



Unit 7:

The Irish War of Independence, 1919-21

Part 2

SENIOR CYCLE WORKSHEETS

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REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Cumann na mBan played an important role as an auxiliary to the Irish Volunteers during the War of Independence. Less likely to be searched by police, female dispatch carriers transported messages from General Headquarters (GHQ) to regional brigades and between Volunteer units. Postmistresses who were in Cumann na mBan played an especially important role in interrupting communications intended for the police and military, and by warning the local IRA of the Crown-forces' plans.

Cumann na mBan also assisted in the acquisition, storage and transportation of armaments and offered their homes as safe houses for Volunteers on the run. Their training in first aid was valuable in treating Volunteers who were wounded in engagements with Crown Forces.

Cumann na mBan also continued its political work during the period from 1919 to 1921, including

advertising and collecting for the Dáil Loan and participating in the Dáil's boycott of the RIC. When republican funerals, executions, and hunger strikes became more common in the second stage of the War of Independence, Cumann na mBan frequently organised prayer vigils as a form of public protest. At a time when the Crown forces aggressively dispersed civilian demonstrations, these vigils created a safe space to express messages of solidarity and defiance.

As the conflict progressed, the authorities became more aware of the extent of women's involvement and they were more likely to be searched, arrested and imprisoned. Approximately forty-six women were imprisoned for republican-related activities in early 1921. Cumann na mBan members also suffered non-judicial repercussions for their actions, such as having their hair cut off.

At the time of the Truce in mid-1921 Cumann na mBan had an approximate membership of 18,000.



Cumann na mBan protest outside Mountjoy Jail, 23 July 1921
[Source: National Library of Ireland, HOG 165]

(a)



BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.....450

Brighid O'Mullane, Cumann na mBan Organiser, 1917-1923

It was my custom to contact the Volunteer O/C who gave me the names of reliable girls. Having got the names, I convened a meeting, generally at the private house of one of the girls; occasionally it might be at a local hall or even a barn I had a good deal of prejudice to overcome on the part of the parents, who did not mind their boys taking part in a military movement, but who had never heard of, and were reluctant to accept, the idea of a body of gun-women ...

While preserving their separate identity, the (CnB) branches worked in close conjunction with the local I.R.A. companies, which constantly availed of their services in activities such as, the carrying of arms and ammunition, despatch carrying, intelligence work, getting safe houses for wanted men, looking after the wounded when necessary, seeing to the wants of prisoners, and collecting funds for the Volunteers. For the latter purpose, they organised concerts, céilidhthe, aeridheachta.

[In 1920] the situation for organisers became more dangerous because, in the early months of the year, the Black and Tans began to arrive. They patrolled the country in their Lancia cars, raiding, shooting and looting, and a solitary cyclist like myself, whose work entailed being out late at night, was in continuous danger. ... I was determined to carry on the work of forming and reorganising branches, which was my main objective, although I would have had an easier time in jail if I had allowed myself to be arrested. I was increasing the membership of Cumann na mBan, with the result that, when the Truce came, there were 1,400 branches in operation in the country.

It must have been early in 1920 that the Executive found it necessary to have Cumann na mBan organised into areas corresponding to the I.R.A. battalion areas. Each company of the I.R.A. would then have a branch or squad of Cumann na mBan attached to it ...

The Branches were always busy making field dressings and first-aid outfits. This was generally done in the girls' own homes. They also stored arms and ammunition in safe dumps, and kept the rifles and revolvers cleaned and oiled. If required by the I.R.A., they were utilised to transport arms to and from the [arms]dump before and after engagements, while others of them attended in the vicinity of an ambush, fully equipped with first-aid outfits to treat the wounded, if any, after the ambush. All this entailed a certain amount of danger for the girls, and I know of a few occasions on which they barely escaped with their lives from the scene of an ambush.

- Document S -

**Excerpts from a selection of Bureau of Military History
Witness Statements describing the involvement
of the women of Cumann na mBan in the War of
Independence**

(b)



BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.....303

Josephine MacNeill, member of Cumann na mBan, 1918-21

I joined Cumann na mBan in Thurles at the time of the conscription crisis ... During the Black and Tan period I resided with Máirín McGavock at 51 Lower Beechwood Avenue. We had each a bedroom, but we gave one up to men on the 'run'. Máirín allowed me to share hers. Among those who stayed was Desmond Fitzgerald who came to the house on 'Bloody Sunday' as his flat was near a house where a British officer had been killed. Desmond was working on the propaganda side and had nothing to do with the events of the day ... Ernie O'Malley also came at a later stage after his escape from Dublin Castle. He was in a poor condition of health and required nursing ...

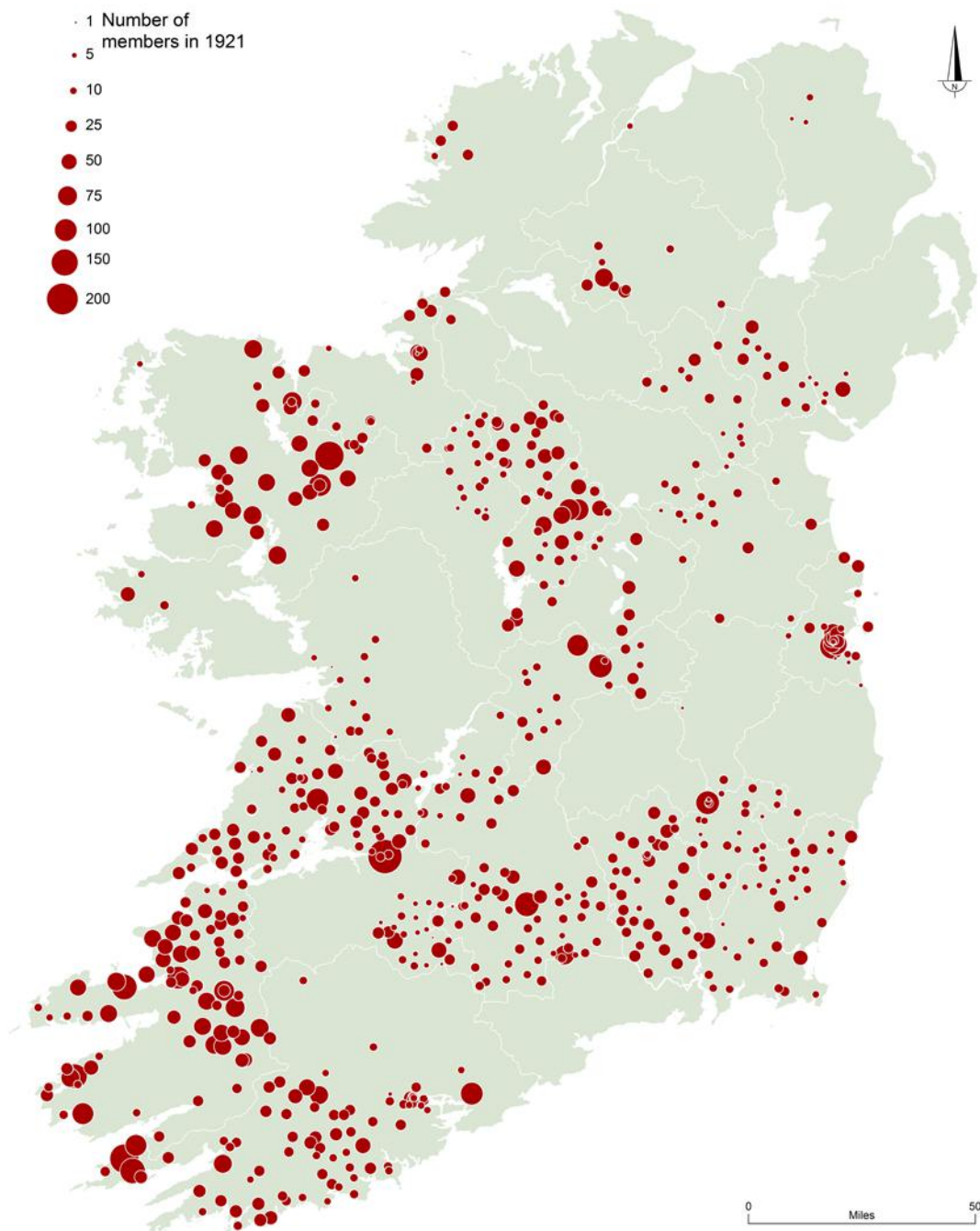
On one occasion when I was given despatches to carry to Dundalk and Belfast, to avert suspicion I dressed myself very grandly and took a first class ticket ... When I arrived at Dundalk, I found that the address I had to go to was in a humble quarter of the town where my smart attire made me conspicuous. However, I met the I.R.A. man and handed over my despatches to him and was hospitably entertained by him and his sister.

