



## Unit 4:

### *The Home Rule Crisis, 1912-1914*

#### *Part 2*

SENIOR CYCLE WORKSHEETS

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# THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS


## - Document R -

Shortly after the publication of 'The North Began', in *An Claidheamh Soluis*, Eoin MacNeill was approached by Bulmer Hobson, a member of the Supreme Council of the of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). Hobson asked the UCD professor if he would preside at a committee meeting to discuss the formation of a volunteer body. On 11 November 1913 ten men gathered in Wynn's Hotel, Abbey Street in Dublin where it was decided to hold a public recruiting meeting for a body to be called Óglaigh na hÉireann (Irish Volunteers). The aim of the movement was 'to secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to the whole people of Ireland'.

Shortly after 8pm on 25 November 1913, the doors of the largest meeting room in the Rotunda were opened to the crowd of thousands who had gathered outside. Seán T. O'Kelly chaired the meeting and Patrick Pearse and Seán MacDermott were among the principal speakers. Eoin MacNeill opened proceedings and invited the men of Ireland to form a 'united and disciplined body of freemen'.

When the speeches were finished the stewards went among the crowds distributing enrolment forms. That night over 3,000 men enlisted and the Irish Volunteers was born.

## - Document S -

ROINN  COSANTA.  
BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.  
STATEMENT BY WITNESS  
DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 993

**Witness: Mr. Justice Cahir Davitt, son of Michael Davitt**

I remember that some hundred or more students formed up in Stephen's Green and marched to the Rotunda ... My impression is that most of us left quite unenthusiastic and unconvinced that the Volunteer movement was either necessary or advisable... I had no shred of "military ambition" and no desire to "play at soldiers". There were, however, also reasons which seemed sound enough. The Home Rule struggle had reached a critical stage ... One military force, the Ulster Volunteers, were making things sufficiently troublesome; another and possibly a rival force could only complicate matters ... When in the course of time and events the Irish Party were more or less forced to "take up" the movement and to give it their official blessing a veritable fever for volunteering swept the country.

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 51

**Witness: Bulmer Hobson, Member Supreme Council IRB**

The arrangements for the meeting in the Rotunda were made by me. I went to the then Lord Mayor, Lorcan Sherlock, and asked him for the use of the Mansion House. He refused. I then engaged the ... Rotunda Rink, a large temporary building in the grounds of the Rotunda Gardens. The Rink was then the biggest hall in Dublin ... In addition to the 4,000 people inside the hall a crowd of about 3,000 were unable to gain admission. The path from Cavendish Row down to the entrance of the hall was a steep slope and we were much afraid that the pressure of people would smash in the doors which had been closed. Traffic in Cavendish Row was blocked by the crowds, and McDermott and some others went out and addressed them. ... I decided not to speak as I was looked upon by many people as being very extreme.

Following the meeting at the Rotunda, separatists around the country formed local branches of the paramilitary organisation. The Irish Volunteers attracted followers of Sinn Féin, the Gaelic League and the Gaelic Athletic Association as well as members of the IRB. By February 1914 Volunteer units had been established in many of the major towns and cities and a membership of the Irish Volunteers was approximately 26,000.

The Volunteers welcomed a burst of new members in the spring and summer when the Home Rule Crisis escalated following the Larne gun-running and the Curragh Mutiny. On 26 July 1914, 900 Mauser rifles and 29,000 rounds of ammunition landed at Howth, Co Dublin and distributed to Volunteer Units across the country. That summer a uniform consisting of a grey-green tunic and trousers, a brown leather bandolier, puttees, and a peaked cap or soft slouched hat was also adopted. By August the strength of the Irish Volunteers stood at approximately 182,000, but events in Europe would fracture the organisation.



(a) Edited Extract from the Volunteer Manifesto, drafted by Eoin MacNeill and accepted at the first meeting of the Irish Volunteers at the Rotunda on 25 November 1913. (b) The enrolment form for the new Volunteer Movement

(a)

## MANIFESTO OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS

At a time when legislative proposals, universally confessed to be of vital concern for the future of Ireland, have been put forward, and are awaiting decision, a plan has been deliberately adopted by one of the great English political parties ... to make the display of military force and the menace of armed violence the determining factor in the future relations between this country and Great Britain ...

Are we to rest inactive, in the hope that the course of politics in Great Britain may save us from the degradation openly threatened against us? ... In a crisis of this kind, the duty of safeguarding our rights is our duty first and foremost ... If ever in history a people could say that an opportunity was given them by God's will to make an honest and manly stand for their rights, that opportunity is given us to-day.

To drill, to learn the use of arms, to acquire the habit of concerted disciplined action, to form a citizen army from a population now at the mercy of almost any organised aggression, this beyond all doubt, is a programme that appeals to all Ireland, but especially to the young of Ireland. We begin at once in Dublin, and we are confident that the movement will be taken up without delay all over the country. Public opinion has already, and quite spontaneously, formed itself into an eager desire for the establishment of the Irish Volunteers.

The object proposed for the Irish Volunteers is to secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to all the people of Ireland. Their duties will be defensive and protective, and they will not contemplate either aggression or domination. Their ranks are open to all able-bodied Irishmen, without distinction of creed, politics or social grade ... There will also be work for women to do, and there are signs that the women of Ireland, true to their record, are especially enthusiastic for the success of the Irish Volunteers...

In the name of National Unity, of National dignity, of National and individual Liberty, of manly citizenship, we appeal to our countrymen to accept without hesitation the opportunity that has been granted them to join the ranks of the Irish Volunteers, and to make the movement now begun not unworthy of the historic title it has adopted.

(b)

### ÓGLÁIG NA HÉIREANN - Irish Volunteers

#### OBJECTS

1. To secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to all the people of Ireland.
2. To train, discipline and equip for this purpose an Irish Volunteer Force.
3. To unite in the service of Ireland, Irishmen of every creed and of every party and class.

#### ENROLMENT FORM TO BE SIGNED BY ALL IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

I, the undersigned, desire to be enrolled for service in Ireland as a member of the Irish Volunteer Force. I subscribe to the constitution of the Irish Volunteers, and pledge my willing obedience to every article of it. I declare that in joining the Irish Volunteer Force I set before myself the stated objects of the Irish Volunteers, and no others.

Name .....

Address .....

