

State Ceremonial event marking
the deaths of British Soldiers in
the Easter Rising

Searmanas Stáit i gcuimhne
Shaighdiúirí na Breataine a fuair
bás in Éirí Amach na Cásca

26.05.16

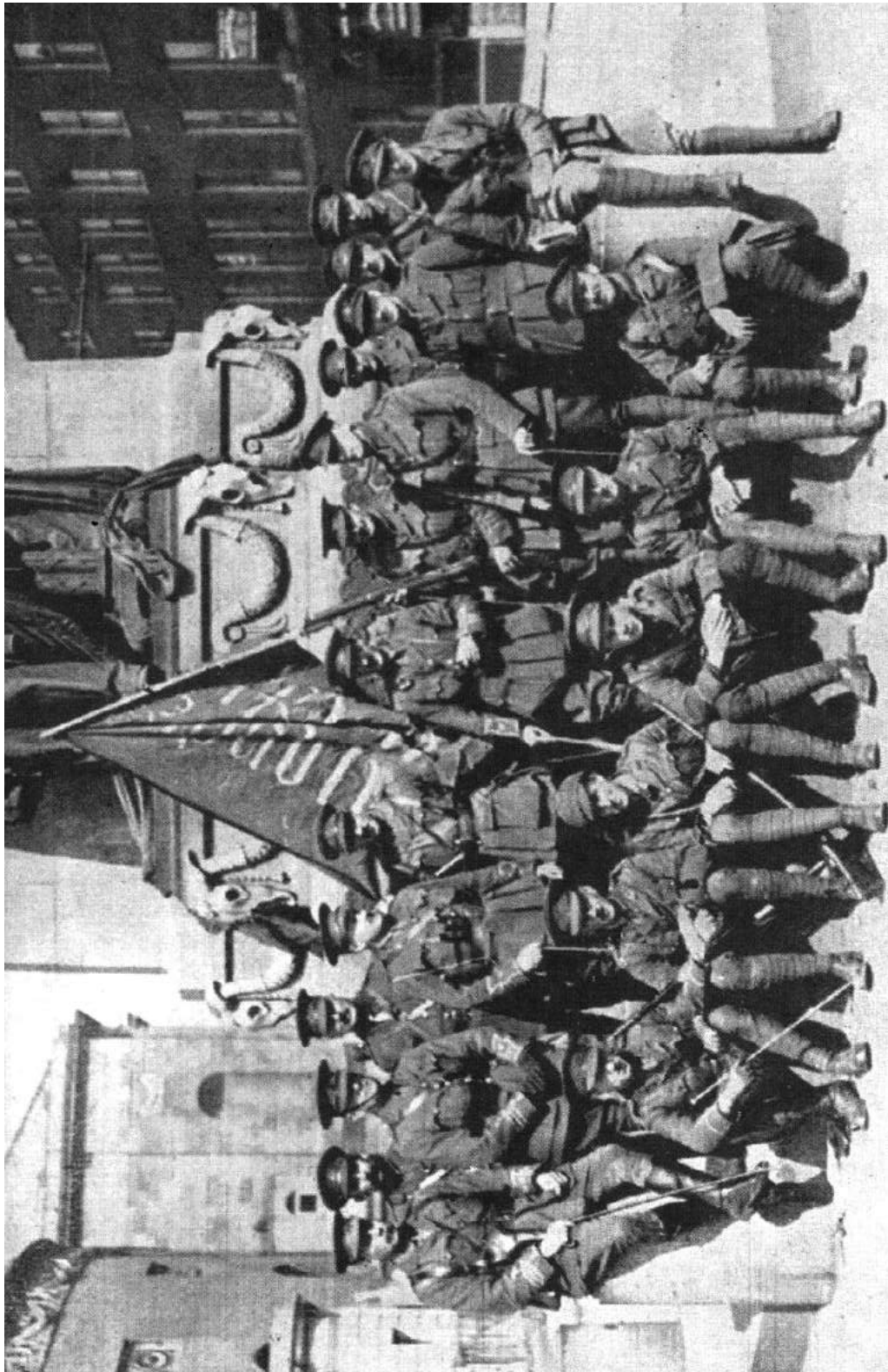


An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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2016



BRITISH SOLDIERS POSE WITH FLAG CAPTURED FROM THE GPO.