- Document T -

Cumann na mBan Branch Membership, 11 July 1921

This data for this map comes from Military Service Pension Collection (MSPC) submissions made in 1936-37. The data is not comprehensive as numerous District Councils apparently did not submit their details (for example, west Limerick, north Cork and Waterford), while some branch lists compiled fifteen years after the conflict likely omitted certain members. However, despite these weaknesses the collected data illuminates the inner workings of the female republican organisation. The

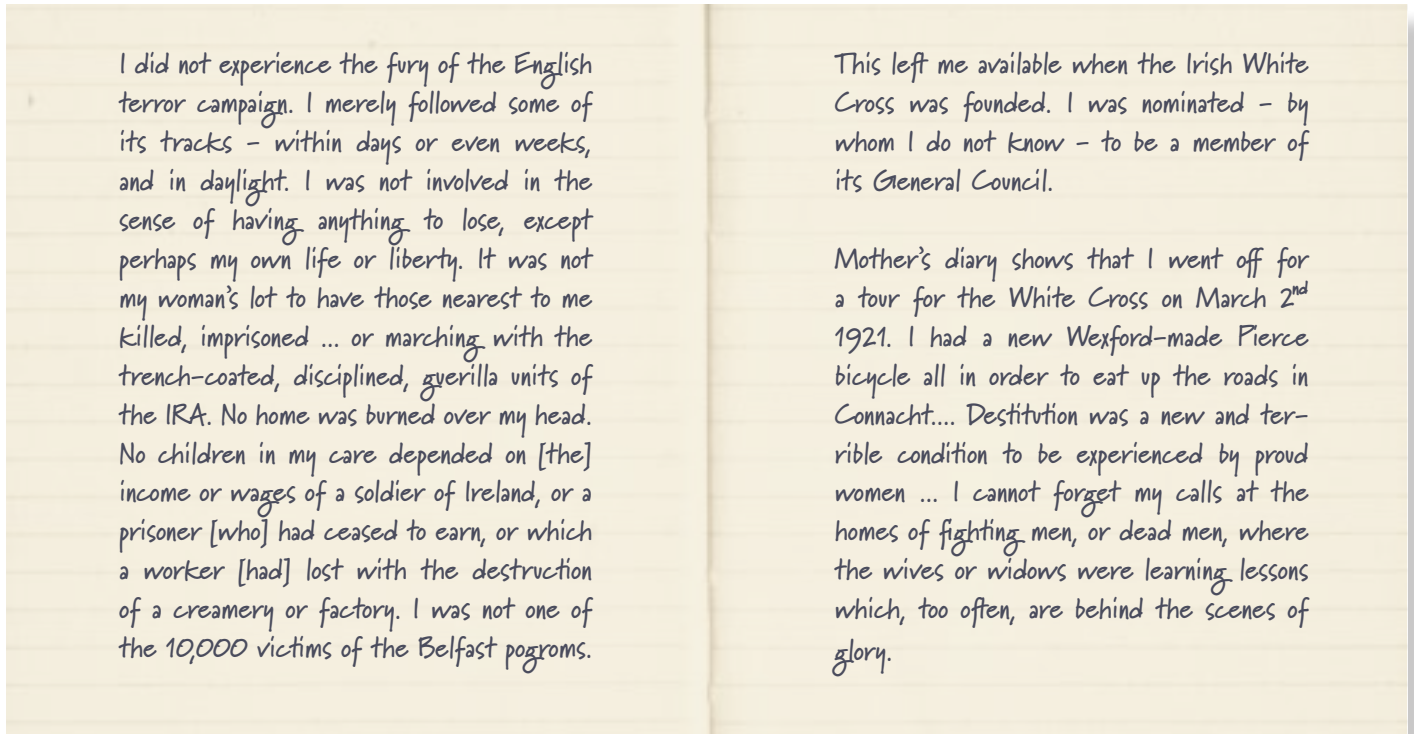
MSPC sources indicate that there were 17,119 members attached to 750 branches across Ireland at the time of the Truce. Economically disadvantaged parts of the west seem to have organised fewer women, which might reflect financial barriers caused by Cumann na mBan's weekly dues and the cost of uniforms. Overall, the map indicates an uneven national organisation that mobilised women in cities, towns, and villages across urban and rural Ireland with varying levels of success.