City or District .....

Date .....



Edited extract from a front-page article in *Cork Examiner* describing the dramatic events at the inaugural meeting of the Irish Volunteers in Cork City Hall on 14 December 1913

Despite the disruption caused by a group of pro-Redmond Ancient Order of Hibernians, over 500 men enrolled in the new organisation that night. J.J. Walsh later mused, 'Such was the blood-baptism of the Volunteers in what up to then we were pleased to call Rebel Cork.'

# The Cork Examiner.

No. 18,974

MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15, 1913

PRICE - ONE PENNY

## IRISH VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT. MEETING IN CORK.

PLATFORM CHARGED  
EXTRAORDINARY SCENES

CHAIRMAN INJURED.

The public meeting [was] held last night in the City Hall, Cork, "to form a Cork City Corps of the Irish Volunteers." ... The Hall, floor and galleries, was packed to its utmost limits by a crowd, the overwhelming bulk of which was composed of young men. Mr. J. J. Walsh, President, Cork County Board Gaelic Athletic Association, occupied the chair, and amongst those on the platform were Sir Roger Casement, Professor Owen McNeill, Dublin and Liam de Roiste of the Gaelic League ...

The Chairman said they had assembled that night to initiate the Irish Volunteers in the city ... They were aware of its triumph in Dublin; Kilkenny had unfurled its banner, and their true friends, "The Kingdom" had embraced its standard. Corkmen had nothing exceptional to boast of, but to give them their due they had never been lacking in the fight for Freedom or the fight for anything else.

Professor MacNeill said ... he wished to speak to them as a North East Ulster man, and as a Scotch Irishman, and he desired to pay a tribute to Ulster men who did not agree with him in religion or in politics ... The action of Sir Edward Carson's Volunteers in taking steps to preserve what they considered their freedom was action that deserved the commendation of every Irishman.



UNDATED IRISH VOLUNTEER EVENT, CORK CITY HALL.  
[PHOTO: © IRISH EXAMINER]

A Voice: "They will be met half way by us." Professor McNeill — It is they that have broken the ice, for our ship to pass through. It is they who have opened the way for us; it is they who have set the model and the standard of public duty for us. We stand in no fear of them, and they stand in no fear of us ... Again there were interruptions ... and for a few moments the speaker could not proceed. Voices were raised all through the hall, and people rose in their seats.

Resuming, Professor McNeill said ... The action of the Ulster Volunteers, interpret it as they would, was the very essence of nationalism. They had declared that whatever English political parties might say, they intended to have their own way in their own country, and that was his definition of nationalism ...

And now, said the speaker, I ask you to do as the young men of Galway did— Catholics and Nationalists alike—I ask you to give three cheers for Sir Edward Carson's Volunteers ... This request was indignantly refused by the audience, who groaned and booed while Professor McNeill waved his right hand in the air as if to raise the cheer. From all parts of the hall came peremptory cries of "shut up," "sit down." ...

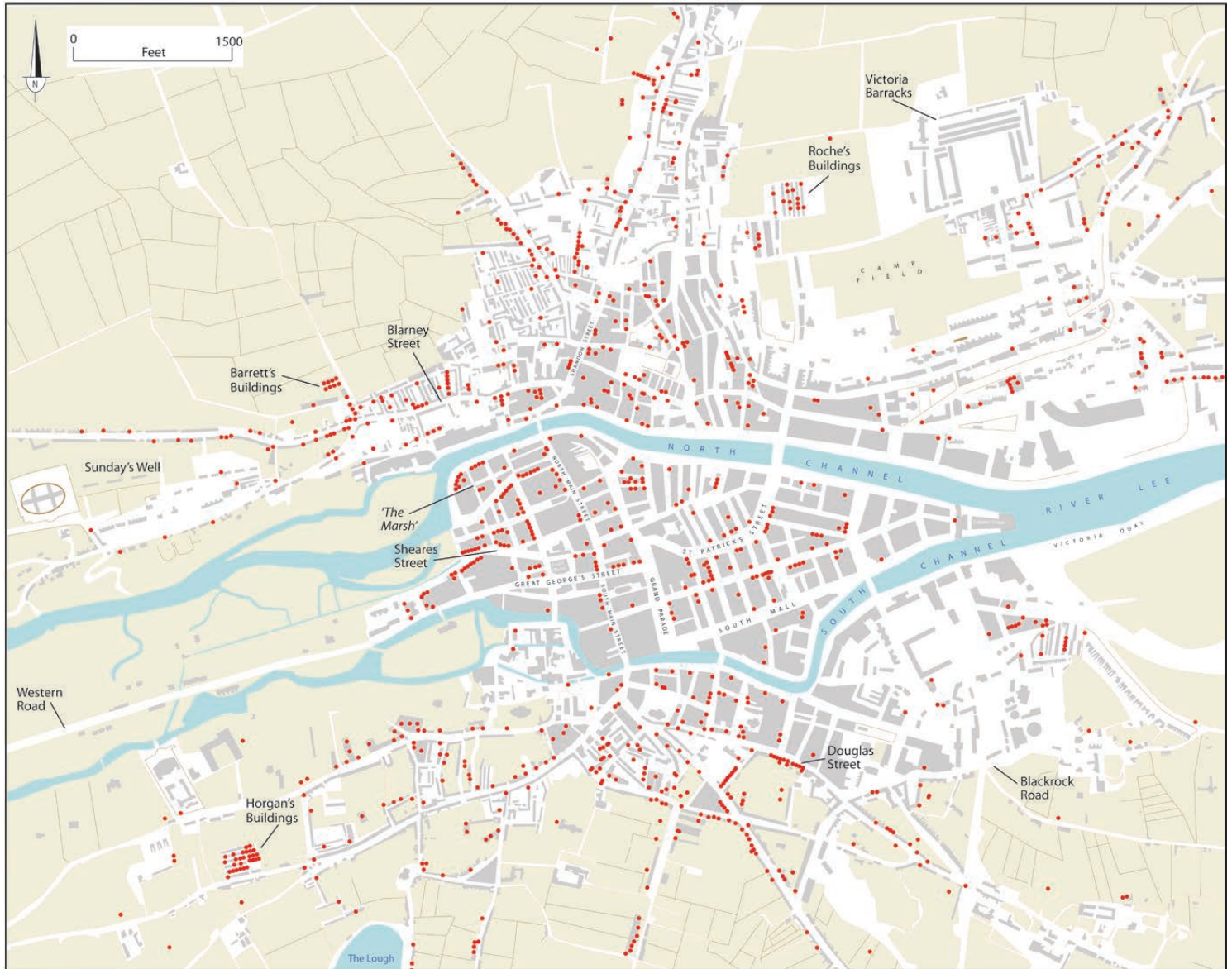
When Mr. John Horgan, T.C., called for cheers for John Redmond, the people rose at once and cheered with enthusiasm for several minutes, but Professor McNeill kept standing on the platform, and this incensed the meeting. Those in the front seats jumped on to the stage, and the Chairman and those with him were soon put out of their places. A general scuffle took place, and men were pushed over chairs, and the Chairman's table was broken and thrown down to the body of the hall. A free fight seemed imminent there until the refrain of *A Nation Once Again* was started. In this, the audience joined with enthusiasm and there were more cheers for Redmond.





