

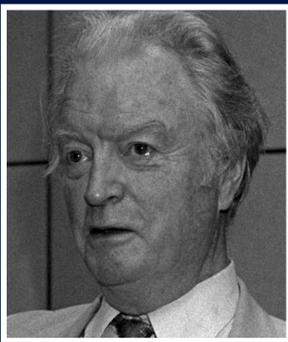
IRELAND 1919

Dreaming of change

BORN IN 1919

Benedict Kiely

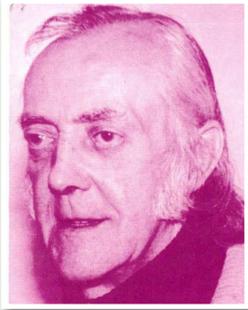
Benedict Kiely was born on 15th August 1919 in Dromore, Co. Tyrone. He was best known as a critic, travel-writer, biographer, short story writer, novelist and broadcaster. He was educated in the Christian Brothers' Schools in Omagh. He entered a Jesuit seminary to study for the priesthood in 1937, but while recovering from a spinal injury, he decided he did not want to continue with a religious life, and enrolled as an Arts student in University College Dublin. He graduated with a BA in 1943. He worked as a theatre and cinema critic and was literary editor of the *Irish Press* for 14 years. In 1964, he moved to the USA, where he was writer-in-residence at Emory University and Hollins College, Virginia. He was also the guest of three other American universities. He was a council member of the Irish Academy of Letters. He overcame the censorship of three of his early novels in Ireland and enjoyed a successful literary career. His first novel, *Land Without Stars*, was published in 1946, and nine more novels followed. Seven short story collections by him have been published, and his short stories and articles have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Spectator* and the *Irish Times*. He has written the standard study of William Carleton. He was also a regular contributor to the RTÉ Radio 1 programme, *Sunday Miscellany*. He died in 2007.



Benedict Kiely

Eoghan Ó Tuairisc

Eoghan Ó Tuairisc, writer and poet, was born in April 1919 in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. He worked as a primary school teacher, but he gave this up in 1960, despite being an excellent teacher. He spent his summer holidays as a commissioned officer during the Emergency, and this experience influenced the themes of his historical novels, *L'Attaque* (1962), which was his first Irish language novel, and *Dé Luain* (1966), which was about the 1916 Rising. In 1943, he began a night degree in UCD, and he completed a Masters in English literature in 1947. He married the artist Úna Nic Dhomhnaill in 1945. He won Oireachtas prizes for a short story and poem in 1947, and he won another Oireachtas prize in 1948 for his poem *Oíche Nollag*, which is one of his best known poems. What made him unusual compared to other writers of the period was that he wrote in both English and Irish. His English name was Eugene Rutherford Waters. His first novel, *Murder in three moves*, was written in English and was published in 1960. That same year, he won the Arts Council Prize for his play, *Na Mairnéalaigh*. He became editor of the monthly magazine *Feasta* in 1963. His poem, *The weekend of Dermot and Grace*, whose subject is the atomic bomb which was dropped on Hiroshima, was published in 1964 and has been described as the greatest poem by an Irishman since Patrick Kavanagh's *The great hunger*. In 1965, his wife Úna died, and this affected Eoghan deeply. In 1972, he married the poet Rita Kelly. Other works of his include translations of works by Pádraic Ó Conaire, among others, plays, essays and a children's book called *The Story of a Hedgeschool Master*. He died in August 1982.