- Document U -

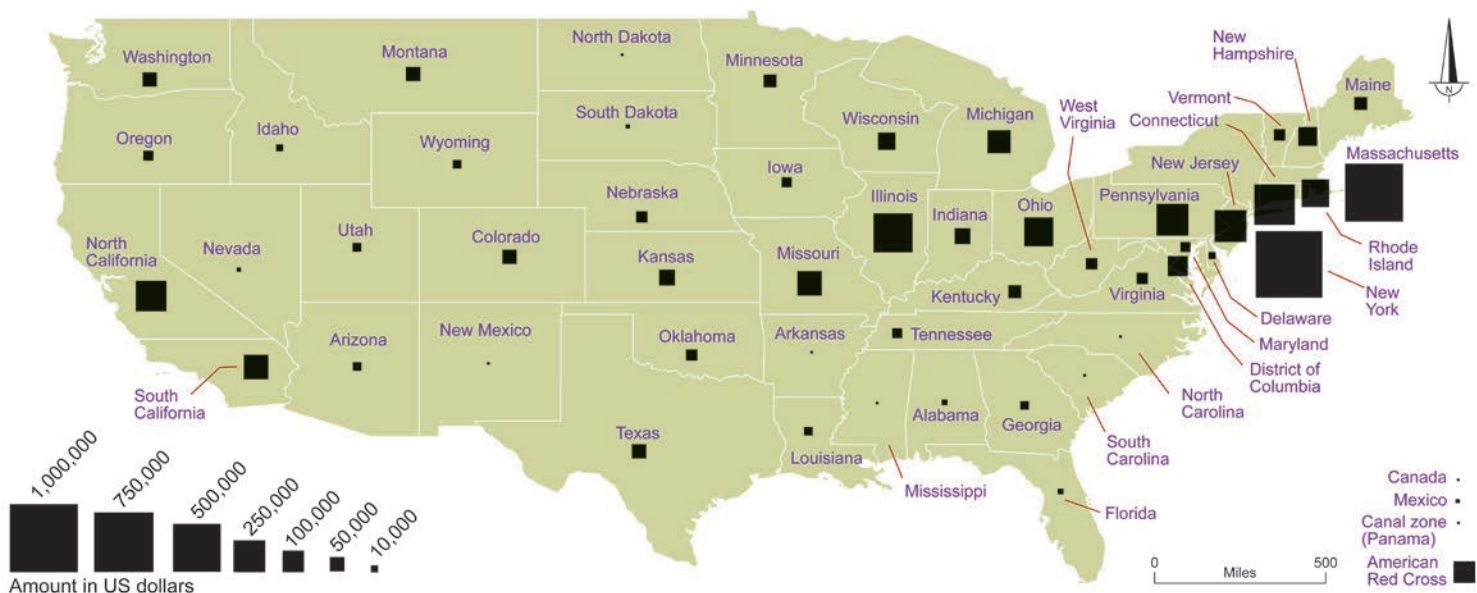
The Irish White Cross was formed to distribute the funds raised by the American Committee for Relief in Ireland. Mainly administered by women, the Irish White Cross supplied critical financial assistance to the families of republican prisoners and to the victims of government reprisals.

- (a) Extract from the unpublished autobiography of Cumann na mBan member Máire Comerford. She was one of the people appointed to identify those in need of assistance from the Irish White Cross



[Source: Maire Comerford, 'Autobiography', (unpublished manuscript), reproduced in Margaret Ward (ed) *In Their Own Voice*, (Attic Press, Cork, 1995) pp 107-108]

- (b) Map showing amounts raised in each US state by the American Committee for Relief in Ireland fundraising drive launched in March 1921. In total \$5,223,496 (c. £1.3m) was raised for distribution by the Irish White Cross



[Source: Reports of American Committee for Relief in Ireland and Irish White Cross (New York, 1922)]



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Documents S-U

1. What prejudice did Brighid O'Mullane have to overcome when recruiting for Cumann na mBan?
(Doc S (a))

2. How did the women of Cumann na mBan provide assistance to the local IRA units? (Doc S (a))

3. Based on the evidence in Brighid O'Mullane's witness statement how would you describe the women of Cumann na mBan during the War of Independence? Give reasons for your answer.

4. What additional information does Josephine MacNeill provide about the tasks undertaken by Cumann na mBan women during the 1919-21? (Doc S (b))

5. What counties in Ireland had the highest mobilisation of women in Cumann na mBan in July 1921?

6. Can you identify any parallels between the information about the IRA and Cumann na mBan in the maps O, R and T ?

7. How did the Irish White Cross provide assistance during the Irish War of Independence? (Doc U)



8. What insights does Máire Comerford's unpublished autobiography provide into the suffering experienced by women during the War of Independence? (*Doc U(a)*)

9. Name one strength and one weakness of an autobiography as a historical source? (*Doc U(a)*)

Strength:

Weakness:

10. Based on the information in the map, what American states donated the most money to the Irish White Cross. (*Doc U(b)*)

11. Can you think of any reason why these states may have contributed the most?

YOUR TASK:

Using your own research and documents S-U as source material, write a letter to the editor of the *Irish Times* expressing an opinion about how the role of women during the Irish War of Independence has been unappreciated.

The letter should include:

- ☐ Factual historical information about the experience of women generally, and of Cumann na mBan in particular during the War of Independence
- ☐ Your opinion about how these women have been remembered
- ☐ Your suggestion for an appropriate tribute to the women of that period

Find inspiration from historian Liz Gillis here:

<http://www.universitytimes.ie/2015/10/at-a-duges-talk-liz-gillis-reflects-on-women-in-irelands-wars/>

And from Documentary *Guns and Chiffon: Women of 1916 and the Irish War of Independence*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTC6kWQDXFc>



REPRISALS

One of the first major reprisals occurred when the Crown forces terrorised the inhabitants of the town of Tuam in Co. Galway. The killing of two RIC constables – Patrick Carey and James Burke – in an ambush at Newtown Darcy, about three miles from Tuam, on 19 July 1920 resulted in a police reprisal in the early hours of the following morning that saw indiscriminate firing and widespread looting and burning of property in Tuam town. In August 1920, Black and Tans burned the Town Hall, Market Hall and the Urban District Offices in Templemore, County Tipperary after the assassination of a District Inspector.

On September 20, Head Constable Peter Burke was shot dead by the IRA in a pub in Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. Two hours later, a party of Auxiliaries arrived from Gormanstown depot. For five hours, they ran riot in the town. One of their first acts of reprisal was to burn down the hosiery factory, the principal employer in the area. Houses were cleared of inhabitants and burned to the ground. The invaders took John Gibbon out of his house into the street, where they shot and bayoneted him. They also seized James Lawless and took him to the local police barracks, where he was killed.

The capture of Mallow Barracks by a small force of the IRA's Cork No. 2 Brigade led by Liam Lynch on the evening of 27 September 1920, sparked a British reprisal that devastated Mallow town. On

the same evening in Trim, County Meath, up to 200 Black and Tans burned homes and business premises owned by suspected republicans as a reprisal for an IRA attack on the town's RIC barracks. The Irish White Cross allocated £277 in relief funds to the town in 1921.

A spate of IRA attacks in Kerry from late October to early November 1920, in which the IRA killed fourteen constables, resulted in the 'Siege of Tralee' - a series of reprisals and burnings of public buildings and business premises. Attacks on property peaked in November–December 1920, when 180 such incidents were recorded, culminating in the burning of Cork city on 11 December 1920. After a rebel grenade attack left one Auxiliary dead and eleven wounded, Auxiliary cadets set fire to part of Cork city centre, damaging or destroying over eighty commercial premises, as well as City Hall and the Carnegie Library.

Reprisals finally became official policy at the end of December 1920 when the British army's military governors began imposing them on districts that were under martial law. The first official reprisal occurred at Midleton, east Cork on 29 December 1920, when six houses were destroyed following an IRA ambush. In the first two months of 'official reprisals' in 1921 Dáil Éireann Publicity Department recorded seventy-nine attacks on property.