Image courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland

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Searmanas Stáit i gcuimhne
Shaighdiúirí na Breataine a fuair
bás in Éirí Amach na Cásca

26 May 2016
Grangegorman Military Cemetery,
Dublin 7

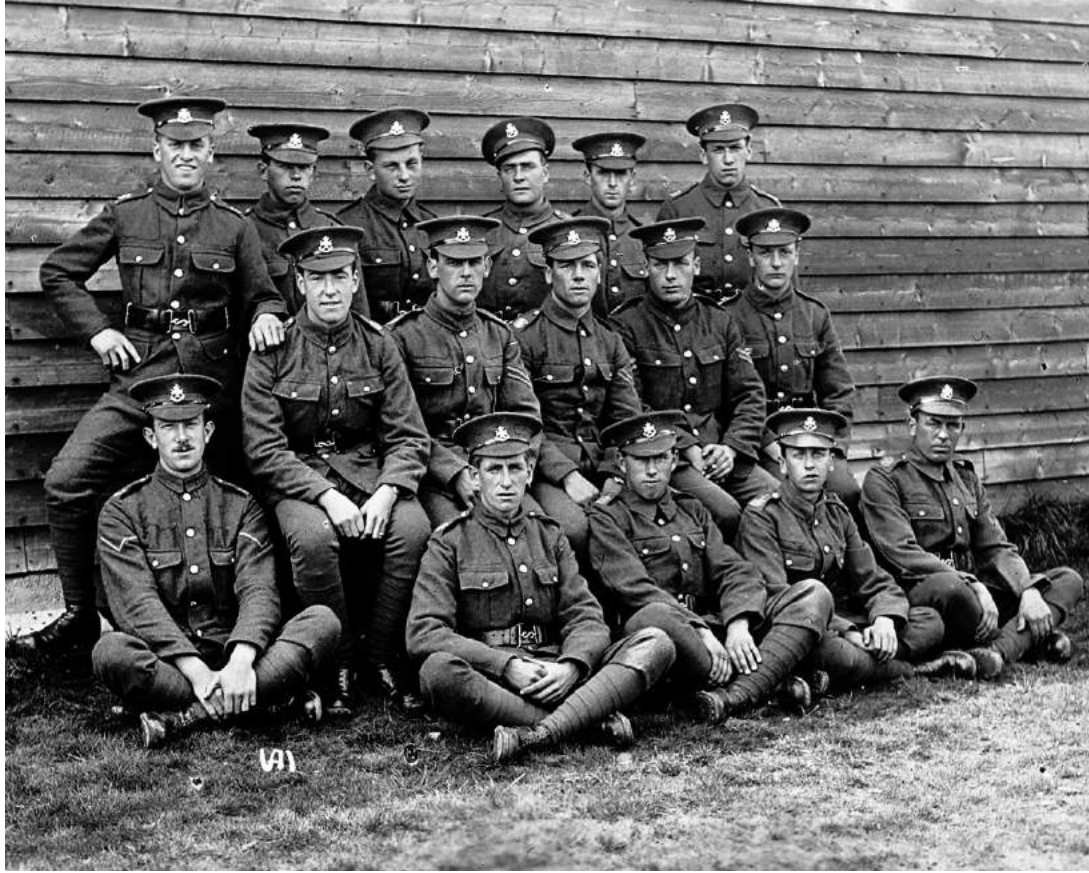
26 Bealtaine 2016
Reilig Mhíleata Ghráinseach Ghormáin,
Baile Átha Cliath 7



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MEMBERS OF THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS IN IRELAND IN 1916
Image courtesy of Professor Michael Briggs

Foreword Réamhrá

468 men, women and children died in the Easter Rising. Throughout the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme we have sought to remember all of those who took part in the Easter Rising and to respect the memory of all who lost their lives during the events of that historic week, regardless of background or belief. Today we are gathered to remember those soldiers serving with the British Armed Forces who died a hundred years ago during the Rising. We reflect on how the events of a century ago may have appeared to this diverse group of individuals, and acknowledge the grief and pain felt by their families and friends at their loss.

As many as 125 soldiers of the British Armed Forces died during the Easter Rising. They came from every province on the island of Ireland, as well as England, Wales, Scotland and further afield. Men from Kilkenny and Armagh fought alongside those from Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire. Some were veterans of difficult campaigns at Gallipoli and the Western Front; some, like the Sherwood Foresters, were raw recruits – young men who had never before faced an armed opponent.