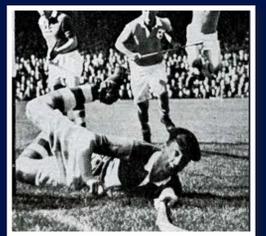
Eoghan Ó Tuairisc

Dave Creedon

Dave Creedon was a hurler and Gaelic footballer from Blackpool in Cork. He was born in August 1919. He first played competitive hurling while in school at the North Monastery. He won county minor hurling medals in 1933 and 1934. He then joined the Glen Rovers senior team and went on to win nine senior hurling championship medals, including eight titles in a row between 1934 and 1941, serving as captain of the team on one occasion. In football, he was on three winning St. Nicholas teams, in 1938, 1941 and 1954. After retiring from hurling in 1951, he was coaxed back and called up by the Cork senior hurling selectors in 1952. He subsequently won three All-Ireland medals in a row between 1952 and 1954. In 1953, he won his first National Hurling League title. In the 1955 Munster hurling championship, Cork was defeated by Clare in the first round. This was Dave's final game. He finished his career in Nemo Rangers, coaching the junior team up until the late 1950s. He died in 2007.



Dave Creedon (back row, second from the left)



Dave Creedon in action (front of picture) during the 1952 All-Ireland Final against Dublin.

Tony Reddin

Tony Reddin, known also as A. (Antony) Reddan was born Martin Charles Reddington in Mullagh, Co. Galway in November 1919. He began his hurling career as a teenager with a local club in 1933, and he won a Connacht junior hurling medal with Galway in 1940. He went on to play senior hurling matches with the Tribesmen. In 1947, he moved to Lorrha in North Tipperary, where he had got a job on a farm. He joined the local hurling club there and was soon noticed for his unusual ability as a hurler. He acquired the nickname "Thaudy", and the locals thought it was "Tony", and since his family in Galway was known as the "Reddins", he then became Tony Reddin. In 1948, Tony helped Lorrha win the North Tipperary senior hurling title, and this brought him to the attention of the Tipperary hurling manager, Paddy Leahy. He joined the Tipperary hurling team in 1949, and his successes for the Premier County over the next nine years immortalised him. He is known as the greatest hurling goalkeeper to this day. Tony won three All Ireland senior medals in a row in 1949, 1950 and 1951, as well as three Munster titles. He also won 6 National Leagues in 1949, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1955 and 1957 and 5 Railway Cup medals with Munster as well as one Oireachtas medal. Tony was named the GAA's hurling goalkeeper of the century in 1984 and was also named on the Hurling Team of the Millennium in 2000. He won one more championship medal with Lorrha for North Tipperary in 1956. He moved to Banagher in Co. Offaly in 1960, where he continued with hurling in the role of coach. He died in March 2015.



Tony Reddin



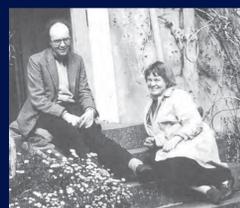
A. Reddan

Iris Murdoch

Iris Murdoch was born of Anglo-Irish parents in Dublin in 1919. She was educated at Badminton School in Bristol and studied Classics at Somerville College in Oxford. During the Second World War, she was an Assistant Principal at the Treasury, and she then worked with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in London, Belgium and Austria. She held a studentship in philosophy at Newnham College in Cambridge before returning to Oxford in 1948, where she became a fellow of St. Anne's College. In 1956, she married Oxford don and novelist John Bayley. Iris Murdoch began her writing career in 1954 when her first novel, *Under the Net*, was published. She wrote 25 other novels throughout her lifetime. She won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for her novel *The Black Prince* in 1973, and a year later, she won the Whitbread Literary Award for Fiction for her novel *The Sacred and Profane Love Machine*. She also won the Booker Prize for her novel *The Sea, the Sea* in 1978. In 1997, she received the Gold Pen Award for Distinguished Service to Literature. She has also written plays, short stories and poetry, as well as books on philosophy. She died in 1999. The 2001 film, *Iris*, explores her life and her lifelong relationship with John Bayley.



