

A Timeline of the
War of Independence
in County Kildare,
1919-1922

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with

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Burning of Connaught Lodge 1922

Courtesy of Frank Goodwin and Cill Dara Historical Society

Rear:

Postcards: **Hare Park, Naas Barracks, Newbridge Barracks,
Kildare Barracks, Curragh Camp and Rath Camp**

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Dedication

*To all those who sacrificed so much
so that we might have a better life*

Glossary

Adjt.	Adjutant
C.B.	Companion of the Bath
C.I.	County Inspector
cwt.	One-hundred weight (100 pounds)
D.L.	Deputy Lieutenant for County Kildare
D.M.P.	Dublin Metropolitan Police
D.O.R.A.	Defence of the Realm Act
D.S.O.	Distinguished Service Order
G.A.A.	Gaelic Athletic Association
Gen.	General
G.H.Q.	General Headquarters
G.O.C.	General Officer Commanding
H.Q.	Headquarters
I.R.A.	Irish Republican Army
I.R.B.	Irish Republican Brotherhood
I.T.G.W.U.	Irish Transport and General Worker's Union
J. P.	Justice of the Peace (Magistrate or Judge)
K.C.B.	Knight Commander of the Bath
Lt.	Lieutenant
Lt. Col.	Lieutenant-Colonel
Lt. Gen.	Lieutenant-General
M.P.	Member of Parliament
O.B.E.	Order of the British Empire
O.C.	Officer Commanding
P.M.	Prime Minister
P.P.	Parish Priest
Regt.	Regiment
R.D.S.	Royal Dublin Society
R.H.A.	Royal Horse Artillery
R.I.C.	Royal Irish Constabulary
R.M.	Resident Magistrate
Sergt.	Sergeant
T.D.	Teachta Dála
U.D.C.	Urban District Council
U.K.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
V.S.	Veterinary Surgeon
W.W.I.	World War One

Introduction

'We claim for our national independence the recognition and support of every free nation in the world...'

Declaration of Independence, Dublin, January 21, 1919.

This booklet will be of interest to anyone curious about the history of Co. Kildare, particularly local history groups and secondary school students. It will help them navigate the period of the Irish War of Independence as it happened in Co. Kildare. The main incidents on the national stage are included to give it context. Much of the information comes from the local and national newspapers of the day and while an event may be recorded, there may be further information in the newspapers and other sources. We hope to encourage students to look further.

Not every arrest or raid for arms is recorded; not every incident involving the cutting of wires, roads being trenched and/or bridges being damaged is documented, so researchers are encouraged to go back to the sources and history books and look for more. This is a Timeline, a listing of notable events by date, not a comprehensive history, but it will bring new events and information to light which hopefully will lead to further research.

One of the main difficulties encountered while researching the booklet was that many of the references were difficult to date accurately from the newspapers. Some of these (all three local papers) were published weekly and it was sometimes difficult to be sure which date was being referred to.

I.R.A. attacks were quite often late at night or in the early hours of the morning (usually between midnight and 2 a.m.) which is technically a new day/date, but the report might refer to the night of a particular day. Likewise, spellings of placenames and personal names often varied and characters were quite regularly referred to both in Irish and English,

such as Daniel or Donal Buckley and Domhnall Ua Buachalla or O’Buachalla all references to the same man.

Every effort has been made to corroborate events with major published sources, but even then, sometimes dates chosen might disagree with published sources when checked against the yearly calendar.

The Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee has been active in its work since 2015. From the outset, it has proudly worked to create a legacy of research and material for future generations. We hope that students and researchers find this latest publication worthy.

Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2021-2023 initiative, Kildare County Council and Kildare Library Services. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Chair and members of the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.

Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee – Mission Statement

The aim of the programme is to establish the most appropriate way in which to mark the centenaries within the county. The nature of the programme is expansive, delivering a series of commemorative events, school programmes, publications, etc., but with the unique intention of creating a legacy of research and cultural and artistic material for future generations. The delivery of the programme should be inclusive, appropriate and sensitive, to take account of all aspects of life in Co. Kildare in the period 1913–1923.

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1918

November 11

Armistice signifying an end to the Great War. Over 200,000 Irish men had joined up to fight in the Great War for varying reasons, many believing that they were fighting for Home Rule. Over 40,000 died. Some like Tom Barry and Emmet Dalton returned to fight for Ireland's independence, though most were weary of war.