AN T-ÓGLÁC

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

[Vol. II No. 21]

OCTOBER 15, 1920

[PRICE: Two pence]

Preparations should be made to deal with the form of
activity known as 'reprisals' ... It is the duty of every
at the present juncture to leave no stone
effective blows

[The enemy's] present attempt at "terrorism" is a last d
perate gamble; he is playing his last card; and he will
beaten by the cool determination and efficiency of the A
of the Irish Republic... As we go to Press the news c
that the enemy have murdered in cold blood in Moun
prisoner taken in action - Kevin
He met his



BALLYTRAIN RIC BARRACKS IN COUNTY MONAGHAN, WHICH WAS CAPTURED AND SACKED BY THE IRA UNDER THE COMMAND OF ERNIE O'MALLEY AND EOIN O'DUFFY ON 14 FEBRUARY 1920

[See BMH WS 519 (Thomas Donnelly); Photo: National Library of Ireland, HOGW 53]



BRITISH TROOPS WRECKED BUSINESSES SUCH AS THIS PUBLIC HOUSE IN TEMPLEMORE, COUNTY TIPPERARY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF DISTRICT INSPECTOR WILLIAM WILSON, ON 16 AUGUST 1920

[Photo: National Library of Ireland, HOGW 113]

Photograph Analysis Worksheet

1. THE BASICS

Photograph Type: tick any boxes that apply

	Doc 1	Doc 2
Portrait	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Doc 1	Doc 2
Posed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unposed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selfie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Action	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aerial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Doc 1	Doc 2
Colour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black & White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Close-up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Panoramic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Document 1

Document 2

Where and when was the photograph taken?		
List the people/ groups, objects in the photograph		
What actions / activities (if any) are taking place		
What body language/ facial expressions, are captured on film?		
Three words that sum up your first impression		

3. ANALYSE

Document 1

Document 2

Why do you think this photograph was taken?		
What does the angle/ frame/ perspective of suggest about the photographer's point of view about the subject.		
What 3 adjectives best describe the viewpoint of the photographer?		
Do you have any unanswered questions about the photograph?		

LIST OF IRISH CITIZENS CALLED BEFORE THE COMMISSION AS WITNESSES

DENIS MORGAN, Chairman of the Urban Council of Thurles

JOHN DERHAM, Town Councillor of Balbriggan.

MRS MURIEL MACSWINEY, sister of the late Lord Mayor of Cork.

DANIEL FRANCIS CROWLEY, member of the RIC for three years up to June, 1920.

JOHN TAGNEY, member of the R.I.C. from October 1915, to July 1920.

MRS ANNA MURPHY, of New York City (husband an Irish citizen)

JOHN JOSPEH CADDAN, member of the R.I.C., February to November, 1920

DANIEL GALVIN, member of R.I.C, October 1907, to July, 1920.

LAURENCE GINNELL, member of Dail Eireann, and member of the Irish Republican Cabinet.

MISS SUSANNA WALSH, sister-in-law of Thomas MacCurtain, late Lord Mayor of Cork.

DONAL O'CALLAGHAN, Lord Mayor of Cork and Chairman of Cork County Council.

THOMAS NOLAN, Galway.

FRANK DEMPSEY, Chairman of the Urban Council of Mallow.

MISS LOUIE BENNETT, Dublin, Secretary of the Irish Branch, Women's International League.

MISS CAROLINE M. TOWNSHEND, Bandon, County Cork, officer of the Gaelic League.

J.L. FAWSITT, Irish Republican Consul General at New York

- Document V -

Extracts from the American Commission on Conditions in Ireland, Interim Report, March 1921

In response to a call from New York newspaper, the *Nation* a committee of influential public figures from across the US set up a commission to conduct an inquiry into conditions in Ireland. Witnesses from Ireland and America testified at six public hearings in Washington between 18 November 1920 and 21 January 1921.

WHAT IS A 'REPRISAL'?

The evidence would seem to show that the term 'reprisal' may be used to cover any case in which wholesale damage is inflicted upon property or life in Ireland. Reprisals consist sometimes in promiscuous killing of unarmed men, woman and children, as in the case of the football crowd at Croke Park; but, usually, in the burning, looting, and 'shooting up' of Irish towns such as Thurles, Balbriggan, Galway, Mallow, Templemore, Cork, Tuam, Hospital, Limerick, Granard, Tuberburry, Athenry, Tipperary, Ballylorby, and scores more ...

INDISCRIMINATE SHOOTING

Besides the slaying of selected Republican citizens, and the destruction of Republican cities, towns and villages, indiscriminate violence also occurred. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, of Manchester England was an eye-witness to a shooting expedition to which she testified as follows:

"Curfew was at ten o'clock. We went to our room. According to law no one is supposed to have a light or look out of the window. But we turned our lights out and wrapped ourselves up and went to the window. First of all there came the soldiers in extended formation, each wearing tin helmets - the shrapnel helmets - and carrying guns with fixed bayonets. And then came three armoured cars packed with soldiers ... They went on by and when they came back they fired into the houses at a certain level. We saw the bullet marks next morning.

HOUSE RAIDS

The testimony of Mrs Muriel MacSwiney, the Misses Walsh, Miss Craven, and others allowed us to realise the extent to which the sanctity of the Irish home is violated. A total of 48,474 raids by armed British on Irish homes in 1920, compiled from official Irish Republican sources, was presented to us. These raids would seem to take place usually in the night; and their avowed purpose seemed to be in part to find secreted arms and "wanted" men.

"ON THE RUN"

The men sought by the raiders were said to be "on the run", some from arrest; others, as has been shown, from assassination by the Imperial British forces. Lord Mayor MacSwiney, "on the run", saw his family rarely and by stealth. Lord Mayor O'Callaghan testified that he had not been able

to enter his own home for two years. It would appear from testimony already cited that the family of a father or husband, son or brother "on the run", shared his peril even in his absence.

SHELTER IN DITCHES

And in some places, those who were not "on the run", and the infirm and aged, the women and the children, would appear to feel safer in the fields than in their homes. Mr Derham testified that for a week after the sack of Balbriggan the townspeople "spent the night in the country ... in the farmers' stables or barns or haylofts or anything they could get, or in the ditches. Two-thirds of the people left the town during the week".

And of a night in Mallow, Mr Frank Dempsey testified: "There is a graveyard immediately behind the Roman Catholic Church and behind the Protestant Church, and quite a number of woman and children spent the night sitting on gravestones - on the tombstones."

CITY STREETS

The terror that runs on the country roads would seem to abide in the city streets. Laurence Ginnell, for many years a member for Dublin of the British Parliament, gave us this picture of the occupied city of Dublin in March 1920.

"The streets were filled with fully armed soldiers marching about with fixed bayonets and bombs hanging from their belts. Often tanks, even in the daytime, rolled along. Aeroplanes hovered over the city of Dublin incessantly. There were soldiers at the railroad stations and at most of the bridges leading into the city. The people lived in a state of military seige."