Iris Murdoch and her husband, John Bayley



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ALCOCK AND BROWN

On Sunday June 15th 1919 Captain John Alcock and Lieutenant John Whitten Brown became the first people to successfully complete a non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

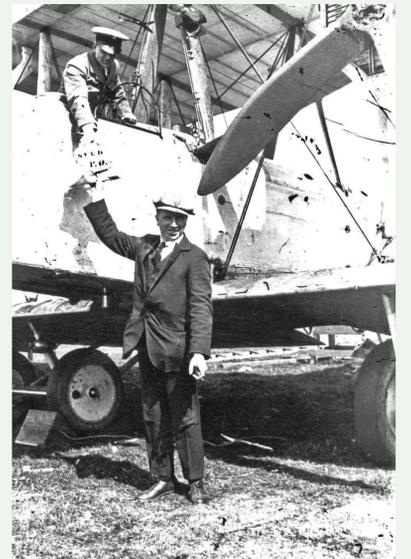
Lord Northcliffe, the owner of the *Daily Mail*, had offered a £10,000 prize to the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic by a 'heavier than air' machine with terms and conditions drawn up and administered by the Royal Aero Club. The advent of the First World War suspended the competition.

Alcock and Brown, both former WWI fighter pilots, arrived in St. John's, Newfoundland with their Vicker Vimy Biplane and set up in Lester's Field on Sunday May 25th in order to begin preparations.

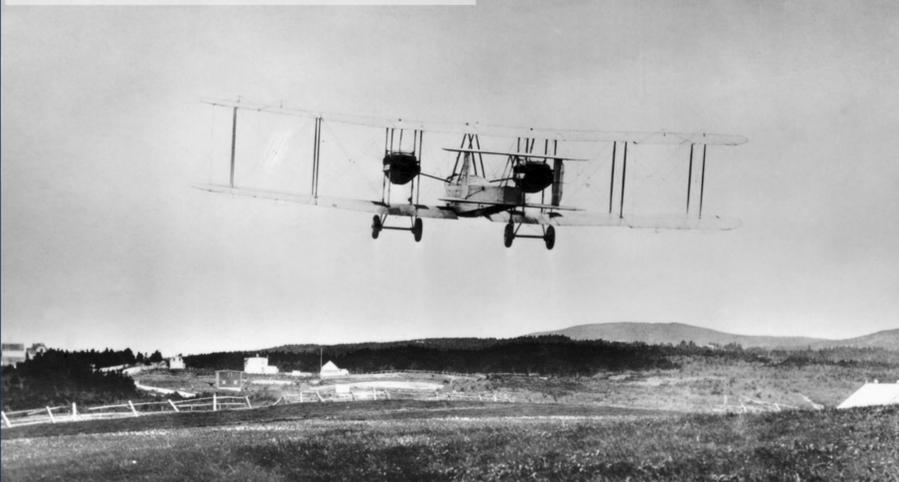
Intending to set out on Friday 13th a damaged axle acquired during test flights delayed their departure. Saturday 14th dawned with strong winds and had they not heard that another competitor, Admiral Mark Kerr, also planned to set out that day they may have delayed again.

Brown told reporters; "with this wind, if it continues all the time, we shall be in Ireland in 12 hours...I am steering a straight line for the Galway Bay and although I shall do my best, I do not expect to strike it exactly."

The Vickers Vimy, fully loaded, was capable of reaching speeds of up to 90 miles an hour. The average speed achieved during their flight was 120 mph during the crossing.



Science Museum Group Collection CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0



At approximately 1:45pm the two launched and set out on their journey dressed in battery operated electrically heated clothes along with fur lined helmets and gloves to protect them from the elements in the open cockpit, the battery for the clothes sat between them during their crossing.

The pair endured terrible weather and failed equipment throughout the journey. They lost their transmitter which meant that they could not contact any ships passing beneath them to get their position. They also endured turbulence and thick fog and snow. They were unable to out fly the conditions. Communication between the two was also difficult due to the roar of the engines, the wind and the darkness. At one point Alcock lost control of the plane and they spiralled to within a 100 feet of the water below. The battery heating their clothes failed and their instruments iced over due to the adverse weather conditions.



Paul O'Farrell

Copyright Paul O'Farrell

Shortly before the end of their journey the clouds broke and they determined their position, deciding to land at the Marconi Wireless Station outside Clifden when they recognised the masts. This was the site of the first commercial transatlantic wireless communication in 1907. They landed on what looked like a level stretch of land behind the station only to find that they had put down in the Derrigimlagh bog.