November 14

Séumas O'Kelly, author and one-time editor of the *Leinster Leader*, died in Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin. As editor of the *Nationality* newspaper, he suffered a haemorrhage during an attack, by British soldiers and a mob celebrating Armistice Day, on the newspaper's head office, in Harcourt Street, Dublin.

December 14-28

The Unionist-dominated Coalition, led by Prime Minister Lloyd George, won a majority in the British general election. In Ireland Sinn Féin won 73 out of 105 seats while the Irish Parliamentary Party were annihilated, winning only 6 seats; the remaining 26 seats were won by Unionists. Art O'Connor and Domhnall Ua Buachalla were elected in Co. Kildare for Sinn Féin.

A Timeline of the War of Independence in County Kildare, 1919-1922



R.I.C. and British Army trucks outside Limerick, c.1920.

1919

January 2

A pantomime was held in the village hall in Kill on 1 January to raise funds for the post of district nurse. It ended at around 10 p.m. At about 2 a.m. the Royal Irish Constabulary (R.I.C.) were notified that the hall was blazing. The police barracked in the hall had been lured away by reports of cattle driving and Irish Volunteers, taking advantage of their absence, set it alight. The hall had been built in 1914 and paid for by public subscriptions and donations by Lord and Lady Mayo of Palmerstown Demesne.

January 5

Sinn Féin held meetings around the country demanding the release of all political prisoners. A large meeting took place in Market Square, Athy.

January 13

Sinn Féin supporters took possession of a room at Naas Town Hall as a club room and proceeded to hold a meeting. The use of a room as a club room had been agreed at a meeting of Naas Urban District Council (U.D.C.) on January 7, but when the group arrived they were refused admission as no key could be found.

January 18

The return of the Sinn Féin candidate for North Kildare at the recent elections was celebrated by a victory ball in the Town Hall, Naas, with over 400 ladies and gentlemen in attendance. The entire building was decorated and the tricolour was visible everywhere. Apologies were expressed for the absence of their member, Domhnall Ua Buachalla, who was ill.

Beginning of a strike at Bishops court, the estate of Edward Kennedy, J.P.

1919

January 21

First meeting of Dáil Éireann (Irish Assembly, or parliament). Sinn Féin M.P.s (other than those in prison or on the run) convened in the Mansion House, Dublin and unanimously adopted a Provisional Constitution of Dáil Éireann. The Sinn Féin M.P.s referred to themselves as Teachtaí Dála (T.D.s). They repeated the Declaration of the Republic, issued a Message to the Free Nations of the World and passed the Democratic Programme, which promised a new education system, reform of the Poor Law and other social reforms.

On that same day, an ambush at Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary, the first action of the War of Independence took place. A group of Irish Volunteers including Séamus Robinson, Seán Treacy, Dan Breen and Seán Hogan, having laid in wait for four days, ambushed a cart carrying gelignite at Soloheadbeg. The cart was escorted by two policemen who were shot dead. Constable James McDonnell, a widower, with six children, was a native of Belmullet, Co. Mayo and Constable Patrick O'Connell (36), unmarried, a native of Coachford, Co. Cork.

January 24

General strike in Belfast for a 44-hour week. Some 60,000 workers were involved. Started in the shipyards, but spread across the city.

January 25

Reported in the *Leinster Leader* of this date that Nicholas Travers, Portgloriam and Henry Cleary, Kilcock were brought up before Major Thackeray at Donadea Petty Sessions. They were charged with unlawful assembly at Kilcock on the night of the declaration of the result of the recent election (Dec. 28, 1918). Travers was described by the *Freeman's Journal* as Mr. Buckley's (Domhnall Ua Buachalla) election sub-agent. Prisoners were discharged.

January 31

An t-Óglach stated that Volunteers were entitled, morally and legally, to kill British soldiers and police.

February 1

Challenge Gaelic football match in Croke Park between Dublin (2 goals and 7 points) and Kildare (2 points) in aid of the Grocers' Assistant's Strike Fund.

February 3

Éamon de Valera dramatically escaped from Lincoln Jail along with Seán McGarry and Seán Milroy. The escape was masterminded by Harry Boland and Michael Collins.

February 5

Meeting of Kildare County Council Finance Committee recorded a strike of men working on road repairs for the council in the Newbridge, Kildare and Kilcullen areas. The men struck when they found that unskilled workers employed by the military authorities were being paid more. A proposed settlement of the strike, which resulted in an increase of wages for the men, was recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on March 12.