These soldiers came from a broad variety of backgrounds. They are likely to have had different motivations for joining the British Army and different understandings of the conflict that they found themselves a part of – both in continental Europe and in Ireland. Some

Bhásaigh 468 nduine, idir fhir, mhná agus pháistí, in Éirí Amach na Cásca. Ar fud an Chláir Céad Bliain Éire 2016 rinneamar iarracht cuimhneamh ar na daoine go léir a ghlac páirt in Éirí Amach na Cásca agus onóir a thabhairt dóibh siúd go léir a fuair bás i rith eachtraí na seachtaine cinniúnaí sin, beag beann ar chúltra nó ar chreideamh. Tagaimid le chéile inniu chun cuimhneamh ar na saighdiúirí de chuid Arm na Breataine a fuair bás céad bliain ó shin i rith an Éirí Amach. Déanaimid ár machnamh ar an dealramh a bhí ar na heachtraí a tharla céad bliain ó shin i súile an ghrúpa éagsúil daoine sin, agus tugaimid aitheantas don bhrón agus don chrá croí a bhí ar a dteaghlach agus a gcairde dá n-uireasa.

Fuair 125 shaighdiúir de chuid Phórsaí Armtha na Breataine bás le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca. Ba ó gach cúige ar oileán na hÉireann dóibh, agus ó Shasana, ón mBreatain Bheag, ó Albain agus níos faide i gcéin. Bhí fir ó Chill Chainnigh agus ó Ard Mhacha ag troid taobh le taobh le fir ó Nottinghamshire agus Staffordshire. Bhí dream acu tar éis a bheith i mbun troda i bhfeachtais chrua chogaidh ag Gallipoli agus ar an bhFronda Thiar; bhí dream eile acu, ar nós na Sherwood Foresters, nach raibh ach díreach earcathu chuig an arm – fir óga nach raibh armshlua namhad ina n-éadan riamh roimhe sin.

Is éagsúil na cúlraí a bhí ag na saighdiúirí sin. Is dócha gurbh éagsúil iad na cúiseanna a spreag iad chun

of the Irish among them may have enlisted in the hope of furthering the cause of Irish independence, as so many thousands did in response to the call of the Irish Home Rule Party leaders. Some may have joined with the hope of preserving the Union. Some may have enlisted out of duty, or patriotism, or need. Few of them, when enlisting, could have expected that they would find themselves fighting in the streets of Dublin against Irish men and women.

In the century since those events, the people of these islands have witnessed important and unprecedented milestones: the War of Independence and the birth of the Irish Free State; the partition of the island and the establishment of a devolved parliament in Northern Ireland; the Civil War; and the more recent and painful conflict of the Troubles, which blighted so many lives. Today, in place of the fault-lines and historic animosities which marked the society and politics of 1916, we embrace a new era of peace, reconciliation, mutual respect and understanding.

dul isteach in Arm na Breataine agus go raibh tuiscintí éagsúla acu ar an gcoinbhleacht a raibh siad sáite inti, i mór-roinn na hEorpa agus in Éirinn araon. D’fhéadfadh sé go ndeachaigh roinnt de na hÉireannaigh ina measc isteach san arm agus súil acu neamhspleáchas na hÉireann a chur chun cinn, mar a rinne na mílte daoine mar fhreagra ar an nglaoch ó cheannairí Pháirtí Rialtas Dúchais na hÉireann. D’fhéadfadh sé go ndeachaigh cuid acu isteach san arm agus súil acu an tAontas a thabhairt slán. D’fhéadfadh cuid acu a bheith tar éis liostáil de ghrá an dualgais nó le teann tírghrá, nó toisc go raibh siad i ngátar. Is beag duine ina measc, ar liostáil dóibh, a cheapfadh go mbeidís ag troid ar shráideanna Bhaile Átha Cliath i gcoinne fir agus mná Éireannacha.

Sa tréimhse céad bliain ó tharla na heachtraí sin, tá cora cinniúnacha feicthe ag muintir na n-oileán seo: Cogadh na Saoirse agus bunú Shaorstát Éireann; críochdheighilt an oileáin agus bunú parlaiminte cineachta i dTuaisceart Éireann; an Cogadh Cathartha; agus, tráth níos gaire don lá inniu, coinbhleacht ghéar na dTrioblóidí, a mhill an iomaí saol. Anois, in ionad na n-éasclínite agus an naimhdis sheanbhunaithe a bhí ina gcuid de shochaí agus polaitíocht na bliana 1916, glacaimid go fonnmhar le ré nua na síochána, an athmhuintearais, an chóimheasa agus na tuisceana.