- Document V -

Map of the Home Addresses of Cork City's Irish Volunteers in mid-1914



**CAPTION:** Cork City's Irish Volunteers in mid-1914 reflected a healthy cross-section of 'respectable' working-class and lower-middle-class Catholic society. Over half of the Cork Volunteers were either skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled workers. Clerks and small shopkeepers also featured among the Volunteers, comprising 18 per cent of the total. Their strength can be seen in concentrations in the small working-class houses and modest homes in places like Blarney Street, Fair Lane, Sheares Street, Horgan's Buildings and Douglas Street. Far fewer middle- and upper-class Catholics joined the movement (professionals and merchants combined comprised just 10 per cent of the total),

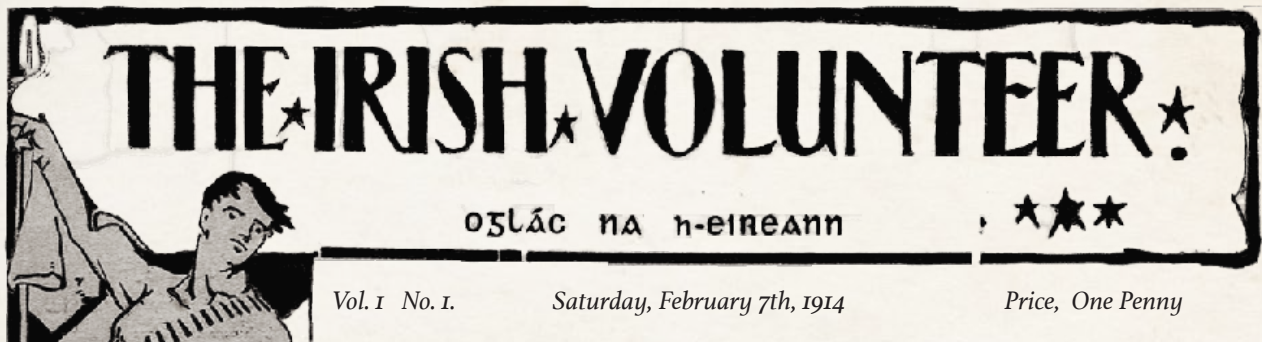
as seen by the scarcity of members in the affluent suburbs of Sunday's Well, Blackrock Road and the Western Road. University College, Cork students as well as residents associated with the British army also avoided the Irish Volunteers. The poorest labourers in the city likewise did not participate in Volunteers activities, with their absence notable in the tenements of 'The Marsh' area near Bachelor's Quay, and in the poor working-class area of Gillabbey Street, near St Fin Barre's Cathedral. Overall, one can describe the Irish Volunteers at this time as appealing to those Catholics with steady jobs but possessing only modest incomes and social standing.

[Source: Cork City and County Archives, de Róiste Papers]



Edited extracts from *The Irish Volunteer*, first printed on 7th February 1914.

Edited by Lawrence de Lacey, the journal was used to communicate new regulations and instructions to Volunteer units. Articles included 'Hints on Bayonet Training' and 'Notes from Headquarters'. The Provisional Committee of the Irish Volunteers had by now established a headquarters in Dublin at 206, Great Brunswick St, and took responsibility for all matters affecting the movement.



## FROM THE OUTPOST.

### *The Movement Spreads*

The Volunteer movement is marching. Ranks have been formed, and with steady step and to the music of Ireland's soul the first move has been made on the road to achieve its destiny: The military maps show our troops spreading through the length and breadth of the land. A regiment here, a flanking party there ...

Advance guards wait in the towns from Wexford to Donegal, and scouts have mapped the way to every village and reported the possibilities of success in every hamlet. In a week or a month maybe, city, town and hamlet will alike be filled with our troops. Only sedition in the ranks can prevent ultimate success. And that is unthinkable. The old spirit of Nationality that has never died in Ireland has kindled again at the prospect of soldiers' work, and recruits everywhere are waiting impatiently to get the order to join the ranks.

### *Uniforms*

The question of uniforms has not so far been decided upon, but a sub-committee has been appointed by the Provisional Committee to deal with the matter. And simple as it seems, the question is a little difficult to solve satisfactorily. In some quarters it has been suggested that the various regiments should go back to the 1782 movement for the colours at least, if not the actual cut of the military

dress, and while this idea has not met with much favour, neither has the suggestion of a simple coloured blouse with ordinary trousers and leggings. Then there is the question of whether all Volunteers should wear a similarly coloured uniform, or will the cut alone be decided upon and the colour left to the taste of the regiments in different districts? ... However, this too is a question that will be decided at an early date.

### *Arms*

The recent proclamation prohibiting the importation of arms into Ireland has for the immediate present been a disadvantage, though ultimately it may prove to have been a blessing in disguise. Whether it was aimed at the National Volunteers or not, its operation has handicapped the movement

slightly in its initial stage.

Every man who has a spark of the Volunteer spirit loves a rifle, and apart from their use as a weapon in war, the possession of a rifle rouses the enthusiasm of most recruits. At the same time, anything like the wholesale purchase of the rifles would have been folly, and the proclamation, perhaps prevented that. ... There must be quite enough rifles for drill purposes and small batches of Volunteers could be drilled in the various halls with borrowed rifles. But for the present everything must be [secondary] to the building up of the movement itself, getting the men into it, seeing that they are properly disciplined and drilled, and then when they are ready and when the need arises, procuring rifles will not present so much difficulty.