February 8

Sinn Féin delegation arrived in Paris with the intention of lobbying the post-war peace conference to recognise Irish independence.

A demonstration was made by over thirty republicans, including Tom Harris (Prosperous), and Michael O'Kelly (Naas), at a meet of the Kildare Hunt at Betaghstown, near Clane. The Sinn Féin County Executive had issued a directive to the Master of the Fox Hounds and the Secretary of the Kildare Hunt, which stated no hunting would be permitted until political prisoners were released.

Serious outbreak of influenza in Celbridge. Extra nurses engaged at Celbridge Union (Workhouse) hospital.

February 11

Patrick Gavin, Maddenstown, a drover, was shot dead while bringing a cow to Newbridge market, by a British Army sentry,

1919

near the Brownstown Pumping Station, Curragh Camp. It was deemed a tragic accident.

February 25

Belfast Strikes ended with agreement on a 47-hour week.

March 1-7

The Flu epidemic still raged. In one tragic case at Donadea there were four deaths from the same family. A farmer named Patrick Quinn (78) succumbed to an attack on March 1. Three days after his funeral his wife Catherine (69) and eldest son Thomas (47) died, and the following day, his daughter Mary (35) died. The funeral of these three victims took place on the same day.

March 4

United States (U.S.) House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly that the Paris Peace Conference should favourably consider Ireland's claim to self-determination (U.S. Senate did the same on June 6).

March 5

Following advertisements to farmers to attend a protest in favour of the continuance of hunting and racing in Kildare, a large public meeting was held in the courtroom of the County Courthouse, Naas. Between 400 and 500 farmers attended, mainly from North Kildare. Outside, republicans distributed a leaflet 'Fox-hunting for Freedom.' Sinn Féiners took an active part in the meeting.

March 6-10

Sinn Féin prisoners in English Jails were released. Art O'Connor, T.D., from Celbridge, remained in jail.

March 8

Body of Pierce McCann, T.D., who died in Gloucester Jail of the Flu epidemic, was returned to Tipperary. The Kildare

Sinn Féin Executive lined the platform at Sallins and some 300 Volunteers saluted the train at Newbridge. Supporters gathered at Monasterevin train station also. He was the first member of Dáil Éireann to die in office, though he was in prison when the Dáil sat.

March 11

At a Special Court in Naas, four members of the Kill branch of the Irish Transport and General Worker's Union (I.T.G.W.U.), Peter Mulhall, Thomas Farrell, William Carroll and Christopher Mills were charged with assault on March 10 on Henry Stratford during the strike at Bishops court, the estate of Edward Kennedy, J.P. Stratford had taken work on the estate during the strike and carried a loaded revolver which was taken from him during the assault. The assailants appeared before Naas Petty Sessions on March 17 (charges dismissed against Farrell for lack of evidence) and were referred to the Assizes in March and July. They pleaded guilty to common assault and were let out on their own recognisances. In April Kennedy claimed for cattle driven off and the destruction of a plough. He reported that notices had been posted on his lands threatening to shoot him and that he had generally been interfered with during the strike.

March 17

The Cloncurry Sinn Féin Cumann organised its first ever concert and dramatic entertainment which concluded with the singing of 'The Soldier's Song.'

March 19

Irish Volunteers raided Collinstown (Baldoon) airfield outside Dublin. They captured 75 rifles and 4,000 rounds of ammunition.

Amongst the influenza victims in Donadea district was John Wrin, ex-Sergeant R.I.C., and for a number of years postmaster at Donadea. There were more deaths in this district; the disease showed signs of abating.

1919

March 20

Volunteers raided for arms across the country.

March 29

Pádraic Fleming and Piaras Beaslaí escaped from Mountjoy jail via rope-ladder. Some twenty prisoners over-powered their guards and escaped over the wall.

March 30

Large demonstration in Celbridge to welcome Art O'Connor, T.D. for South Kildare, home to Elm Hall from Durham Prison.

April 1-2

Second session of the Dáil. Éamon de Valera was elected Príomh-Aire or President. Cabinet named as follows: Arthur Griffith (Home Affairs), George Plunkett (Foreign Affairs), Eoin MacNeill (Industries), Cathal Brugha (Defence), Robert Barton (Agriculture), Countess Markievicz (Labour), W. T. Cosgrave (Local Government) and Michael Collins, (Finance). Seán T. O'Kelly was elected Ceann Comhairle. Markievicz was the first female Cabinet Minister in Western Europe.