Indeed, reconciliation is at the heart of how we approach this Decade of Centenaries. We are committed to remembering the events of 1916 in all of their complexity and according the different narratives and experiences of their participants the respect they deserve. Today’s event is important in and of itself, but it also signals the maturity of our understanding of the shared and overlapping histories of these islands.

Remembering throughout this centenary year all who died during the Easter Rising is an important mark of respect to all those who shaped the history of our island. Today we recall to memory those 125 men in British uniform who died on the streets of Dublin during Easter 1916.

Each soldier that died was a unique individual – a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a sweetheart, a friend. Each had his beliefs, his hopes and fears, his pastimes and ambitions, his dreams. Each of these lives mattered, and their memory matters today.

The Government of Ireland

Go deimhin, tá an t-athmhuintearas i gcroílár an chuir chuige atá againn i leith Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán. Táimid tiomanta d’eachtraí 1916 a choinneáil i gcuimhne gan a gcastacht a scaoileadh tharainn, agus scéalta agus eispéiris éagsúla na ndaoine a bhí páirteach iontu a urramú mar is dual dóibh. Is tábhachtach uathu féin í ócáid an lae inniu, ach léiríonn sí freisin aibíocht ár dtuisceana ar stair choiteann na n-oileán seo.

Agus muid ag smaoineamh i rith bhliain seo an chuimhneacháin ar gach duine a fuair bás le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca, táimid ag tabhairt ómóis dóibh siúd go léir a mhúnlaigh stair an oileáin seo. Tugaimid chun cuimhne inniu an 125 fhear sin in éide na Breataine a fuair bás ar shráideanna Bhaile Átha Cliath le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916.

Duine ar leith ab ea gach saighdiúir a fuair bás – mac, deartháir, fear céile, athair, grá geal, cara. Bhí a chreideamh féin ag gach fear, a ábhar dóchais agus a ábhar imní féin, a chaitheamh aimsire agus a chuid uailmhianta féin, a fhís féin. Bhain tábhacht mhór le saol gach fir, agus is mór againne a gcuimhne inniu.

Rialtas na hÉireann

Programme

An Clár

Arrival of guests & welcome by MC,
Commandant Stephen Mac Eoin

Teacht na n-aíonna. Fáilte ón
Reachtaire, an Ceannfort Stephen
Mac Eoin

Irish Defence Forces and British Armed
Forces colour parties in position

Glacann gardaí brataigh Óglaigh na
hÉireann agus Fhórsaí Armtha na
Breataine a n-áiteanna

Ceremony begins

Tús an tSearmanais

Reading of *A Soldier's Grave* by Francis
Ledwidge

A Soldier's Grave le Francis Ledwidge

Reading of contemporary account by
Brigadier General Ernest Maconchy

Tuairisc ón tréimhse sin a scríobh an
Briogáidire-Ghinearál Ernest
Maconchy

Musical interlude: *Danny Boy*

Idircheol: *Danny Boy*

Reading of *The Last Day of Leave* by
Robert Graves

The Last Day of Leave le Robert Graves

Reading of contemporary account by 2nd
Lieutenant Harry Douglas

Tuairisc ón tréimhse sin a scríobh an
Dara Leifteanant Harry Douglas

Musical interlude: *The Flowers of the Forest*

Idircheol: *The Flowers of the Forest*

Prayer by Head Chaplain to the Irish
Defence Forces, Fr. Séamus Madigan HCF

Paidir ó Ardséiplíneach Óglaigh na
hÉireann, an tAthair Séamus Madigan

Prayer by Assistant Chaplain-General
to the British Army's Headquarters 1st
(United Kingdom) Division, Reverend A J
Totten MBE QHC

Irish Defence Forces Honour Guard in
position

Irish Defence Forces and British Armed
Forces wreath-bearers in position

Wreath laying ceremony

Minute of silence

Piper's Lament: *The Salley Gardens*;
Sounding of the Last Post; National Flag
raised to full mast; *Reveille* is played

National anthem is played

Closing remarks by MC

Remarks by Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Trade, Charles Flanagan T.D.

Ceremony concludes

Paidir ó Ardséiplíneach Cúnta an
rú Rannán d'Arm na Breataine, an
tUrramach AJ Totten MBE QHC

Glacann Garda Onóra Óglaigh na
hÉireann a n-áiteanna

Glacann iompróirí bláthfhleisce
Óglaigh na hÉireann agus Fhórsaí
Armtha na Breataine a n-áiteanna

Searmanas na bláthfhleisce

Nóiméad ciúnais

Caoineadh an Phóibaire: *The Salley
Gardens*; *An Ghairm Dheiridh* á séideadh;
An Bhratach Náisiúnta á hardú go
barr crainn; *Reveille* á sheinm.