### IRISH VOLUNTEERS MARCH IN KILLARNEY, CO KERRY

Formed on 28 November 1913, the Killarney branch of the Irish Volunteers was perhaps the first unit organised outside of Dublin. [Photo: © Irish Examiner]



Excerpts from a selection of Bureau of Military History Witness Statements describing early Volunteer training and organisation.



BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.....46.....

**Witness: Patrick P. Twomey, Kilmona Coy., Co Cork**

The men paid 3d a week into a fund for the purchase of equipment. Out of this fund we purchased haversacks, bandoliers, belts and puttees ... We held three parades a week from the start ... Some of the Sunday marches were for the purpose of recruiting for the Volunteers. On one of those we went to Mourneabbey - 7 miles. ... There was a field day at Blarney one Sunday at which Terence MacSwiney was present ... Six men from the Company, including myself, took part in the shooting Competition at Carrigtwohill in 1915.



BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.....157.....

**Witness: Joseph O'Connor, A Coy, 1st Battalion, Dublin**

The great trouble with us was the scarcity of money. The men had to pay threepence a week towards the cost of rent and light [for the drill hall...] They had to pay for their own rifle ammunition and equipment. In addition to that the Companies had to form a Company Fund to provide themselves with such things as first aid field dressings, stretchers, signalling flags and lamps and a reserve of ammunition, and where possible, training tools, i.e. picks and shovels. The sacrifices made at the time, both by officers and men, were very great, and of course, it was the desire of every officer or Volunteer to have a uniform of what he considered to be the first Army of Ireland for years.



BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.....1,612.....

**Witness: Peter McDonnell, Connemara Brigade**

Drill instruction was given by T. Tarmey, Westport, who had been a boxing and drill instructor in the British Army. He travelled by horse and car from Westport every Sunday a distance of 20 miles for two months, until he was replaced by Martin McDonnell ... Some time in March I was elected as Company Captain ... British Army drill books had now been acquired, and given to the officers who, after study, were able to act as instructors at the usual Sunday parades. As there were no arms in the company, we made wooden guns for the purpose of arms drill.



BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.....208.....

**Witness: John M. MacCarthy, Kilfinane Coy., Limerick**

The Volunteer movement became my primary and practically whole-time occupation from the date of the formation of the first Volunteer unit in Kilfinane. This would have been at the end of 1913 or in the opening months of 1914. Ex British Army [officers] acted as drill instructors and took charge of the parades. These were invariably well-attended, practically all the adult male population of the locality having joined the organisation. Instruction was confined to close-order and extended-order drill, some signalling instruction, arms drill (with wooden "guns"), route marches and one - perhaps two - ineffective attempts at a very minor form of tactical exercise. By military standards it was all very futile, even silly, but there was no lack of earnestness or enthusiasm.





## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

### Documents R - X

1. According to Bulmer Hobson how many people attended the meeting at the Rotunda on 25 November 1913? (*Doc R*)

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2. Why did Bulmer Hobson decide not to address the crowd at the Rotunda? (*Doc R*)

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3. What reasons does Cahir Davitt give for not joining the Volunteers on 25 November 1913? (*Doc S*)

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4. In Cahir Davitt's opinion, what significant event led to a 'fever of volunteering' in Ireland? (*Doc R*)

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5. According to the Manifesto of the Irish Volunteers what are the (a) aims and (b) duties of the organisation? (*Doc Ta*)

(a) -----

(b) -----

6. Do you consider the Manifesto of the Irish Volunteers to be a good example of persuasive writing? Give two reasons for your answer with reference to the text. (*Doc Ta*)

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7. Can you identify any similarities between the content of the Volunteer Enrollment Form (*Doc T b*) and the text of the entrance ticket to the founding meeting of the Irish Volunteers in Cork City? (*Doc U*)

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8. According to the article in the *Cork Examiner*, what other counties in Ireland established units of the Irish Volunteers before December 1913? (*Doc U*)

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9. What part of Eoin MacNeill's speech in Cork City Hall angered the members of the pro-Redmond Ancient Order of Hibernians in the crowd? (Doc U)

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10. What stopped a 'free fight' from happening in Cork City Hall and can you suggest why? (Doc U)

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11. What important information do we learn about the type of people who joined the volunteers by mapping the home addresses of the Cork city members in May 1914? (Doc V)

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12. Can you suggest one reason why the 'poorest labourers in Cork City' may not have participated in Volunteer activities? (Doc V)

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13. Is there any evidence in the map to support the statement that "residents associated with the British army also avoided the Irish Volunteers"? (Doc V)

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14. From your study of the articles in *The Irish Volunteer*, identify two difficulties faced by the Volunteers during the early days of the movement. (Doc W)

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15. Identify the **tone** of the article entitled 'The Movement Spreads' in the *Irish Volunteer*, and give two reasons for your answer with reference to the text? (Doc W)

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16. Based on the articles in the *Irish Volunteer*, list the priorities of the Irish Volunteer movement in February 1914 in order of importance? (Doc T)

(1) -----

(2) -----

(3) -----

(4) -----





17. According to Patrick P. Twomey's witness statement, what was the purpose of the Sunday marches? (*Doc X*)

18. Based on your study of Documents W and X identify two difficulties faced by the Volunteers during the early days of the movement.

19. According to the witness statements, who were the drill instructors in the early Volunteer units and can you suggest why this may have been the case? (*Doc X*)

20. For a historian of the early years of the Irish Volunteer Movement, which of the sources R-X would prove most valuable as a source of information. Explain your answer with reference to at least two of the documents.

### YOUR TASK:

21(a). You are an officer in a Volunteer Company in your own county. You have been asked by Lawrence de Lacey, editor of the Irish Volunteer to submit an article for its next edition on Valentine's Day 1914. Conduct some research into the Volunteer Movement in your own county before writing your article

#### *The article should include:*

- ☐ A positive and encouraging tone similar to the articles in Doc S
- ☐ At least two facts about the development of the Volunteer Movement in your county and, if possible, about a particular company
- ☐ Any information about particular members of the Volunteers in your county
- ☐ An appropriate image or map

OR

21(b). The author of a new book on the history of the Irish Volunteers has asked you to write a foreword. Begin by explaining why writing the history of the Volunteer movement is so important. The remainder of the foreword should outline why the Volunteers were formed in 1913 and the development of the movement before the outbreak of the first world war.