When they reached the Royal Aero Club they were greeted by the club's vice president General Holden and they handed over a small mail bag entrusted to them by the postmaster in St. Johns completing the first transatlantic air mail delivery. The letters were taken to a post office to be franked and forwarded as airmail stamps had not been issued yet.

Later in the month both men were awarded their prize money by the Secretary of State Winston Churchill and knighted the following day by King George V in recognition of their pioneering achievement.



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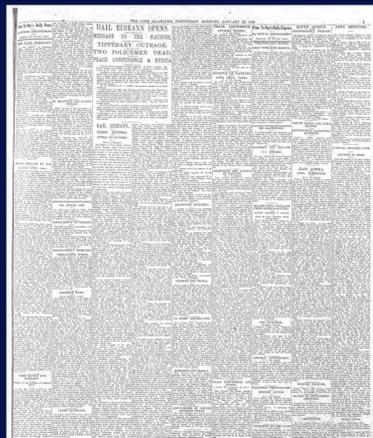
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DÁIL EIREANN SUMMER 1919



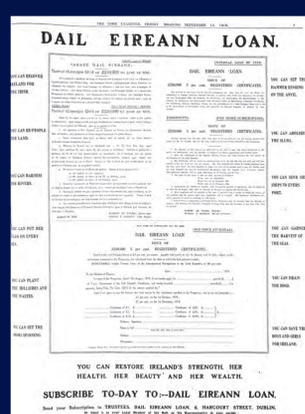
January 21 2019 marked the centenary of the sitting of the First Dáil in Dublin's Mansion House which comprised of Sinn Féin Members of Parliament or Teachtaí Dála as they are known today to deliver a Declaration of Independence and a Democratic Programme for an independent Irish nation. There were nine MPs elected from Cork, however, of the nine, James J. Walsh and Sean Hayes were the only MPs present at First Dáil, because others were in prison, banished or "simply marked down as absent,"



There were fourteen sessions in 1919 alone, with the largest attendance of fifty two members in April. This was due to the release of Sinn Féin internees such as Terence MacSwiney. Although Dáil Éireann was conducted as an official and democratic parliament, there was always the chance proceedings would be interrupted by the British authorities. For example, the British would ensure that proceedings were not reported in the national papers. Some members were advised to refrain from attending in fear of ill health being exacerbated by imprisonment.

The Cork Nine

Cork City	Liam de Róiste - Nominated to a committee that would decide on Dáil salaries, and eventually became Leas Ceann Comhairle	
Cork City	James J. Walsh - Present at First Dáil, but subsequently arrested in 1919 for partaking in an illegal government.	
Cork East	David Kent – Brother of Thomas and Richard Kent who both died shortly after the 1916 Rising	
Cork Mid	Terence MacSwiney - Was released from Lincoln Gaol in March 1919 and served on Dáil subcommittees to raise monies for the Dáil Loan.	
Cork North	Patrick O'Keefe - In prison at time of First Dáil	
Cork North East	Thomas Hunter - In prison at time of First Dáil	
Cork South	Michael Collins – Originally Home Affairs Minister, then appointed Minister for Finance 2 April 1919 to oversee the Dáil Loan, while simultaneously acting as Director of Intelligence for the Irish Republican Army	
Cork South East	Diarmuid Lynch – Elected in absentia while exiled in America in 1918, Lynch was an active fundraiser and the national secretary of the Irish-American Friends of Irish Freedom, raising over \$1m by August 1919	
Cork West	Seán Hayes – Present at First Dáil	



