join the Republican Youth Movement, Fight for Freedom — Join Fianna.*

- Copies of AP/RN can be sold or collections done for An Cumann Cabhrach, Stop-Strip-Searches campaign by Fianna in or out of uniform.

- Stalls can be set-up in the main streets, with information about Fianna distributed.

- Pickets and occupations can be held for a variety of causes — get the approval of An Ard Oifig first, and send a copy of the proposed press statement to An Ard Oifig for ratification.

- Protest actions without accompanying press statements are useless. All press statements must be ratified by An Ard Oifig. Notify the local Republican Movement of your action.

- Make a request that a Fianna speaker be included at any commemoration, protest march or demonstration.



## A simple guide to fund-raising

**FUND-RAISING** is an important part of Fianna activities, for, without finance, the organisation cannot survive, activities cannot be planned and equipment cannot be bought. There are many ways of raising money and these will vary from area to area. However, if planning a fund-raising event make sure that there will be sufficient return on the amount of money and effort invested in the activity. Also, make sure that any projects undertaken are interesting and enjoyable for those involved in them.

The following are a few ideas on different ways of raising finance:

**Collections:** Collections with Fianna stickers are a useful and regular way of making money. These can be done in pubs, door-to-door, at public events or at republican commemorations. Collections with Easter Lilies are also possible and usually yield good returns because of their popularity.

**Raffles (ballots):** These can be highly successful if planned properly. Limit the amount of tickets to be sold, sell them at a reasonable price and give yourself enough time to sell them (at least four weeks). Prizes should be attractive but not expensive.

**Sponsored events:** Organise a cycle/walk/run etc and ask people to sponsor those participating. Donations can be made on the basis of the distance covered.

**Functions:** A good group and venue are important. Tickets and posters for a function should be produced one month in advance. If possible, try and get a

sympathetic group to play at minimum cost. A raffle can also be held at a function depending on the size of the crowd.

**Weekly subscriptions:** If possible try and get local republicans to make a small weekly subscription. You may not get a large amount of money but this is an important way of keeping regular contact with supporters.

**Sale of work:** These take a lot of planning but if organised properly you are guaranteed to generate a large amount of funds. If your slua cannot organise a sale of work on your own consider involving other republican groups in your area and share the proceeds.

**Stalls:** If there is a major public event in your area, consider setting up a stall from which republican literature and crafts can be sold. This is also a useful way of spreading the republican message. Alternatively you could sell cakes, sweets, refreshments etc from the stall.

**House parties:** Organise a party in a house or hired room for members and local supporters and ask each participant to make a small donation. Refreshments could also be provided for a small charge and a raffle held if there is enough people present. The party could be used to promote a particular campaign and is also useful for developing contact between local republicans. Parties also have their drawbacks so if planning one make sure it is organised and supervised properly.

**Play/Concert:** If your slua thinks it has considerable support a play or concert (or both) on a republican local theme could be organised and a raffle held. This could also be done in co-operation with other local republican organisations if too large an undertaking for your slua.

No doubt you will be able to use your own initiative to think of other suitable ways of raising funds. If you think a particular fund-raising project is a good idea for your slua but too difficult to organise, do not hesitate to request help and advice from your area battalion, Ard Oifig or your local Republican Movement.

Also, while the main object of any fund-raising event is to raise money, remember that as republicans, we draw our support from working class people and therefore prices should never be out of their reach.

All monies should be handled and accounted for by the slua quartermaster and checked by the slua adjutant and O/C. Only enough money to keep the slua running should be kept, all surpluses should be sent to Ard Oifig as this way it will be used for the benefit of Fianna Eireann as a whole. Happy fund-raising!

# An Cumann Cabhrach



An Cumann Cabhrach and Green Cross compliments Fianna Eireann on the production of their new handbook.

## HELP THE PRISONERS

An Cumann Cabhrach and Green Cross exist to alleviate some of the suffering of republican prisoners and their families. Dependent solely on public subscriptions and collections, these bodies provide weekly grants to the dependants of republican prisoners in jails in Ireland and Britain, pay expenses and arrange accommodation for relatives visiting republican prisoners in English jails, and provide finance to purchase clothing and other necessities for these prisoners.

All donations, enquiries and offers of help should be addressed to:

An Cumann Cabhrach,  
c/o 44 Parnell Square,  
Dublin 1.

Tel: 726100

or

Green Cross '73,  
51-53 Falls Road,  
Belfast.

Tel: 249975





fiannaeireann.com

“Glaine ‘nár gcroithe,  
neart ‘nár ngéaga agus  
beart de réir ár mbriathar”

— Fianna motto