# HOWTH GUNRUNNING

Shortly before noon on 26 July 1914, the Asgard sailed out from behind Lambay Island and made its way towards the small port of Howth. On board the handsome two-masted yacht were London-born novelist and nationalist sympathiser, Erskine Childers and his wife Molly, Mary Spring-Rice, a British aviator and two Donegal fishermen. They carried a cargo of 900 single-shot German Mauser rifles and 29,000 rounds of ammunition to arm the Irish Volunteers.

The operation began in May 1914 when Childers and Darrell Figgis negotiated the purchase of 1,500 rifles and 49,000 rounds of ammunition from a Hamburg-based munitions firm. Distracted by false intelligence reports of an arms shipment on board an Irish fishing trawler, the British Navy missed the Asgard as it sailed out from Conway on the Welsh coast on 3 July. Nine days later, the consignment of arms was transferred from a

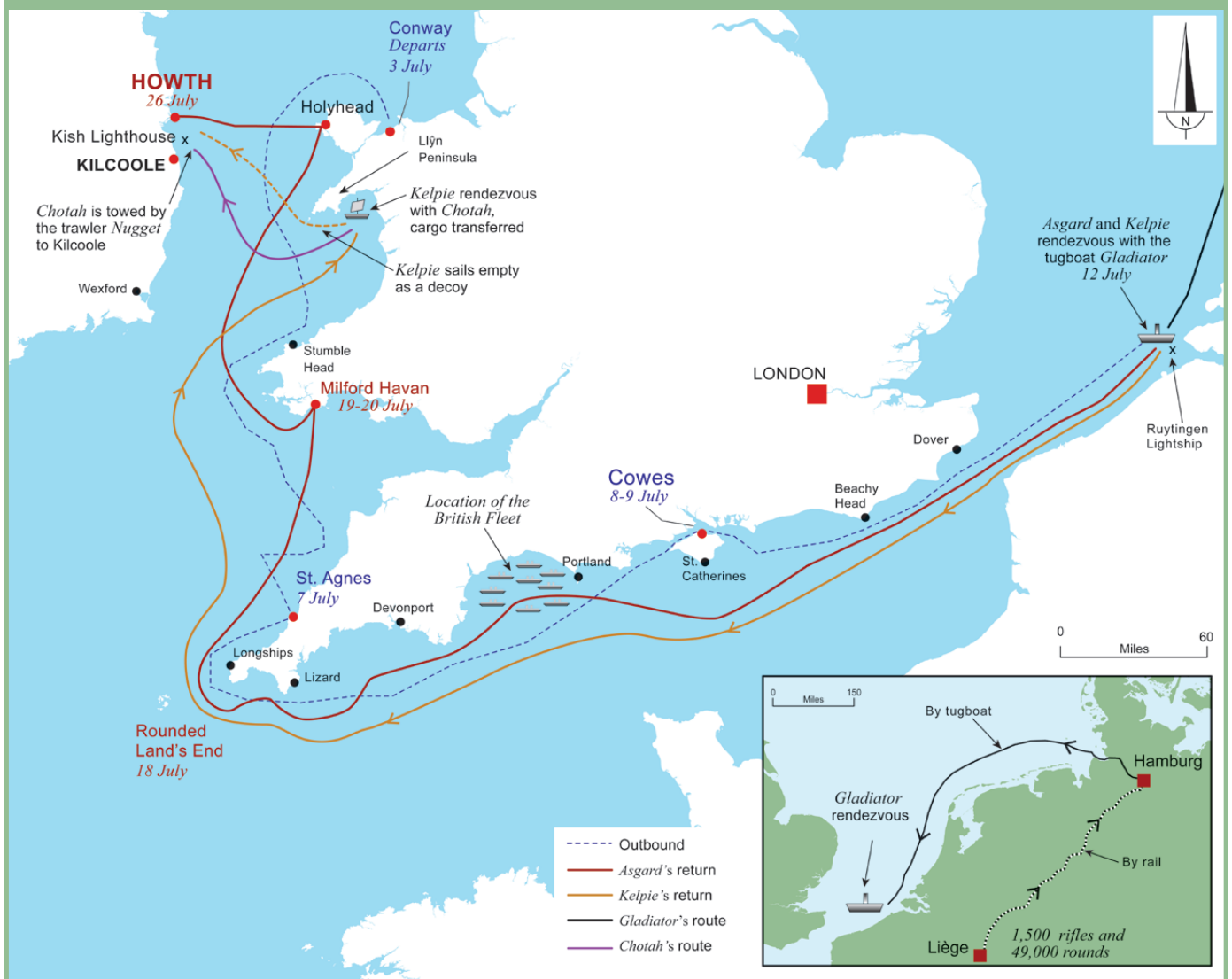
German tug-boat onto the Asgard and Connor O'Brien's smaller craft the Kelpie in the middle of the North Sea, before both set sail on separate routes for Ireland.

The Irish Volunteers' landing at Howth was different to the Ulster Volunteer Force's (UVF) Larne gunrunning, in three significant ways: John Redmond and the Irish Party leadership were unaware of the arms importation, which was organised primarily by the Irish Republican Brotherhood in conjunction with a flinty band of wealthy Liberal supporters; the weapons comprised only a fraction of the UVF's imported arsenal; and finally (and perhaps most importantly), Dublin Castle attempted to prevent the Howth landing, in contrast with its inactivity at Larne. At Howth about 900 single-shot 1871 German Mauser rifles with ammunition were brought ashore at daylight from the sailing yacht Asgard. These rifles were carried to

Dublin by roughly 1,000 Volunteers mobilised for the operation.

One group of Volunteers was stopped on the Malahide Road by police and British Army troops. After a brief skirmish, the Irish Volunteers managed to escape with most of their new weapons. Angry Dubliners heckled and stoned the returning soldiers, who fired into a crowd at Bachelor's Walk Quay near Dublin city centre, killing three and wounding thirty-seven. Dublin Castle's aggressiveness outraged Irish nationalists. In the meantime, the Kelpie had transferred its cargo to the engine-powered Chotah, skippered by Sir Thomas Myles. Hampered by a split in her main sail off the coast of Wales, Eoin MacNeill sent a fishing boat called The Nugget to help land the remaining 600 rifles and 16,000 rounds of ammunition at Kilcoole, County Wicklow on 1 August 1914.