An t-amhrán náisiúnta á sheinm

Focal scoir ón Reachtaire

Cúpla focal ón Aire Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála, Charles
Flanagan T.D.

Deireadh an tSearmanais

A Soldier's Grave

Then in the lull of midnight, gentle arms
Lifted him slowly down the slopes of death
Lest he should hear again the mad alarms
Of battle, dying moans, and painful breath.

And where the earth was soft for flowers we
made
A grave for him that he might better rest.
So, Spring shall come and leave it sweet arrayed,
And there the lark shall turn her dewy nest

Francis Ledwidge

The Last Day of Leave

We five looked out over the moor
At rough hills blurred with haze, and a still sea:
Our tragic day, bountiful from the first.

We would spend it by the lily lake
(High in a fold beyond the farthest ridge),
Following the cart-track till it faded out.

The time of berries and bell-heather;
Yet all that morning nobody went by
But shepherds and one old man carting turfs.

We were in love: he with her, she with him,
And I, the youngest one, the odd man out,
As deep in love with a yet nameless muse.

We spoke little, our minds in tune—
A sigh or laugh would settle any theme;
The sun so hot it made the rocks quiver.

But when it rolled down level with us,
Four pairs of eyes sought mine as if appealing
For a blind-fate-aversive afterword:—

'Do you remember the lily lake?
We were all there, all five of us in love,
Not one yet killed, widowed or
broken-hearted.'

Robert Graves

Who were the soldiers? Cérbh iad na saighdiúirí?

A few short pages cannot hope to capture the whole tapestry of the lives of the soldiers who fought in the Easter Rising, or the grief felt at the loss of those who died. These short biographies aim to give an insight into the lives of the two soldiers whose accounts of the Rising will be read in the course of today's ceremony, and also on the lives of the two Neilan brothers, who found themselves on opposite sides during Easter week. Their experience highlights the complexity of the issues facing the men and women of this seminal era in the sometimes shared and sometimes overlapping history of these islands.

Ní féidir cur síos a dhéanamh i leathanach gearr nó dhó ar shaol éagsúil na saighdiúirí go léir a throid in Éirí Amach na Cásca, ná ar an mbriseadh croí a bhí orthu siúd a fágadh ina ndiaidh. Tá sé i gceist againn leis na beathaisnéisí gearra seo léargas a thabhairt ar shaol na beirte a léifear a dtuairiscí ar an Éirí Amach le linn shearmanas an lae inniu, agus léargas a thabhairt freisin ar shaol na ndeartháireacha Neilan, beirt a bhí in éadan a chéile le linn Sheachtain na Cásca. Léiríonn a scéal siúd castacht na bhfadhbanna a bhí le sárú ag na fir agus na mná a mhair sa ré thábhachtach sin i stair choiteann na n-oileán seo.

Lieutenant Gerald Neilan and Volunteer Arthur Neilan An Leifteanant Gerald Neilan agus an tÓglach Arthur Neilan