April 4

Michael Collins, Minister for Finance, sought to raise a loan through the issue of 'republican bonds' to the value of £250,000 in sums of £1 to £1,000; all newspapers carrying the advertisement were immediately suppressed.

April 6

Limerick city Volunteers attempted to free a prisoner, Robert J. Byrne, a prominent member of the Trades and Labour Council, from the Limerick prison workhouse. Byrne had been sentenced to a term of twelve months for the possession of firearms and was on hunger-strike at the time. One R.I.C. constable and the prisoner Robert Byrne were killed in the ensuing fire fight.

A large demonstration was held in Athy to welcome Art

O'Connor T.D. after his release from prison. Kevin O'Higgins T.D. also addressed the crowd.

April 7

Irish Volunteers issued a warning to selected 'G' men (members of the Intelligence 'G' Division headquarters). Eamon Broy, of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, smuggled Michael Collins into Brunswick St., G Division H.Q., to view confidential files.

April 8

Sinn Féin Árd Fheis – de Valera elected President of Sinn Féin.

April 10

Counties Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Roscommon and Tipperary were proclaimed as being in a state of disturbance.

April 10-12

Third session of the First Dáil passed a motion which called on Irish people to ostracise the R.I.C.

April 14-27

Limerick Soviet: general strike organised by Limerick United Trades and Labour Council brought out some 15,000 workers. It led to the establishment of a 'soviet' in protest against martial law within the city under the Defence of the Realm Act. A special Strike Committee was set up to maintain public order, print money, control food prices and publish newspapers. However, by April 27, the Strike Committee issued a proclamation that the strike was at an end.

April 19

Leinster Leader reported that posters were issued in Athy calling on the people to observe Easter Monday as a National holiday in memory of the men who gave their lives during Easter Week 1916. In Castledermot, Ballitore and Moone arrangements were made for similar observances.

1919

April 23

Grand Gaelic Concert and Dramatic Entertainment under the auspices of the local Naas (Seán Connolly) Sinn Féin Club in the Ballroom of the Town Hall, Naas, with a lecture by Miss Nora Connolly daughter of James Connolly 1916 executed leader. It also featured a performance of *The Matchmakers* by the late Séumus O'Kelly.

April 27

Art O'Connor T.D., Sinn Féin addressed a Gaelic concert at Ballymore Eustace. William McGrath, secretary of South Kildare Sinn Féin Executive, was arrested for threatening the R.I.C. Sergeant. He was sentenced to one month on June 21, refusing to recognise the court. It was reported that a Dr. Higgins of Ballitore was also present at the concert and later arrested.

April 28-29

The Kildare Hunt Club issued an ultimatum that if sport across the Kildare countryside was to be blocked then it would cancel the national hunt meeting scheduled for Punchestown on April 28-29. The National Hunt Committee had cancelled the Fairyhouse meeting on Easter Monday in retaliation for the Sinn Féin campaign stopping the country hunt meetings. The Punchestown meeting in 1919 was in fact abandoned. It was cancelled again in 1920 only to resume in 1921.

May 3

Delegation from the U.S.-based 'Friends of Irish Freedom' arrived in Ireland.

May 7

Delegates from the American Peace Commission visited Maynooth College on the invitation of the President, Dr. McCaffrey. Also present were Count Plunkett, Éamon de Valera, Cathal Brugha and Arthur Griffith.

May 12

'Comrades of the Great War' Branch formed in Athy with the help of Mr. Webster, organiser, who arrived by train. Lady Weldon presided. She procured a hut from the Army Authorities and a site from the Duke of Leinster, in or adjacent to the Park.

May 13

Two policemen were shot dead in a shoot-out with Dan Breen and Seán Treacy, as they freed fellow I.R.A. member Seán Hogan from the custody of the R.I.C., on a train at Knocklong, County Limerick.

May 17

Members of Dáil Éireann sent a letter to the head of the Paris Peace Conference, repudiating Britain's claim to speak for Ireland.

The first republican law court was set up in Co. Mayo.

May 26

Members of Dáil Éireann sent a statement concerning 'Ireland's Case for Independence' to the Paris Peace Conference.

May 29

Castledermot Aeridheacht ('Taking the Air' – an open-air Gaelic fête or fair) addressed by Art O'Connor, T.D.

June

Michael Collins became president of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.)