From September 11 Britain declared Dáil Éireann an illegal organisation due to the issue of Dáil Loans. These were loans amounting to £370,000 raised by Michael Collins as recently appointed Minister for Finance to cover running expenses and salaries. As an example of British censorship, The Cork Examiner and its allied papers were suppressed by Dublin Castle for several days in September for publishing the Dáil Loan prospectus and related advertisements. The authorities would use the Defense of the Realm Act as an excuse, making it an offense to publish 'false reports or make false statements; or spread reports or make statements intended or likely to cause disaffection to His Majesty's forces'. In some cases, newspaper offices and machinery were attacked and destroyed in order to suppress public consumption of news about the Dáil Loan. In retaliation, a daily paper supported by the Dáil called The Irish Bulletin began publication in November and aimed to promote the policies of Dáil Éireann acting in the interest of the Irish people and to highlight the oppressive actions of the British government, particularly, informing major foreign newspapers of the activities of the Crown forces in Ireland.

Around the time he was appointed Finance Minister in April, Michael Collins was secretly planning an intelligence war against the British by establishing a Hit Squad comprised of Irish Volunteer gunmen loyal to Dáil Éireann in order to execute various British intelligence agents and detectives of the Dublin Metropolitan Police known as the 'G' Division. In the aftermath of the Rising a vengeful Collin's swore, 'By Christ, I'll have my revenge for this' and set up a Squad of Irish Volunteer gunmen assisted by inside men in the 'G' Division to infiltrate British intelligence and began a series of targeted assassinations from July 30.

Operating from a Headquarters nearby Dublin Castle on Crow Street, the Squad, under the direction of Liam Tobin, moved around the city of Dublin posing as carpenters and workmen, hiding their guns under their work aprons. These assassinations along with the raising of the Dáil Loans, compelled Dublin Castle to suppress Dáil Éireann on September 11, in tandem with the banning of supporting organisations and newspapers. The 'G' Division would be decimated by the end of 1919, but the fighting would continue...



Some members of the Hit Squad

Sources:
Atlas of the Irish revolution / editors: John Crowley, Donal Ó Drisceoil and Mike Murphy;
associate editor: John Borgonovo.
Irish Examiner January 21, 2019



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URBAN CONFLICT

The IRA raid and the subsequent reprisals carried out by British security forces was a precursor to how much of the urban conflict that took place in the War of Independence developed. The first major action of the War of Independence and the first concerted attack on the British Army since 1916 was in the town of Fermoy, County Cork. It was led by Liam Lynch, Officer Commanding, Cork No. 2 Brigade of the IRA. The exact number of Volunteers involved in the ambush varies from multiple sources. It is estimated that about 20 Volunteers from the No.2 Brigade took part with the assistance of 10 other Volunteers from other areas. The number of British Forces also varied in number with the newspaper accounts stating a total of 14 soldiers and 1 officer were present at the time of the ambush. The aim of the ambush, as with most such operations in 1919, was to capture badly-needed weapons.

After observing the routines of the British Troops stationed at Fermoy for a period of about three months, it was decided that the most opportune moment to stage an ambush was as a small group of British soldiers marched toward the old Wesleyan church for Sunday service. Fifteen soldiers of the Shropshire Light Infantry were ambushed before the Sunday service by the group of Volunteers armed with revolvers and clubs. Private Jones of the King's Own Shropshire Light Infantry died from a single gunshot to the heart. A second British soldier to be gravely injured was Private Lloyd who was shot in the neck. The only Irish Volunteer to be wounded in the engagement was Liam Lynch who was slightly wounded in the shoulder. The rifles were loaded into waiting cars and driven away with trees being felled on the main road to cover their escape from RIC and Military vehicles.