Gerald Neilan was born just outside Roscommon town, where his father was a landowner and Justice of the Peace. A veteran of the Boer War and a police constable in Birmingham until the outbreak of the First World War, Neilan had returned to Dublin during the war where he was stationed in Royal (later Collins) Barracks with the 10th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. On Easter Monday, Neilan led his platoon from their barracks along the quays towards Dublin Castle. While passing the Mendicity Institute (an outpost of the Four Courts garrison, occupied by 12 men), they came under fire and Neilan was killed, the first British officer to die during the Rising. Meanwhile, Gerald's brother Arthur also participated in the Rising, but as a member of the Irish Volunteers. Arthur made his way to the Four Courts garrison after fighting broke out and was posted to a barricade at Whitworth (now Fr. Mathew) Bridge, less than 500 metres from where his brother had earlier fallen. Arthur was later on active service during the War of Independence. Both brothers now rest together in their family plot in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Rugadh Gerald Neilan díreach lasmuigh de bhaile Ros Comáin, áit a raibh talamh ag a athair, a bhí ina Ghiúistís Síochána ansin. Throid Neilan i gCogadh na mBórach agus bhí sé ina chonstábla sna póilíní i mBirmingham go dtí gur thosaigh an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda. D'fhill sé ar Bhaile Átha Cliath le linn an chogaidh agus bhí sé lonnaithe sa Bheairic Ríoga (Dún Uí Choileáin mar is fearr aithne ar an áit sin anois) le roú Cathlán Fhíúsailéirí Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath. Ar Luan Cásca, thug Neilan a bhuíon ón mbeairic feadh na gcéanna i dtreo Chaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath. Ag dul thar Institiúid na Déircíochta dóibh (a bhí ina urphost de chuid gharastún na gCeithre Cúirteanna, agus dáréag fear á háitiú), scaoileadh leo agus maraíodh Neilan. Ba eisean an chéad oifigeach Briotanach a fuair bás le linn an Éirí Amach. Idir an dá linn, bhí Arthur, deartháir le Gerald, ag glacadh páirte san Éirí Amach freisin, ach ba bhall d'Óglaigh na hÉireann eisean. Chuaigh Arthur chomh fada le garastún na gCeithre Cúirteanna nuair a thosaigh an troid agus cuireadh é go dtí baracáid ag Droichead Whitworth (Droichead an Athar Maitiú mar a thugtar anois air), i bhfoisceacht 500 méadar den áit ar maraíodh a dheartháir ní ba luaithe. Bhí Arthur ar fianas le linn Chogadh na Saoirse ina dhiaidh sin. Tá an bheirt deartháireacha le chéile anois i láthair uaighe a dteaghlaigh i Reilig Ghlas Naíon.

Lieutenant Harry Douglas An Leifteanant Harry Douglas

Harry Douglas was born in 1882 in Matlock, Derbyshire, a large town on the edge of the Peak District. One of the great loves of Douglas' life was music; a published composer of organ music, he was the organist for many years at Matlock Congregational Church. With the advent of the First World War, Douglas enlisted for service in the British Army. He was commissioned as an officer and served with the Sherwood Foresters, finding himself transported to Ireland for active service when news of the Easter Rising broke.

After the Rising, Douglas continued to the Western Front with the rest of 178th Brigade and served with the rank of Captain. Douglas would go on to represent Great Britain at the 1924 Paris Olympics in the 600 meter Men's Free Rifle (Prone) individual event. He later returned to civilian life in Matlock, having eventually been promoted to Major. He died in 1954 aged 72.

Rugadh Harry Douglas in 1882 in Matlock, Derbyshire, baile mór ar imeall Cheantar na Sléibhte i Sasana. Ba mhór le Douglas riamh an ceol; foilsíodh píosaí ceoil a chum sé féin don orgán, agus ba eisean a bhí ina orgánaí ar feadh blianta fada in Eaglais Phobalda Matlock. Chuaigh Douglas isteach in Arm na Breataine nuair a thosaigh an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda. Tugadh coimisiún mar oifigeach dó, d'fhóin sé leis na Sherwood Foresters agus cuireadh go hÉirinn ar fiannas é nuair a bhris an scéala faoi Éirí Amach na Cásca.

Tar éis an Éirí Amach, chuaigh Douglas chuig an bhFronta Thiar leis an gcuid eile den 178ú Briogáid agus bhí sé ina Chaptaen ansin. Blianta ina dhiaidh sin, rinne Douglas ionadaíocht ar son na Ríochta Aontaithe i gCluichí Oilimpeacha na bliana 1924 i bPáras, i gcomórtas Saor-Raidhfil 600 meádar na bhFear aonair (Béal Faoi). D'fhill sé ní ba dhéanaí ar an saol sibhialta in Matlock, agus é ina Mhaor faoin am sin tar éis ardú céime a bheith tugtha dó. Fuair sé bás sa bhliain 1954 in aois 72.



LIEUTENANT HARRY DOUGLAS
Image reproduced courtesy of Jane Leslie



BRIGADIER GENERAL ERNEST MACONCHY
Image reproduced courtesy of the National Army Museum, London

Brigadier General Ernest Maconchy

An Briogáidire-Ghinearál Ernest Maconchy

Ernest Maconchy was born in Devon in 1860 to Irish parents. After being originally gazetted to the East Yorkshire Regiment in 1882, he spent the majority of his career in the British Indian Army, leaving at the rank of colonel in 1914. An army officer with extensive experience, Colonel Maconchy joined the British Army on the outbreak of the First World War. In July 1915 he took over command of the 178th Brigade at Dunstable, often known as the 2nd Sherwood Foresters Brigade, leading them throughout the Easter Rising. Maconchy was promoted to Brigadier-General on 6th June 1916. From February until April 1917, he led the Brigade on the Western Front.