June 1

De Valera departed in secret for the U.S. to secure public support and official recognition of Irish Republic and to obtain financial aid. Harry Boland went ahead to prepare for his arrival.

1919

In the Gaelic Football Championship, Kildare beat Laois 3-5 to 2-5 in Newbridge.

June 3

Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1919, provided for proportional representation at local authority elections.

June 6

Delegates from the 'Friends of Irish Freedom' presented a report on conditions in Ireland to the Paris Peace Conference.

June 7

Amongst the prisoners released from Belfast Jail was a teacher, J. J. O'Byrne, a prominent member of Sinn Féin. He had been arrested in Athy on August 16, 1918, for reading the Sinn Féin manifesto to a crowd at a public meeting in the Square.

June 11

U.S. President Wilson informed the 'Friends of Irish Freedom' of a British veto on the discussion of the Irish right to self-determination.

De Valera arrived in New York.

June 15

John W. Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown completed the first non-stop transatlantic flight from Newfoundland, landing near Clifden, Co. Galway.

June 18

The Dáil established the National Arbitration Courts which became known as Sinn Féin Courts to expedite problems with land agitation.

June 19

The Dáil approved the National Loan and appointed 3 trustees (Éamon de Valera, James O'Mara and Bishop Fogarty).

June 22

An estimated 7,000 people took part in the annual pilgrimage to Wolfe Tone's grave at Bodenstown Churchyard, Sallins. They included Volunteers in uniform, Clan na Gaedheal, Girl Scouts, Fianna Boy Scouts, and members of Cumann na mBan. Large numbers travelled by trains and cars, while Volunteers marched to Bodenstown. Those from the city and distant centres camped out on Saturday night. P. S. O'Hegarty delivered the oration. Among those present were: Domhnall Ua Buachalla, T.D. (North Kildare) and Art O'Connor, T.D. (South Kildare).

June 23

Irish Volunteers, Jim Stapleton and James Murphy, shot D.I. Michael Hunt, chief intelligence officer, in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Hunt died of his injuries on the same day and was later buried in Passlands Cemetery, Monasterevin. A verdict of wilful murder was returned at the Inquest.

John Devoy, a native of Kill, Co. Kildare and leader of Irish America, met Éamon de Valera in New York.

June 24

Catholic Bishops gathered in Maynooth to condemn military rule in Ireland and called for a government based on the free choice of the people. Presided over by Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh.

June 25

Death of William Martin Murphy (75), founder of Independent Newspapers, leader of the Employers' Federation during the lock-out of 1913-14.

June 26

A meeting was held in the Courthouse, Kildare, as a preliminary to the forming of a branch of the Comrades of the War Association for the town of Kildare and surrounding districts. Brigadier-General Waldron, C.B., presided, and Major Thackeray, R.M., was present.

1919

At a local branch meeting of the Co. Kildare Farmer's Union in Athy the question of a sympathetic Lockout with the employers in the Celbridge district was considered and put to a vote. The proposal was defeated by 40 votes.

June 27

Notice was given to the I.T.G.W.U. by the Co. Kildare Farmers' Union, that unless the men who were on strike in the Celbridge district had resumed work by July 2, the County Executive would meet to declare a Lockout of all members of the I.T.G.W.U. The Celbridge men were looking for the same wages as their counterparts in Dublin.

July

Collins formed the 'Squad,' an elite intelligence unit whose role was to assassinate British agents and undercover military and police. Most sources agree it was officially formed in September 1919 although active since July.

July 4

Suppression of Sinn Féin, the Irish Volunteers, Cumann na mBan and the Gaelic League in Co. Tipperary.

July 5

Co. Kildare Farmers' Union gave one week's notice and declared a general Lockout of all members of the I.T.G.W.U.

July 6

Kildare defeat Westmeath 4-3 to 1-5 in the Leinster Football Semi-Final in Edenderry.

July 7

I.T.G.W.U. farm labourers go on strike. The number was estimated at 1,000 men by the *Kildare Observer* newspaper. Thomas Nagle of the I.T.G.W.U. in Naas estimated some 750 men on strike. He estimated there were some 2,500-3,000 labourers affiliated to the Union in Co. Kildare.

July 11

Monthly meeting of the Executive of the Farmers' Union, with Art O'Connor, T.D. and I.T.G.W.U. representatives present; there was no resolution.

July 12

I.T.G.W.U. members Lockout scheduled for this day.

Kildare Farmer's locked out trade union employees to demonstrate their resolve.