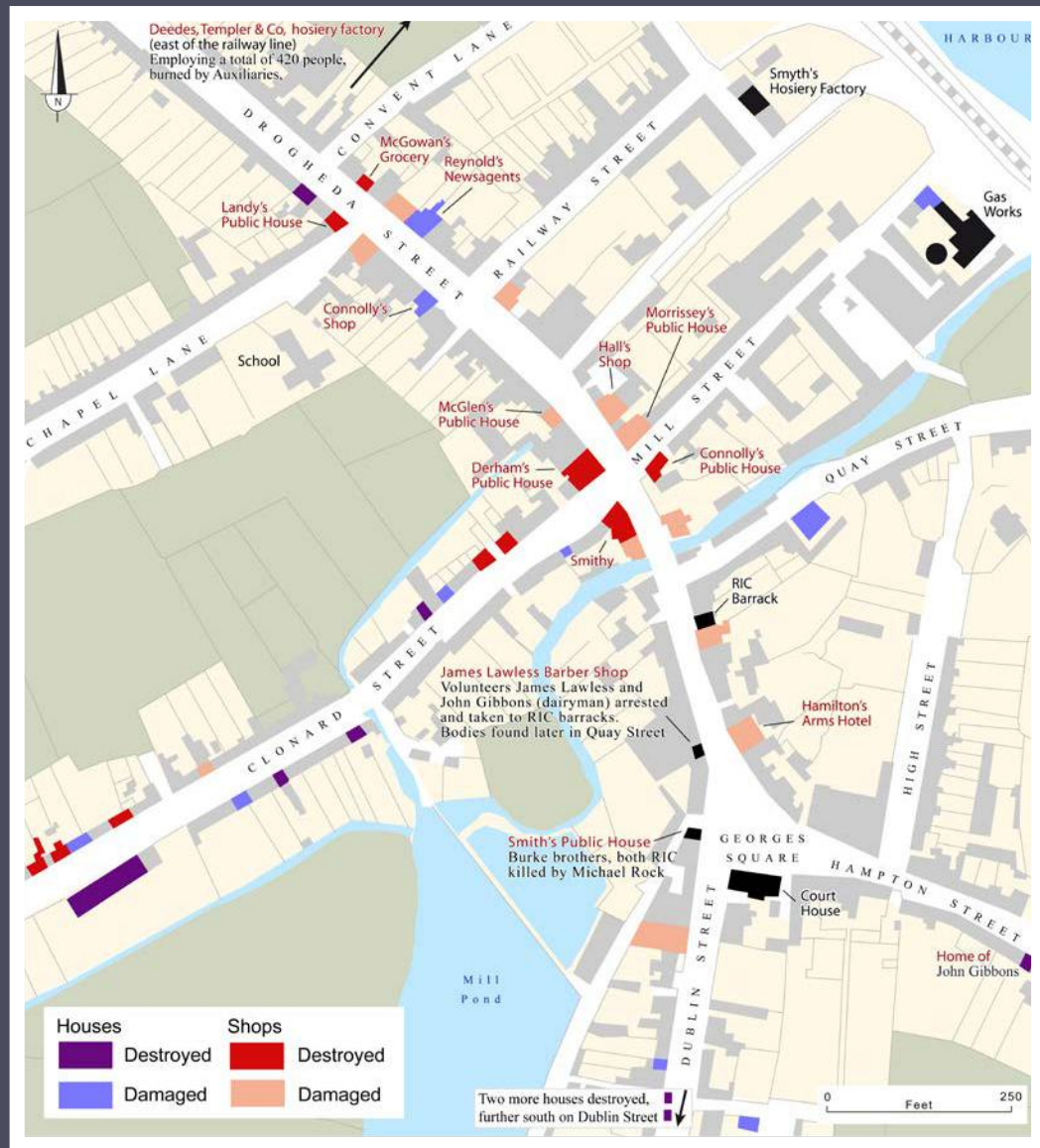
The Irish who live in this terror would seem also called upon to endure restrictions on their movements. It was stated in evidence that 7,287 Republicans had been arrested by the Imperial British forces in Ireland during 1920; and that the populace still at large were, by proclamation, forbidden to enter or leave certain areas, to possess motor cars, to travel twenty miles by motor, or to be on the streets after a given hour, without military permission. This curfew hour would seem to fall as early as five o'clock in the afternoon, at the whim of some Imperial British officer. Violation of these ordinances [rules] may end fatally ...

- Document W-

Properties affected by the sack of Balbriggan in County Dublin by Crown forces on 20–21 September 1920

Like most of the large-scale reprisals in this period, the provocation was the killing of a policeman in the town. Black and Tans and Auxiliaries from the nearby Gormanstown training camp carried out the sacking. Fifty buildings were destroyed or damaged, twenty-six of which were private houses. Two local republicans were also bayoneted to death.

Photographs and reports of the destruction featured in many international newspapers and, along with the burning of Cork on 11 December 1920, Balbriggan became the best known of the Crown forces' reprisal actions. The town suffered acute unemployment as a result of the destruction, especially of the Deedes, Templar & Co. hosiery factory, which employed over 400 directly and indirectly. The Irish White Cross allocated £4,000 to help employment in Balbriggan in 1921.



Members of an American Committee for Relief
in Ireland delegation being shown around
Balbriggan, Co. Dublin in February 1921

The 'Sack of Balbriggan' in September 1920 focused world attention on the campaign of reprisals in Ireland



(a) AMERICA AND REPRISALS

GRAPHIC EVIDENCE IN WASHINGTON

Mr. Derham, Balbriggan, gave a graphic account of the sack of Balbriggan before the Irish Atrocities Commission in Washington yesterday ... Mr Derham described how Crown Forces avenged alleged acts committed against the troops by the people of Irish towns. He described the burning of the hosiery factory, Balbriggan, and the looting and burning of private houses. Mr. Durham's recital of the killing of James Lawless and John Gibbons, two of his fellow-townsmen, was one of the most dramatic stories yet heard by the committee. They were bayoneted to death, Mr. Derham said, although they did not know who had killed an officer in a saloon where Crown forces were celebrating his promotion...

His (Mr Derham's) bar room was raided and burned, his family were taken from the hotel and he was brought to the barracks. He and his eldest son were badly beaten. Throughout the night, Crown forces were shooting, yelling and burning houses.

In advance of being stationed in Drogheda at the end of September 1920, the Black and Tans let the citizens know what to expect in this proclamation. ➔

"DAY BY DAY THE TIDINGS FROM IRELAND GROW WORSE. THE ACCOUNTS OF ARSON AND DESTRUCTION BY THE MILITARY ... MUST FILL ENGLISH READERS WITH A SENSE OF SHAME ... THE NAME OF ENGLAND IS BEING SULLIED THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BY THIS SAVAGERY"

- Editorial, the Times, 28 Sept 1920 -

Irish Rebel Song

(b) *The Bold Black and Tan*

Says Lloyd-George to Macpherson, "I give you the sack,
To uphold law and order you haven't the knack,
I'll send over Greenwood, a much stronger man,
And fill up the Green Isle with the bold Black and Tan."

He sent them all over to pillage and loot
And burn down the houses, the inmates to shoot.
"To re-conquer Ireland, he said, is my plan
With Macready and Co. and his bold Black and Tan."

The town of Balbriggan they've burned to the ground
While bullets like hailstones were whizzing around;
And women left homeless by this evil clan.
They've waged war on the children, the bold Black and Tan.

From Dublin to Cork and from Thurles to Mayo
Lies a trail of destruction wherever they go;
With England to help and fierce passions to fan,
She must feel bloody proud of her bold Black and Tan ...

We defeated Conscription in spite of their threats,
And we're going to defeat old Lloyd-George and his pets;
For Ireland and Freedom we're here to a man,
And we'll humble the pride of the bold Black and Tan.