The attack was the first in which a British soldier was killed by the IRA during the War of Independence. On the Monday night following the raid, a large party of soldiers from the British garrison at Fermoy descended upon the town. They smashed the windows in most of the shops in Pearse Square, MacCurtain Street and Patrick Street and looted the contents. The following night the troops were confined to barracks, but on the Wednesday night they assembled again only to find a large crowd of residents waiting for them in Emmet Street. Armed with sticks, stones and other weapons, the local people attacked the soldiers so furiously that they were driven back to their barracks

Cork Examiner, 8 September 1919



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ST. COLMAN'S CATHEDRAL, COBH

CONSECRATED 12 AUGUST 1919



St. Colman, the patron of the Diocese of Cloyne, takes pride of place in the Cathedral

The patron saint of the **Diocese of Cloyne** is Colmán mac Leínín, born in 522. Colmán was a bard in Cashel before becoming a priest, serving Aodh Caomh the powerful chieftain there. On his ordination he received a grant of land in Cloyne in East Cork late in the 6th century from Aodh Caomh. The round tower from his monastic settlement still stands, and it was the village of Cloyne which gave its name to the Diocese which includes all of East Cork, almost all of North Cork, and most of Muskerry in Mid Cork. The boundaries of the diocese were set by the Synod of Kells in 1152.

One of Ireland's finest church buildings stands in a prominent setting overlooking Cork harbour – St Colman's Cathedral, the focal point of the diocese of Cloyne.

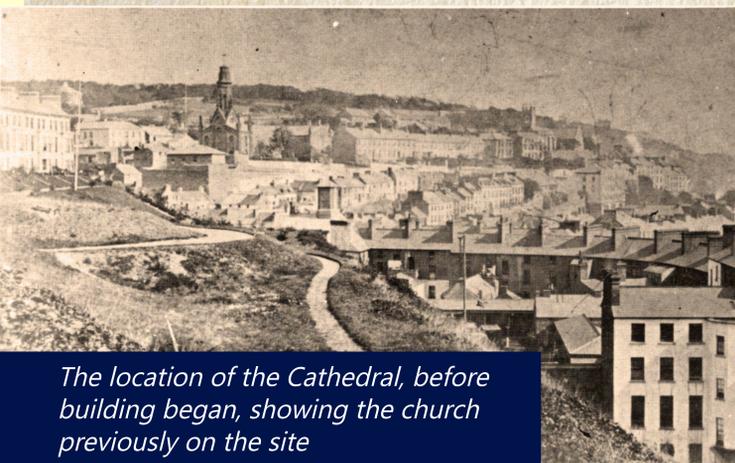


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Pomp and Circumstance were the order of the day when the Cathedral was consecrated on 12 August 1919. Leading the ceremony was Michael Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, the Archbishops of Cashel and Tuam, the Bishop of Cloyne Robert Browne (an uncle of the priest-photographer Fr. Francis Browne, SJ) and 20 other bishops, plus almost 100 other dignitaries of the Catholic Church.

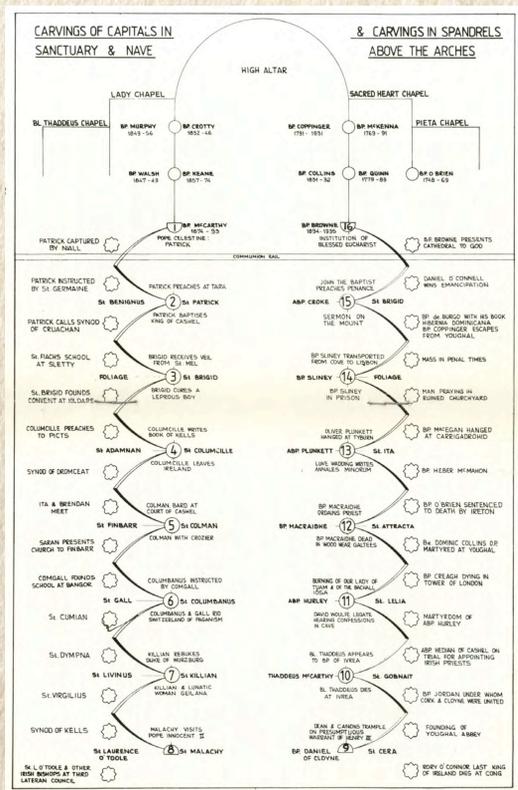


This view shows the Gothic features of the Cathedral: the height, the huge columns, the high altar



The location of the Cathedral, before building began, showing the church previously on the site

Building a **Cathedral** was traditionally a long-term project in medieval Europe. Notre Dame de Paris took 850 years to complete. The Dom or Cathedral in Cologne, Cork's twin city, was begun in 1248 and finished in 1883. St. Colman's did not quite take that length of time. It was, however, ten years in planning before the architects – Edward Welby Pugin and George C. Ashlin – were appointed in 1867. The actual building began in April 1869 so the construction phase lasted only a comparatively modest half century. The contract price was £33,000! The construction was not without incident: the initial contractor – M. Meade & Son of Dublin – was let go after two years, and the plans themselves were changed and made more elaborate while the building work was going on.