July 19

Large crowd of military and civilians at Peace celebrations on the Curragh. There were alarming scenes as rockets (fireworks) flew through the crowds and caused fires. Some 51 people were admitted to the Curragh Hospital. Private George Edmund White, 3rd North Staffordshire Regt., died of injuries on July 22.

Trouble in Athy between demobilised soldiers and Sinn Féin supporters. A proposed peace celebration was abandoned for fear of violence, but a Union Jack was hoisted over the Post Office in honour of the soldiers. Republican prisoner, Seán Hayden, Athy, arrived home on the same day. Both groups met and, with cries of 'Up the Rebels' and 'Up the Khaki,' set into each other with boots and fists, although no serious injuries were inflicted. The local police were barely able to contain it.

July 20

County Kildare Feis at Athy Showgrounds. The event was addressed by both Kildare T.D.s – Art O'Connor and Domhnall Ua Buachalla. Among the resolutions passed was a call for Irish to be taught as a 'living language.'

March of demobilised soldiers through the streets of Athy about 8 p.m., but no repeat of the violence of the previous night.

1919

July 21

40-50 'demobilised' men attacked a known Sinn Féin premises in Athy and demolished it; the front portion was occupied by a bicycle shop and store, operated by republican J. B. Maher. Police reinforcements were called to quell the disturbances.

July 30

The first assassination of an R.I.C. officer carried out by the 'Squad.' Detective Pat 'the Dog' Smyth of G Division was shot outside his home in Drumcondra, Dublin. He was the father of eight children and was targeted after refusing to desist from vigorously pursuing his duties. He died 5 weeks later. Smyth had identified leaders after the 1916 Rising. His wife was a native of Sallins, Co. Kildare, and was holidaying there when her husband was shot.

August 11

Death of Andrew Carnegie, Scottish-born businessman and philanthropist. His philanthropy helped establish libraries throughout Ireland.

August 20

Dáil Éireann resolved that Irish Volunteers, as well as its own members and officials 'must swear allegiance to the Irish Republic and to the Dáil.' Volunteers officially became the army of the Irish Republic (I.R.A.) and shortly afterwards volunteers taking the oath began using the name.

August 23

Announcement of the end of the Farm Labourer's Strike and a settlement reached.

August 28

Amount raised by the national loan reached £250,000.

September

Collins was made Director of Intelligence of the I.R.A.

After arriving in Co. Kildare, Seán Kavanagh, Gaelic League teacher and I.R.A. intelligence officer, discovered that Sergeant Gerry Maher, stationed in Naas, was a republican sympathiser. Collins was having difficulty breaking the code to 'a new kind of cipher' to which nobody below the rank of County Inspector was supposed to have the key. Maher managed to get scraps of paper from C.I. Kerry Supple's waste-paper basket and enabled Collins's men to break the code.

September 7

Kildare defeated Dublin by one point, 1-3 to 1-2, in the Leinster Final in Croke Park

September 7-8

I.R.A. ambush in Fermoy resulted in the death of a soldier, the first serviceman killed since the Easter Rising. In reprisal, British soldiers looted Fermoy the following day.

September 8

Detective Pat 'the Dog' Smyth of G Division died of wounds received on 30 July.

September 10

Sinn Féin and a range of other nationalist organisations were banned in Co. Cork.

September 11-12

Night-time raid for arms by republicans at the home of Mrs Florence Watt Smyth, Castlewarden, Co. Kildare.

September 12

Dáil Éireann declared illegal: proclaimed by the authorities as a dangerous organisation and banned throughout Ireland. A raid on Sinn Féin H.Q. by uniformed police and detectives from G Division. Michael Collins bluffed his way out to the roof and escaped.

1919

Detective Constable Daniel Hoey of G Division, D.M.P. was shot dead by the I.R.A. in Townsend Street, at the rear of the Central Police Station, Brunswick Street.

September 14

Kildare defeated Cavan in the All-Ireland Football Semi-Final, 3-2 to 1-3, in Navan

September 19

Official founding of 'The Squad'.

September 20

All republican newspapers suppressed.

September 28

In front of a crowd of 32,000 Kildare won their second All-Ireland Football Final, defeating Galway, 2-5 to 1 point, at Croke Park.

September 30

5,588 raids by the military on private houses throughout the country for the first 9 months.