[Source: *Irish songs of resistance* (1169-1923), Oak Publications, 1962, p. 63]

(c) DROGHEDA BEWARE

If in the vicinity a policeman is shot, five of the leading Sinn Feiners will be shot.
It is not coercion - it is an eye for an eye.
We are not drink-maddened savages as we have been described in the Dublin rags. We are not out for loot.

We are inoffensive to women. We are as humane as other Christians, but we have restrained ourselves too long.

Are we to lie down while our comrades are being shot down in cold blood by the corner boys and ragamuffins of Ireland?

We say 'Never', and all the inquiries will not stop our desire for revenge.

Stop the shooting of the police or we will lay low every house that smells of Sinn Fein.

REMEMBER BALBRIGGAN

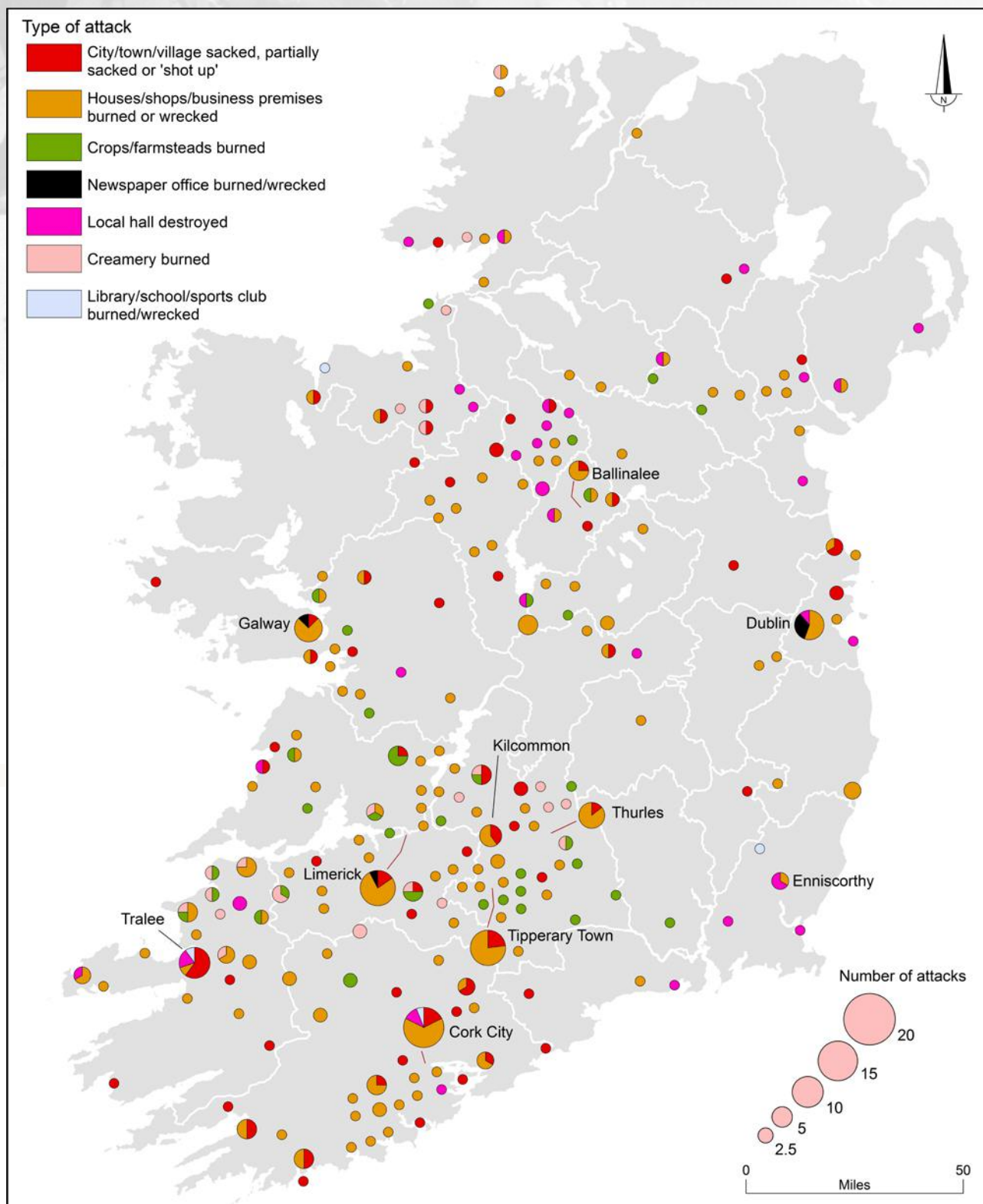
(By Order)

BLACK AND TANS

Attacks on property by the Crown forces, September 1919–February 1921, as compiled and listed by the Dáil Éireann Publicity Department

Over 90 per cent of attacks on property occurred after July 1920. This coincided with the full deployment of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries but the regular Royal Irish Constabulary, and occasionally the British army, also played a role in reprisal attacks. Munster was the worst hit, accounting for 60 per cent of all attacks on property. Cork had the highest number (70) followed

by Tipperary (62), Kerry (49), Limerick (36) and Clare (25). Outside of Munster, the highest rates occurred in Galway (25), followed by Dublin (16), Leitrim (16), Sligo (15), Longford (14) and Westmeath (12). Only one attack is recorded for each of the counties of Derry, Kilkenny, Meath, Laois and Wicklow, while Antrim alone has no incident listed.





COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Documents V-Y

1. How did the American Commission on Conditions in Ireland define the word '*reprisal*'? (*Doc V*)

2. According to the American Commissions Interim Report, why were raids carried out on Irish homes?

3. Based on *Document V*, give three ways in which the War of Independence affected civilians.

4. What were the names of the two men killed during the Sack of Balbriggan? (*Doc W(a)*)

5. What two streets in Balbriggan suffered the most the damage to property during the September 1920 reprisal? (*Doc W(a)*)

6. Based on the information in the map, so you think that Deedes, Templar & Co. hosiery factory was deliberately targeted during the reprisal attack? Explain with reference to the map and caption. (*Doc W(a)*)

7. In what ways is a map such as *Document W(a)* more valuable to a historian than a photograph such as *Document W(b)*



8. Based on camera angle, framing and the content of the photograph, can you suggest whether the photographer was sympathetic to the Republicans or the British government? (*Doc W(b)*)

9. In your own words outline the main message(s) of the Black and Tan Proclamation. (*Doc X(c)*)

10. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of ballads such as *Document X (b)* as a historical source?

Strengths -----

Weaknesses: -----

11. Based on your study of the maps in this student worksheet, can you suggest why 60 percent of all attacks on property between September 1919–February 1921, occurred in Munster? (*Doc Y*)

12. Can you suggest why (a) creameries and (b) newspaper offices were targets for reprisals? (*Doc Y*)

13. Using the information in the map, identify the *number* of attacks **and** the *type* of attacks on property in your own county between September 1919 and February 1921?

MUNITIONS STRIKE

The munitions strike which began in Dublin Port in May 1920, was the most significant example of non-violent resistance during the War of Independence. Dock workers and railwaymen refused to handle or to operate trains carrying munitions of war or armed troops and police. The strike seriously disrupted the movements of supplies and troops forcing them onto Ireland's roads where they were more vulnerable to attack. The railway companies, under war-time government control since December 1916, dismissed workers and closed some Irish railway lines. When the British government threatened to close the entire railway system, a special conference organised by the ITGWU in November 1920 called off the strike.