In recognition of Maconchy's service throughout his career, he was appointed as a Companion of the Orders of the Bath, St. Michael and St. George, the Indian Empire, and of the Distinguished Service Order. He died at the age of 85 on 1st September 1945, and is buried in St. Nicholas Churchyard in Newnham, Hampshire.

Rugadh Ernest Maconchy in Devon sa bhliain 1860 do thuismitheoirí Éireannacha. Tar éis gur cuireadh i mbun dualgais ar dtús é leis an East Yorkshire Regiment in 1882, chaith sé an chuid ba mhó dá shaol oibre in Arm na Breataine san India, agus bhí sé ina Choirnéal an tráth a d'fhág sé an post sin i 1914. B'oifigeach airm é an Coirnéal Maconchy agus fear a raibh an-taithí ar an tsaighdiúireacht aige. Chuaigh sé isteach in Arm na Breataine nuair a thosaigh an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda. I mí Iúil 1915 ghlac sé ceannas an 178ú Briogáid ag Dunstable, briogáid is fearr aithne uirthi mar the 2nd Sherwood Foresters Brigade, agus is eisean a bhí i gceannas ar na saighdiúirí sin i rith Éirí Amach na Cásca. Tugadh ardú céime do Maconchy nuair a rinneadh Ard-Bhriogáidire de ar an 6 Meitheamh 1916. Ó mhí Feabhra go dtí mí Aibreáin 1917, bhí sé i gceannas ar an mBriogáid ar an bhFronta Thiar.

Mar aitheantas ar sheirbhís Maconchy ar feadh a ghairmréime, ceapadh é ina Chompánach de chuid Ord Bath, Naomh Mícheál agus Naomh Seoirse, Ord Impireacht na hIndia, agus an Oird Seirbhíse Dearsca. Fuair sé bás in aois 85 ar an 1 Meán Fómhair 1945, agus tá sé curtha i Reilig San Nioclás in Newnham, Hampshire.



MCKEE, FORMERLY MARLBOROUGH BARRACKS, BEFORE THE EASTER RISING
 Images reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

McKee / Marlborough Barracks Dún Mhic Aoidh / Marlborough Barracks

McKee barracks, originally known as Marlborough Barracks, was opened in 1891 as a cavalry barracks.

At the outbreak of the Easter Rising in 1916, Marlborough Barracks housed the 6th Reserve Cavalry Regiment. When news of the Rising began to spread, the first action of Colonel Henry Cowan (Assistant Adjutant General Irish Command and the most senior British officer in Dublin) was to ring Marlborough Barracks and order them to send a cavalry detachment to Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) to investigate. The resulting deployment of the 5th and 12th Lancers saw three immediate fatalities and one soldier fatally wounded when approaching the General Post Office. Other Lancers from Marlborough Barracks were also among the very first casualties of the Rising when they were intercepted escorting an ammunition convoy from the North Wall to the Phoenix Park magazine. Many of these men are buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery.

After the Irish Free State took possession of the barracks it was renamed in honour of Brigadier Richard McKee (1893-1920), a member of the Irish Volunteers who had fought as part of the Jacob's factory garrison during the Easter Rising and later died during the War of Independence.

Osclaíodh Dún Mhic Aoidh, a dtugtaí Marlborough Barracks ar dtús air, mar bheairic mharcshlua sa bhliain 1891.

Nuair a thosaigh Éirí Amach na Cásca i 1916, bhí an 6ú Reisimint Chúltaca Mharcshlua sa Bheairic. Agus scéala an Éirí Amach ag scaipeadh, ba é an chéad rud a rinne an Coirnéal Henry Cowan (Ardaidiúnach Cúnta Ceannasaíochta na hÉireann, a bhí ar an oifigeach Briotanach ba shinsearaí i mBaile Átha Cliath) ná glooch ar an mBeairic agus ordú a thabhairt go gcuirfí díorma marcra go dtí Sráid Sackville (Sráid Uí Chonail anois) chun an scéal a fhiosrú. Nuair a cuireadh na 5ú agus na 12ú Lansaithe chun troda dá bharr sin, maraíodh triúr fear agus tugadh goin bháis d'fhear eile agus iad ag dul i dtreo Ard-Oifig an Phoist. Bhí Lansaithe eile ón mBeairic i measc na ndaoine ba thúisce a maraíodh le linn an Éirí Amach nuair a cuireadh ina gcoinne agus conbhua armlóin á thionlacan acu ón bPort Thuaidh chomh fada leis an armlann i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce. Tá cuid mhór de na fir sin curtha i Reilig Mhíleata Ghráinseach Ghormáin.