October 11

Reported in the newspapers, that, at a recent meeting of the Select Vestry of Naas and Killashee parishes, it was decided to perpetuate the names of all those, irrespective of creed, who fell in the Great War 1914-18 on a tablet, to be placed in St. David's Church porch.

October 16

Proclamation outlaws Sinn Féin, the Irish Volunteers, Cumann na mBan and the Gaelic League in Dublin City and County. Sinn Féin Árd Fheis took place in secret (between midnight and 3 a.m.)

October 23

Richard Higgins, a farmer of Landenstown, Co. Kildare, was arraigned before a court martial at the Ship Street Barracks, Dublin. He was charged with having in his possession a sword bayonet, and quantities of ammunition and explosive substances. He said that, as a soldier of the Irish Republic he did not recognise the court.

November

Séumas O'Kelly's novella, *The Golden Barque and The Weaver's Grave*, was published posthumously by the Talbot Press.

November 8

Formal opening by Colonel Skinner, D.S.O. of the Old Comrades' Club, recently erected on the Moorefield Road, Newbridge, by Major Thackeray, Captain Greer and friends.

November 11

Order issued by the Inspector General's office of the R.I.C. which gave authority to recruit non-Irishmen to the R.I.C.

A raid by British forces on 76 Harcourt St., Dublin – the H.Q. of the Dáil.

Publication of the first issue of the Dáil's new propaganda organ, *The Irish Bulletin*.

November 18

Arrest of Edward Malone, Dunbrin, near Athy, at the house of Michael Malone, Ballycullane, Co. Kildare. He had been on the run since April when an order was made for his arrest. Documents were found at a search of his house in Dunbrin on October 31, 1918, and a rifle was found on February 13, 1919.

November 25

Sinn Féin, Volunteers, Cumann na mBan and Gaelic League suppressed throughout Ireland having previously been suppressed in Dublin, Cork, Tipperary and Clare.

1919

November 28

Armed men raided Naas Gas Works about 1 a.m., procured a sledge hammer and damaged the main supply to the town. It was repaired by 4 p.m. that same day.

November 29

Detective Sergeant John Barton, D.M.P., G Division, was shot on College St., Dublin, and died a short time later. Seán Treacy (Vice-Commandant South Tipperary Brigade I.R.A.) was with the Squad and fired the two fatal bullets. Barton had identified leaders after the 1916 Rising.

December 5

Court martial of Edward Malone, Dunbrin, Athy, at Ship Street Barracks, for possession of 10 detonators; a document likely to cause disaffection; a document likely to prejudice discipline within the R.I.C.; and possession of a Winchester Rifle. Malone did not recognise the tribunal. He was later sentenced to two year's imprisonment with hard labour, but one year was remitted.

December 18

Winston Churchill, in the House of Commons, numbered troops in Ireland at 43,000, costing the British taxpayer £860,000 per month.

December 19

Seán Treacy, Dan Breen, Martin Savage, and eight other members of the I.R.A. made an unsuccessful attempt on the life of Viscount Lord French, at Ashtown, near the Phoenix Park, Dublin. Martin Savage was killed in the attempt. Dan Breen and two D.M.P. and a driver were wounded. An R.I.C. Sergeant was knocked unconscious.

December 20

Grand Canal Company issued a notice from James's Street Harbour to say that traffic on the canal would cease because

of a strike by boatmen. The *Sunday Independent* announced the next day that 350 boatmen had gone on strike though not officially recognised by the Transport Worker's Union of which they were members.

December 21

An I.R.A. group, led by Peadar Clancy, raided the *Irish Independent* offices and demolished machinery after the paper described Martin Savage as a 'would-be assassin.'

December 22

The 'Better Government of Ireland Bill' was introduced into the House of Commons, which proposed two parliaments, one comprised of the 6 counties of north-east Ireland and one for the other 26 counties.

December 23

Irish Land (Provision for Soldiers and Sailors) Act passed empowering the Irish Land Commission to provide housing for any men who had served in the British forces.

December 28

Laurence Kennedy, a native of Leixlip, was shot dead by the military in the Phoenix Park as he made his way home to Castleknock. A farm labourer, he was deaf and did not stop when challenged. At the inquest the jury declared 'We consider the military acted in a most heartless manner.' Lt. Boast of the 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment was accidentally shot by his own men in the encounter.



The Rath Internment Camp, the Curragh, opened on 1 March 1921.



Newbridge Fife and Drum Band, field day, St. Patrick's Day, 1922.