TERENCE MACSWINEY AND KEVIN BARRY

The war moved into a more ferocious stage in late 1920 with the execution of eighteen-year-old medical student, Kevin Barry and the death of Terence MacSwiney in Brixton Prison, London on 25 October 1920 after 74 days on hunger strike.

On 20 September 1920 young IRA member, Kevin Barry was captured with a pistol in his hand after an attack on a military party drawing provisions from a bakery in Church Street, Dublin. Three soldiers were killed and on 1 November, Barry became the first Volunteer to be executed under the provisions of the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act.

Sinn Féin actively publicised the execution to gain sympathy for the republican cause.

Playwright, IRA commander and member of the first Dáil, Terence MacSwiney succeeded Tomás Mac Curtain as republican lord mayor of Cork in March 1920. Imprisoned in August on charges of sedition, MacSwiney embarked on a hunger strike which lasted for seventy-four days. Newspapers all over the world carried information on his deteriorating health sparking riots on the streets of Barcelona and a dockworkers strike in New York. Attempts by the British authorities to suppress MacSwiney's funeral in Ireland only drew further attention to one of the watershed events of the War of Independence.

THE DÁIL PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

In the context of harsh press censorship under the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA), the Irish Bulletin, produced by the Dáil's Publicity Department under Desmond Fitzgerald, was the most important organ of republican publicity during the War of Independence. The daily news sheet, first published on 11 November 1919, highlighted the 'acts of aggression' by the police and military in Ireland, and defended IRA attacks on the Crown forces as a war against 'illegal forces of occupation'.

By 1921, foreign language editions of the Bulletin were being produced to cater for its popularity in Europe where it had gained a reputation as a trusted source. The news-sheet had decisive effect on British and international public opinion in relation to the Irish conflict. Dublin Castle's Weekly Summary launched in May 1920, responded by attacking the IRA as a 'murder gang' and always insisting that the rebels were on the verge of defeat.



L-R: KEVIN BARRY
AND TERENCE
MACSWINEY

Edited extract from an account written by Kathleen MacKenna about her role as a member of the *Irish Bulletin* production staff between November 1919 and July 1921. It was published in *Capuchin Annual* in 1970.

THE IRISH BULLETIN

BY KATHLEEN MACKENNA

My task was to type, and make mimeographed [printed] copies of the proposed news-sheet, and be responsible, under all circumstances, for its distribution ... My colleague was Anna Fitzsimons (Fitzie) whose task was to get from the daily press items of news suitable for publication, as well as for use in compiling the weekly summary of British atrocities in Ireland ...

I put a stencil into my typewriter, typed the words 'The Irish Bulletin Vol. 1 No 1. 11 November 1919'. Three men stood near me: three pairs of critical eyes were fixed upon my fingers as they danced unerringly over the keyboard ... The Irish Bulletin had been born. Griffith said I was its godmother. During the twenty terror-filled, hunted months in which, on a point of honour, its publication never once failed, I guarded my godchild with jealous affection ...

With the reinforcement of the British military in March 1920 by 12,000 'Black and Tans' and 1,000 Auxiliary police, a veritable reign of terror began. Day by day our secretly-circulated paper made known such alarming information concerning the uncontrolled activities of these agents of the British Crown that the hunt to locate our den became even more intense - and every more intense, too, grew our precautions to shield it, and our anxiety for its fate.

Early in the new year, Mrs Larry Nugent agreed to give the Propaganda Department of Dáil Éireann a flat on the upper floor of her home in Upper Mount Street ... Towards the end of the summer, the locality in which our 'hide out' was situated had become one in which notorious spies were living and working. Nugent's was a house in which hunted volunteers, actively engaged in the guerrilla warfare, found refuge. Armoured



[Photo: Private Collection/McKenna family]

cars and Crossley tenders prowled around the zone during curfew, and we were warned that on a few occasions, suspicious looking individuals were observed loitering around Nugent's. One night Fitzie, who had considered it was unsafe to spend the night in her Hume Street digs, spent the night in the front room of our department, only to be alarmed by the rays of search-lights focused pryingly on the windows. I was advised to 'hop' with the *Bulletin*, while 'the hopping' was good'. And it was well I did so, for shortly after we evacuated Nugent's it was subject to a terrifying raid...

The winter we spent in Molesworth Street was an exceptionally wet and cold one. Owing to the need for secrecy we could not request the caretaker, whom we did not yet trust, to clean the flat and light fires. Often the duplicating ink froze in the tubes and ... Fitzie and I resorted to putting blotting paper beneath our stockings to dry them and keep us warmer.

The sentiments of the members of our little Bulletin staff were rather mixed on the day of 'the truce broke!' On the whole, we did not appreciate it, for we realised that it meant the termination of a period of staunch comradeship, that was unique, precious and dear ... With a tear and a sigh I whispered 'Béannacht De leath a leinbh' to my twenty month old godchild.

VOLUME 2. No. 5

Irish Bulletin,
7th May 1920.

WILFUL MURDER.

Guilty Soldiers and Police Named by Coroner's Jury.

After an exhaustive inquiry into the circumstances of the death of the three men shot down without provocation in the streets of Miltown Malby, County Clare, the Coroners Jury have returned the following verdict:-

"WE FIND THAT JOHN O'LOUGHLIN, PATRICK HENNESSY, AND THOMAS O'LEARY DIED AS A RESULT OF SHOCK AND HEMORRHAGE, CAUSED BY BULLET WOUNDS, ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 14th, INFLICTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PATROL, CONSISTING OF SERGT. J. HAMPSON, CONSTABLES T. O'CONNOR AND T. KEENAN R.I.C. (ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY) AND LANCE-CORPORAL K. M'LEOD AND PRIVATES W. KILGONE, J. M'EVAN, P. M'LOUGHLIN, R. BUNTING, AND R. ADAMS, ALL OF THE HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY.

"WE FIND THAT EACH OF THE ABOVE-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE PATROL WAS GUILTY OF WILFUL MURDER, WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION, AND WE ALSO CONDEMN ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PATROL FOR THEIR ACTION IN TRYING TO SHIELD BY THEIR EVIDENCE THOSE WHO COMMITTED THE MURDERS."

This is the 24th verdict of murder and unjustifiable homicide returned by coroners juries in Ireland against the English Military and Police.

Irish Bulletin, 7th October 1920.

EIGHTEEN INNOCENT MEN MURDERED IN TWENTY-ONE DAYS

By organised murder, the English Military government in Ireland is endeavouring to break the National Movement for Independence. It is well to follow step by step this organisation of murder.

After twenty-seven Irish men and women had been done to death by English Agents during the 36 months of 1917-18-19, and the first three months of 1920, in March 1920 a murder gang was created within the English Police Force in Ireland. Its first victim was Alderman Thomas MacCurtain, Lord Mayor of Cork...