- Document Y(a) - Map of the Howth Gun Running July 1914



# LISTENING SKILLS

On an episode of the [History Show](#) first broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1 on Sunday 15 June 2014, presenter Myles Dungan discusses the Howth gun running and the diaries of Mary Spring Rice with historians Conor Mulvagh and Tommy Graham.

***Listen to the podcast and answer the questions that follow:***

## **PART 1:**

1. What was the name of the yacht used to bring the guns into Howth?  
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2. Why are the diaries of Mary Spring Rice a valuable source for historians of Irish history?  
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3. Who first suggested the idea of using pleasure yachts to transport the arms from Germany?  
-----
4. Give two reasons why the Volunteers decided to arm in 1914?  
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5. What were the main differences between the guns brought into Larne and those brought into Howth?  
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6. How many new recruits were coming into the Irish Volunteers every week by July 1914?  
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## **PART 2:**

7. Where did the returning Volunteers meet a police barricade on their homeward journey?  
-----
8. Why did the King's Own Scottish Borderers open fire on Bachelor's Walk?  
-----
9. How many were killed and how many wounded on Bachelor's Walk?  
-----
10. What was the significance of the Bachelor's Walk Incident?  
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SUNDAY 12 JULY 1914 -

*As the tug came up Darrell Figgis called from her deck that Conor had taken 600 rifles and 20,000 rounds of ammunition [on the Kelpie]. 'He's left you 900 and 29,000 rounds', he shouted. We looked at each other. Could we even take them? We had only counted on 750, and they looked enormous, each thickly done up in straw. However before we could say 'knife', we were all at work unloading. It was a perfect night, quite calm, the tug looked black and huge alongside us. Her deck was full of German sailors who jabbered away and looked curiously at us as they passed down the big canvas bales to Pat and Duggan on our deck.*

*I found myself in the saloon with Mr Gordon, Pat passing us down rifles through the skylight, and we packing them in, butts at the end and barrels in the centre, as fast as we could ... It was fearfully hot work; they were fairly heavy and thick with grease which made them horrible to handle. Gradually, however, the pile grew and presently the saloon was half full, level with the table ...*

*Personally, I felt rather nervous as to the effect the tremendous extra weight would have on the yacht in bad weather, but Erskine's one thought was to take everything.*



*As we toiled away, I heard them saying that we had drifted right down near Ruytigen. The people there must have wondered what on earth we were doing, but there was no time to alter our position, only try to finish it before it got light, and a faint glimmer of dawn was beginning to show as we [worked] feverishly to get them in. Molly put pieces of chocolate literally into our mouths as we worked and that kept us going till about 2 a.m. [when] the last box was heaved on deck.*

SUNDAY 26 JULY 1914 --

*We had, of course, no news from the Provisional Committee for three weeks, and perhaps no Volunteers were coming down at all. We had to get in and out of Howth harbour with the high tide so there wasn't much time for delays. As we got nearer I went down and cleared out the guns in our bunk, thinking as I laboured at them that if we had to put out again with them still on board what a dreary job it would be stowing them all back again. We were close by when I finished and there was Howth pier plainly visible, and Molly gazing to see if any Volunteers could be seen. We all felt very doubtful about them for we [didn't] think it was too rough for the boat to come out, and were afraid something had happened to make them give up the whole thing. However, as my red skirt was to be the signal, I stood well up on deck.*

*It was no easy matter with a fresh breeze to lower the sails at just the right moment to run alongside the quay, when minutes might be so precious. Molly took the helm and Erskine and the men got the sails down, and joy, oh joy! there was a group of men on the pier-head to catch the rope. Duggan was a bit late throwing the warp and we shot on past the pier-head. But the men got hold of the rope and hauled her back alongside. A quarter to one, up to time to the minute, and a long line of Volunteers were marching down the quay. There was Mr Gordon on the pier-head and, of course, the inevitable Figgis. Then things began to move. At first there was a fearful scramble among the men on the shore for the rifles as they were handed up, then Erskine stopped the delivery until he got hold of someone in command and some sort of order was restored. Molly and I and Mr Gordon stood by the mizzen and looked at the scene; it all seemed liked a dream, we had talked of this moment so often during the voyage.*



Edited Extract from the Bureau of Military History Witness Statement (#1763) submitted on 5 March 1952 by IRB member, prominent Sinn Féin activist and future President of Ireland, Seán T. O'Kelly.

I got back to Dublin on Wednesday evening and reported to Tom Clarke. The first job I was given to tackle was to arrange for the funeral of a man named Pidgeon who was one of those who had been shot by the British Military at Bachelors' Walk. He was not shot dead but died of his wounds some days afterwards in hospital. I remember visiting his home which was close to St. Patrick's Cathedral. His wife kept a small shop I remember, but I think he himself was a printer by trade ...

The next task that was given to me was to take charge of another landing of arms which was to take place on the Saturday after the Howth gun running ... I left Dublin by train on Saturday evening [1 August 1914] about 7 o'clock [with] three or four well-known I.R.B. men ... When we arrived at Kilcoole we found many others assembled there including Cathal Brugha, Bulmer Hobson, Seán Fitzgibbon [and] Liam Mellows ... About one hundred of the Fianna were mobilised, and under the charge of Mellows were given the job of scouting the Kilcoole area ... I remember being struck by the alertness and the efficiency of these young lads ... I do not now remember exactly the number of men I had at my disposal, but I am sure it must have been about fifty, most of whom arrived at Kilcoole by bicycle, all of them Dublin Volunteer's or I.R.B. men ...

Sir Thomas Myles's yacht carrying the guns arrived safely and with the aid of the smaller local boats we unloaded the guns and ammunition ... The [guns] were packed in straw in bundles of I think five or six and we undid them from the straw and carried them to the waiting lorry. This operation took us some hours. I think we did not leave the strand or the vicinity of the railway station until about 5 o'clock in the morning .... I sat on the top of the lorry and had five or six others with me, all armed with revolvers and our instructions were not to let the guns or ammunition be seized by the police at any cost ...