Tar éis do Shaorstát Éireann seilbh a ghlacadh ar an mbeairic, athainmníodh í in onóir an Briogáidire Risteáird Mhic Aoidh (1893-1920), ball d'Óglaigh na hÉireann a throid le garastún mhonarcha Jacobs le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca agus a fuair bás ina dhiaidh sin le linn Chogadh na Saoirse.



GRANGEGORMAN MILITARY CEREMONY
Image licensed under Creative Commons

Grangegorman Military Cemetery Reilig Mhíleata Ghráinseach Ghormáin

Grangegorman Military Cemetery was originally opened in 1876 to serve as a graveyard for soldiers based in Dublin and their families. It is one of the largest military cemeteries in Ireland and between 1914 and 1947 alone over 600 British servicemen were interred there. These men came not only from Ireland and Britain, but also as far afield as Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. 73 British Soldiers who died during the Easter Rising are among their number. The cemetery has hosted a range of commemorative events, including an annual ANZAC Day Commemoration to remember those who died at Gallipoli and elsewhere while serving as members of the Australian and New Zealand military during the First World War, including those from the island of Ireland.

Osclaíodh Reilig Mhíleata Ghráinseach Ghormáin ar dtús sa bhliain 1876 mar reilig ina gcuirfí saighdiúirí a bhí bunaithe i mBaile Átha Cliath agus daoine muinteartha leo. Tá sí ar cheann de na reiligi míleata is mó in Éirinn, agus sa tréimhse idir 1914 agus 1947 aisti féin adhlacadh níos mó ná 600 saighdiúir Briotanach ansin. Ní hiad Éireannaigh agus Briotanaigh amháin a bhí ina measc siúd; bhí fir ann freisin ó thíortha chomh fada i gcéin leis an Astráil, Ceanada, agus an Nua-Shéalainn. Tá 73 shaighdiúir Bhriotanacha a fuair bás le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca ina measc. Cuireadh ócáidí comórtha éagsúla ar bun sa reilig, lena n-áirítear Comóradh bliantúil Lá Anzac ina gcuimhne siúd a fuair bás ag Gallipoli agus in áiteanna eile agus iad ag troid le fórsaí míleata na hAstráile agus na Nua-Shéalainne le linn an Chéad Chogaidh Dhomhanda, daoine ó oileán na hÉireann ina measc.

Thanks Buíochas

Led by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, this event was made possible by the cooperation and contribution of a range of partners. The Department would like to express thanks to colleagues in the Irish Defence Forces, the Department of Defence, the Ireland 2016 Project Office, the Department of the Taoiseach, An Garda Síochána, the Office of Public Works, the British Embassy and members of the British Armed Forces. The assistance and support of staff at Grangegorman Military Cemetery and McKee Barracks was invaluable.

Special thanks to the National Library of Ireland, the National Museum of Ireland, the Military Archives, the Royal British Legion, the National Army Museum, Kilmainham Gaol Museum and the Glasnevin Trust.

Is í an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála a d’eagraigh an ócáid seo mar chuid de Chlár Céad Bliain Éire 2016. Ghlac comhpháirtithe éagsúla páirt in ullmhú an chláir agus níorbh ann don ócáid murach an cion atá déanta acu. Ba mhaith leis an Roinn a buíochas a ghabháil le comhghleacaithe in Óglaigh na hÉireann, sa Roinn Cosanta, in oifig Thionscadal 2016, i Roinn an Taoisigh, sa Gharda Síochána, in Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí agus in Ambasáid na Breataine, agus le baill d’Fhórsaí Armtha na Breataine. Is mór againn an cúnaimh agus an tacaíocht a thug foireann Reilig Mhíleata Gráinseach Ghormáin agus foireann Dhún Mhic Aoidh dúinn.

Gabhaimid buíochas ar leith le Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, le hArd-Mhúsaem na hÉireann, leis an gCartlann Mhíleata, le Léigiún Ríoga na Breataine, le hArd-Mhúsaem an Airm, le Músaem Phríosún Chill Mhaighneann agus le hIontaobhas Ghlas Naíon.