Progress was slow. The police feared public exposure before a Coroner's Court. On June 19th, and on the following days, an effort was made by their Chief Officials to reassure those timorous [fearful] police. One of the Divisional Commissioners of the Royal Irish Constabulary informed the men stationed at various barracks in Munster, that they might kill without fear. At Listowel, Co Kerry on June 19th he said:

'You may make mistakes occasionally and innocent persons may be shot, but that cannot be helped; and you are bound to get the right parties sometime. The more you shoot, the better I will like you, and I assure you, men, no policeman will get into trouble for shooting any man'.

... Similar statements are known to have been made to the police by other police officials in other parts of Ireland. These promises had a marked effect. The murders jumped from one in the month of May and three in the month of June to FIFTEEN in the month of July ... SIXTY-TWO Irishmen and women - none of whom was killed in armed conflict with English military or police - have been murdered in the nine months of 1920. The murders with one single exception, are still in active service of English Military Government in Ireland.

VOLUME 4. No. 1

Irish Bulletin,
3th January 1921.

TWELVE MONTHS OF MURDER

The following is a complete list of the men, women and children murdered in Ireland by English military and constabulary in the twelve months of 1920. The total number murdered is TWO HUNDRED AND THREE

Of these

One hundred and seventy-two were young men and men of middle age;
Twelve were children under seventeen years;
Six were women, two of them being pregnant at the time of their murder;

Ten were old men of sixty years and over;
Three were boys of 18 years;

One of the old men was a Catholic Priest of 73 years of age;
Of the total murdered

Ninety-eight were killed in indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by military and constabulary

Sixty-nine were deliberately assassinated in their beds or on the street;
Thirty-Six were assassinated in prison or while in custody.

None of these casualties occurred in any kind of armed conflict. The official reports issued by the English Military Authorities in many instances stated that the men murdered had opened fire upon them before they were killed. On none of the [above] cases has that statement been found on examination to be accurate except in the case of the murder of five civilians at a Christmas night dance at Bruff, Co. Limerick. There, shots were fired by some men outside the dance hall at the constabulary party which surrounded it. Constable Hogsden was killed. As a reprisal, five of the men who were inside the dance hall at the time of the firing were shot dead. Seventeen others were wounded. The five dead are mentioned as murdered in this list.

[Source: National Library of Ireland, P 2044]

VOLUME 2. No. 5

Irish Bulletin,
7th May 1920.

THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE NEW POLICY OF CONCILIATION

During the month of April the acts of aggression committed in Ireland by the armed forces of the British Government included the following:-

3836 raids upon private houses by military and police, usually carried out after midnight and frequently accompanied by unprovoked insult and acts of sabotage and loot.

580 arrests on political charges or on no charge.
197 deportations without trial of prominent Irishmen.
26 armed attacks upon peaceful gatherings of civilians, and
5 murders by soldiers and police.

Edited extracts from the *Saturday Herald's* front-page coverage of the return of Terence MacSwiney's remains to his native city of Cork on Saturday 29 October 1920

SATURDAY HERALD

[No. 259 Vol. 29

DUBLIN, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30st, 1920

[THREE HALF PENCE]

CITY OF SILENCE: TO-DAY'S MOURNING SCENES IN CORK

AMONG HIS OWN

Lying-in-State of Lord Mayor's Body

MOVING SCENES IN CORK

Irish Volunteers Remove Remains from Military Custody

THE hallowed remains of Lord Mayor Terence MacSwiney lie in State to-day in the City Hall in Cork, surrounded by a guard of honour of Irish Volunteers. Solemn scenes are being enacted in the southern capital and a wave of terrible emotion and tensiety is sweeping over the Rebel City.

The body arrived in Cork at 4 o'clock yesterday and remained in military custody until 9.30 p.m., when a company of about 100 Volunteers marched to the scene and presented a letter to the military officer in charge who, having read the contents, ordered the withdrawal of the military guard.

Six of the Volunteers shouldered the coffin and bore it to the City Hall, whilst the remainder carried the wreaths which had been brought from London. The funeral takes place to-morrow.

FEELING OF TENSION

The Press Association says:

The people of Cork are viewing the lying-in-state of the Lord Mayor in their thousands, and business will be suspended this afternoon. Good order prevails, but there is no doubt of the feeling of tension. It is, however, abundantly clear that the military authorities and the Republican leaders are exercising, all restraint, and the funeral to-morrow is expected to proceed quietly.



ITEMS OF THE HOMECOMING

THE 'Rathmore' with the coffin containing the body of the Lord Mayor, entered Cove Harbour at 2 o'clock yesterday, but the local civil representatives refusing to accept the remains as a protest against the authorities, they were conveyed to Cork on a Government tug, the deck of which was lined with armed forces, wearing black coats and khaki tam-shanters.

When the 'Rathmore' arrived the coffin was lying in the hatchway at the forward part of it, covered by a tarpaulin.

The scenes in Cork were of the most extraordinary and impressive character, terrible emotion and tensiety prevailing.

The tugboat came into sight through the mists enshrouding the river as the clock on City Hall, whose chimes marked many toilsome hours spent by the late Lord Mayor, tolled four, the quayside being then crowded with people.

A very large crowd met the special train from Dublin, and passages were kept [clear] by the Volunteers, through which the relatives and members of delegations passed.

The special train from Dublin brought over 200 sympathisers and, along the route there were many manifestations of public sympathy. Men working in the fields uncovered their heads as the train passed.

There were crowds at the platforms at Maryboro, Portarlinton, Thurles, Mallow, and other stations, whilst at Gould's Cross a company of Volunteers stood to attention, their officer saluting.

In addition to 200 wreaths, which arrived with the remains, 75 came by train and there were at least 25 from Irish Societies in America.

Close on 5,000 Leeds people attended the Requiem Mass in Leeds yesterday for the late Lord Mayor of Cork. The service in the Cathedral was most impressive, and about 100 priests took part. The Labour Lord Mayor and many Trade Unions and other labour organisations were represented. At the Church of the Oblate Fathers, Mount St. Mary's, Leeds, the Mass was sung by the O'Mara Opera Company.

Cordons of troops were drawn across the entrance to the quay and the Custom House gates leading to the dock where the tug boat berthed were closed. About 1:30, six military lorries filled with armed troops, and two armored cars, arrived on the scene. The soldiers took up positions about the boat, while the armoured cars drew up at the approaches to the dock.

Mrs Wyse Power, Mrs D Mulcahy, Miss Madge Daly, and K Breen will represent the Executive of Cumann na mBan at the funeral.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Documents Z-A2

1. What was Kathleen MacKenna's role in the *Irish Bulletin*? (Doc Z)

2. What type of information was printed in the *Irish Bulletin*? (Doc Z)

3. Based on Kathleen MacKenna's account, how would you describe the atmosphere in Nugents in the early months of 1921? Explain your answer with reference to *Document Z*

4. Would you consider the work done by Kathleen MacKenna was valuable to the Republicans during the War of Independence? Explain your answer with reference to *Document Z*

5. Based on your reading of the collection of sources in *Document A1*, how would you describe the language used by the writers of the *Irish Bulletin*? (A1)

6. How is the style of writing different in the *Evening Herald* article? (A2)

7. What evidence does the *Evening Herald* article provide about (a) the significance of Terence MacSwiney's death in 1920, and (b) the tension in the city.

Irish Bulletin,
25th Dec 1920