St. Colman's Cathedral is Gothic in design, in the shape of a Latin cross, with the main entrance at the western front. Traditional in design, it has the usual features of a Gothic church: north and south aisles, a soaring nave focused on the high altar. The Cathedral has one tower, rather than the more customary two. This is on the southern side of the west front.



THE WEST DOOR

This tower contains perhaps the most significant feature of the building: a **carillon** with 49 bells, one of the largest in Europe. An automated system strikes the hour and 15 minute intervals while it also rings the bells for religious events. The carillon is played on special occasions and most Sunday afternoons by its current carillonneur Adrian Gebruers, son of Staf (Gustavus) Gebruers, who had come to Cobh in 1924 from Flanders to be the carillonneur – the post has thus been in one family for almost a century.

The main entrance is on the western end of the Cathedral



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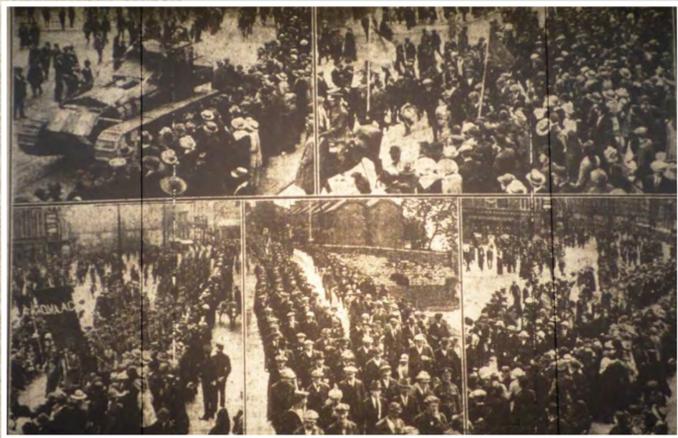
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WW1 – VICTORY PARADE



Great War Memorial, South Mall



Cork Examiner 20 July 1919



Victory Parade, 19 July 1919, Dublin

On 19 July 1919, the British Authorities organised a 'Victory of Peace' parade in Cork to celebrate the signing of the Versailles treaty and the official end of the First World War. The parade included a number of different sections. The first part of the parade began with a show of armoured cars and 'Whippet' tanks followed by demobilised personnel from all arms of the British military.

The next section showcased Irish regiments, such as the Munster Fusiliers, and other British regiments stationed in Ireland during this time. There was also a large display from the female military units who had also served during World War 1. Amongst the female units were the Queen Mary Army Auxiliary Corps (Q.M.A.A.C.), the Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D.), The Army Pay Corps Clerks and the Women's Legion. On the Grand Parade there was a fixed platform in position close to the National Monument where Major-General Williams took up position in order to salute the parading regiments.

Although the parade went off without any major incident and large crowds gathered to support the peace parade, that evening there were a number of public order disturbances. A group of British soldiers were confronted while singing a song which was insulting to the Irish and were chased off the streets only to be saved from further harm by the RIC. Later a RIC Constable Keogh was shot in the thigh while chasing a crowd of protestors before the RIC returned fire with revolvers. One British Army officer was attacked and had to take refuge in the Victoria Hotel before RIC officers escorted him out of the city centre. Armed pickets from Victoria Barracks were later posted throughout the city centre and were jeered. By this stage the majority of people had left the streets and there were no other disturbances.

Irish Examiner July 1919



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