When we reached Little Bray ... the back axle broke and we were left with our load on the road about 6.30 in the morning. We were in a quandary ... the driver of the lorry suggested that, as he knew one or two of the occupants of the cottages, ... he should ask them to store the guns and ammunition in their back-yards until we could make arrangements for their distribution. To this suggestion some of the families in the houses agreed and ... we were, to our relief, enthusiastically assisted by some of the men up from those cottages .... Some of the women too took a hand in carrying the guns and storing them in their back-yards.

In the meantime, I had dispatched two of our motor cycle escort with all speed to St. Enda's (Pearse's School) to summon the motorists who were assembled there to come to Little Bray. ... I am glad to say that within an hour the motorists were speedily arriving ... and we had the whole place cleared and the motor-cars dispatched without anybody arriving on the scene.

[Source: Bureau of Military History W.S. 1763, Vol 1, (His Excellency, Seán T. O'Kelly,)]





## COMPREHENSION, CRITICISM AND COMPARISON QUESTIONS

### Documents Y- Z

1. Based on the information in the map (*Doc Ya*) explain how the arms and ammunition were transported from Leige to Hamburg to be collected by the *Gladiator*?

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2. Using the information in the map, list the main events of the Irish Volunteer gunrunning in chronological order. (*Doc Ya*)

3 July:-----

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3. What type of information can Doc Y(b) provide about the gunrunning that the map cannot?

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4. Can you identify the different emotions expressed in Spring Rice's diary entry of 16 July 1914? Refer to the text in your answer.

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5. What was the first task given to Sean T O'Kelly after he returned to Dublin? (*Doc Z*)

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6. Based on Sean T O'Kelly's account, choose three adjectives to describe the atmosphere in Little Bray on the night of the Kilcolle gun running. Refer to the text to justify your choice. (*Doc Z*)

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7. The diary and witness statement (Doc Y(b) and (Doc Z) are both personal accounts of the Irish Volunteers' gunrunning operation. As a historian of the period, which of the two accounts would you consider more valuable as a historical source? Explain your answer with reference to both.

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SHORT ESSAY QUESTION: *How did the threat of physical force affect Ireland during the period 1912-1914?*

Define Key Concept: Physical Force

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Incidences between 1912-14 when physical force was threatened

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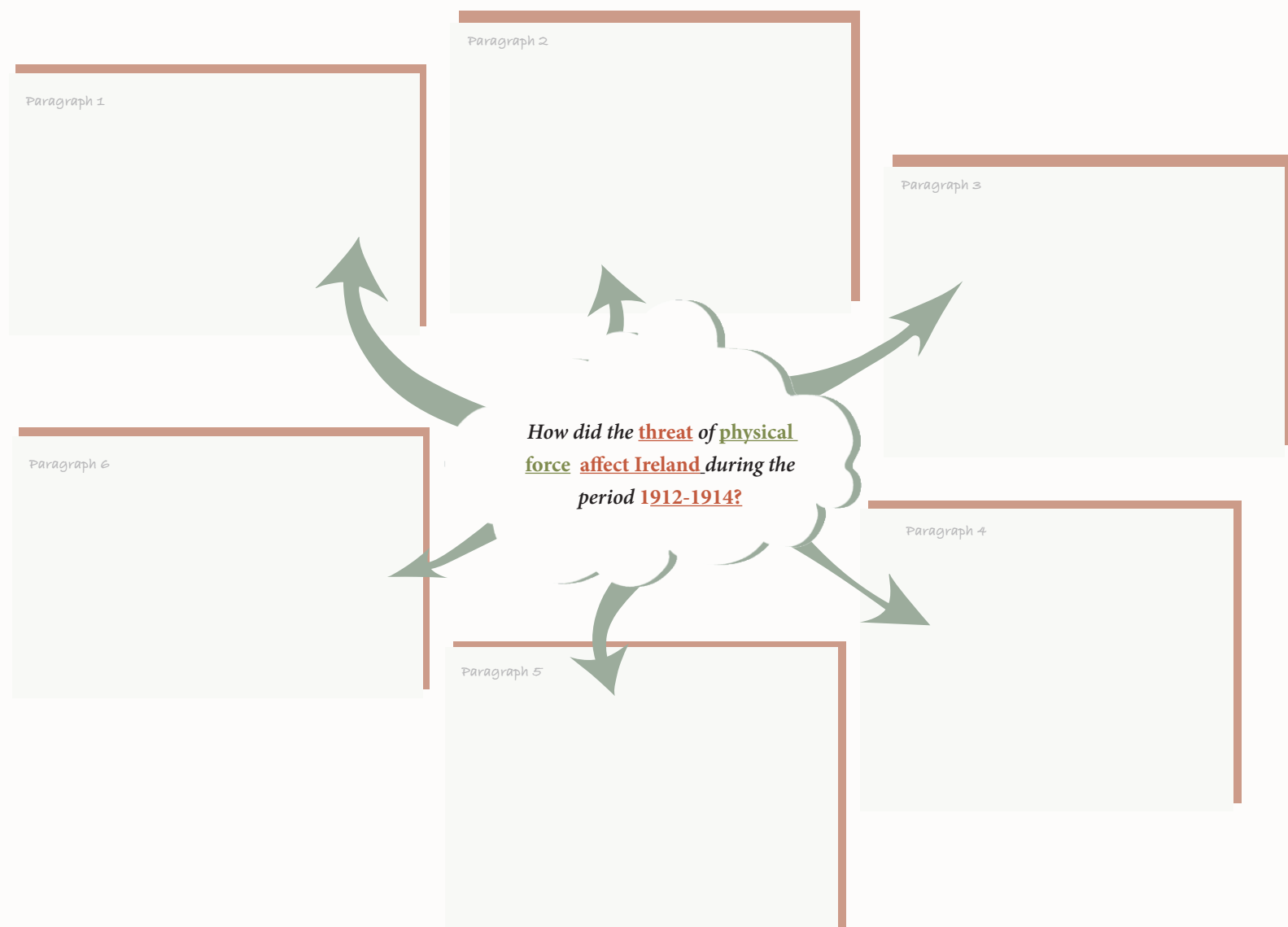
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How this these threats affect Ireland

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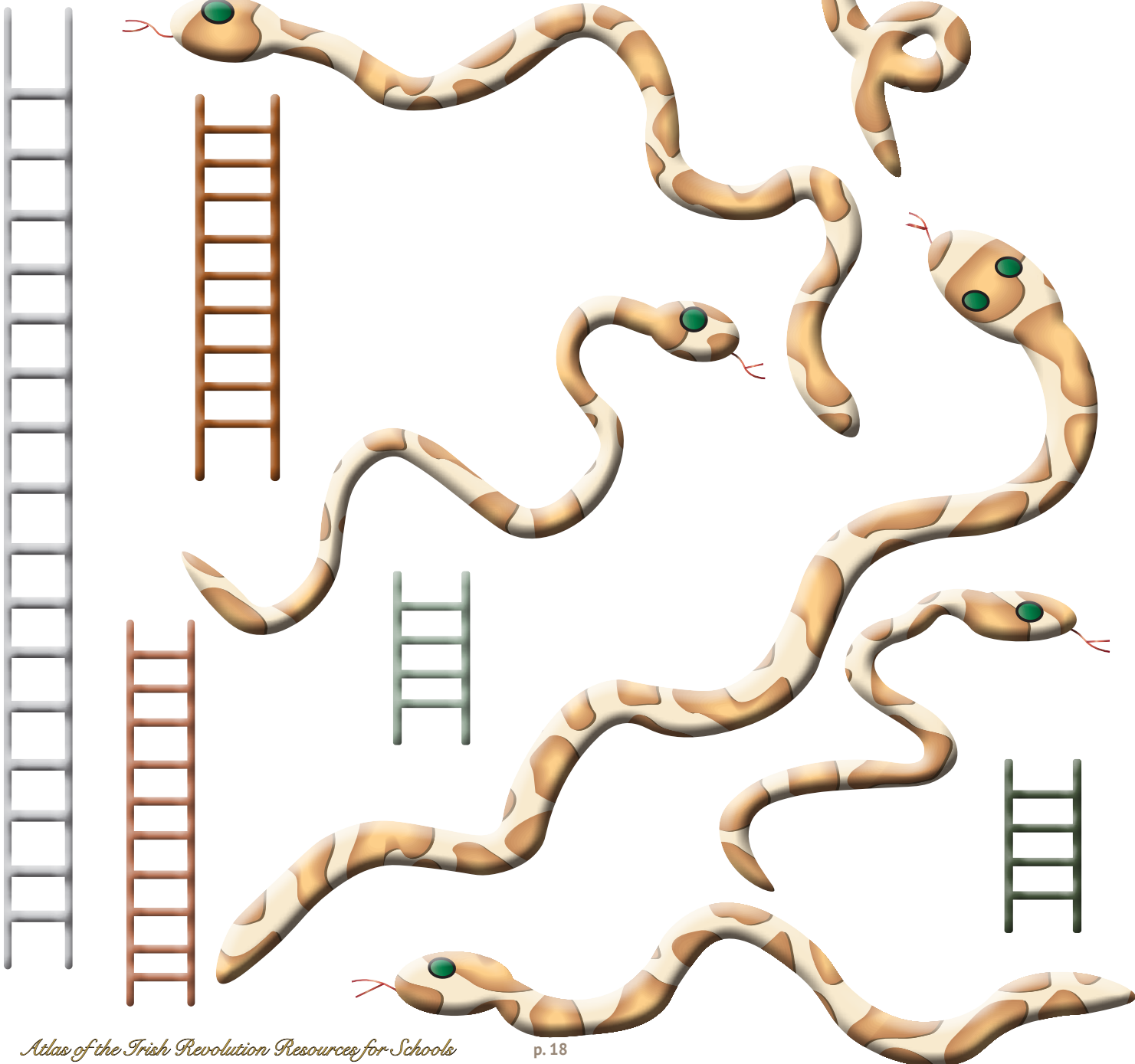


# Home Rule Snakes & Ladders





## *What you need.*

1. The empty board, ideally printed on A3 paper
2. A scissors and glue
3. Cut out the 4-5 snakes and the 4-5 ladders below (or you could draw your own).
4. Dice





100		99		98		97	96	95	94	93	92	91
81			84							88	89	
		82		83			85		87			90
	80		78				76			73	72	
61		62		63		64		66	67	68		70
60					57		56	55		53	52	51
	59	42			44			46	47	48	49	50
	41			43			45					
	40	39			37		36			33	32	31
21			23			24	25	26				30
		22					16		27	28	29	
	20		18		17			15	14	13	12	
1		19										11
	<b>START</b>								8			
									7		9	10



# Home Rule Snakes & Ladders



## Rules of the Game

- The game of Home Rule Snakes and Ladders is for 2 or more players and is played on a board with 100 squares numbered 1 to 100.
- Play begins on square number 1 which at the bottom left hand corner of the board. This square represents the year 1886 when Gladstone introduced the First Home Rule Bill for Ireland.
- Play finishes on square 100 at the top left hand corner. This square represents 18 September 1914 when Home Rule was placed on the statute books.
- Players take turns to roll a dice and move along the number of squares rolled.
- If a player lands on a square at the base of a ladder, then they automatically advance their position by moving up to the top of the ladder.
- If a player lands on a square at the head of a snake then the player must automatically follow down to the tail of the snake thereby losing position.
- The winner is the player who is first to land on square number 100. You must roll the exact number needed to land on 100.

## Making the Board:

- Before play begins, students should work in groups of four to create the playing board.
- The Irish Parliamentary Party encountered many favourable events and many obstacles on the road to achieving Home Rule for Ireland. Make a list of 4-6 events that you would consider **favourable** to the Irish Parliamentary Party.
- Next, put this list into chronological order.
- Write your events into random squares on the board, moving from the bottom to the top, placing the earliest event nearest to the bottom of the board.
- As these are fortunate events, you should place the base of the ladders into these 'favourable' squares.
- Next make a list of 4-6 events on the road to Home Rule that you would consider **obstacles** to John Redmond on the road to Home Rule and put the list into chronological order.
- Write these obstacles into different random squares on the board, again moving from the bottom to the top placing the earliest event nearest to the bottom of the board.
- As these are obstacles, you should place the head of the snake into the obstacle squares.
- Remember, the more fortunate the event, the longer the ladder. Similarly, the bigger the obstacle, the bigger the snake!