Army and Navy stores, second building from left, at Ballymany, Newbridge, c.1920.



Joe Ryan and Joe Maher, volunteers with Barrowhouse Company, I.R.A.



Newbridge Cavalry Barracks.



Cumann na mBan recite the rosary for Thomas Traynor outside Mountjoy Jail.



A group of Black and Tans and Auxiliaries outside the London and North Western Hotel in Dublin following an attack by the I.R.A., April 1921.



The Curragh Camp looking to the west.



Cook and staff, Rath Internment Camp, 1921.

1920

Early 1920

The 2nd Kildare Battalion was formed at a meeting in Naas. The battalion officers appointed were:

Commandant:	Thomas Harris, Prosperous Company.
Vice-commandant:	Michael Smyth, Athgarvan Company.
Adjutant:	Seán Curry, Naas Company.
Quartermaster:	Patrick Dunne, Kill Company.
Intelligence Officer:	Seán Kavanagh, Naas Company.
Training Officer:	William Jones, Athgarvan Company.

The following companies were in 2nd Kildare Battalion:

Athgarvan (A)	Matthew Cardiff.
Ballymore (B)	Art Doran.
Kill (C)	John Traynor.
Naas (D)	Thomas Patterson.
Prosperous (F)	Thomas Dunne.
Robertstown (G)	Joseph Herbert.
Two-mile-house (H)	Andrew Byrne.
Allen (I)	Michael Fitzgerald.

January 1920-February 1920

Strike on Grand Canal for shorter hours and better wages and overtime rates continued though some traffic was diverted via rail. Finally settled in early February.

January 2

R.I.C. recruited former British army soldiers under the command of Gen. H. H. Tudor as an auxiliary police force.

I.R.A. volunteers of the 1st Cork Brigade captured Carrigtwohill R.I.C. Barracks. This is reported as the first 'official' attack on an R.I.C. Barracks.

1920

January 4

In the early hours of Sunday morning, Volunteers from Naas Company attacked the home of County Inspector Kerry Supple on the Sallins Road. Supple, his wife and servants were uninjured. Police patrols increased.

Meeting at Naas Town Hall against the Motor Permit Order which had come into effect on November 29, 1919, designed to obstruct the I.R.A., by necessitating that drivers of vehicles had to hold a permit. The move was resisted by unions, motorists, mechanics and tradespeople across the country. The dispute was at its height in January 1920, but the strike petered-out and the permits remained.

January 5

Public meeting in Athy Town Hall organised by the Co. Kildare Trades Council in aid of the Labour candidates for the municipal elections. Speakers escorted to the venue by local ex-soldiers' fife and drum band.

January 15

Using Proportional Representation for the first time, polling began in elections to borough and urban district councils: Sinn Féin, with nationalists and Labour, obtained control of 172 out of 206 councils.

January 20

R.I.C. Constable shot dead in Thurles, County Tipperary. Afterwards, R.I.C. men attacked property belonging to local Sinn Féiners and others. This is reported as the first instance of police reprisals.

January 21

Assistant Commissioner William Charles Redmond, D.M.P., shot dead in Dublin.

Meeting in Naas between Farmers and members of I.T.G.W.U. Agreement was reached on wages, but not on the question of a 9 or 10 hour day.

January 25

Death of William Percy French, painter, entertainer and songwriter. His many popular songs include 'The Mountains of Mourne.'

January 27

British troops raided Sinn Féin H.Q., Dublin, to try and seize funds raised by the National Loan.

January 31

The *Nationalist and Leinster Times* reported a great deal of unrest and labour trouble at the Curragh Camp. Civilians employed by local contractors, and workers at the Sewerage Farm with the Royal Engineers, were out on strike.

February 1

Disguised men raided Miss Archbold's residence at Davidstown House, Castledermot. No arms or ammunition were found, but a shot was fired in the house and contents of the smoking room burned.

A concert hosted by the G.A.A. in Maynooth Town Hall was raided by the police and military and all men attending the event were searched.

February 7

The house of a widow named Mrs. Ennis was surrounded and searched by police and military in the Cloncurry district, presumably for a fugitive political offender. This was followed by a search in the houses and premises of John Feeney and Tom Harris. A graveyard was also searched.

February 11

A military shed at the Brownstown pumping station was burnt down in the early hours of the morning. The fire brigade from the Curragh Camp tried to save the building. The shed was at the spot where Patrick Gavin was shot by a sentry while on his way from Tully to the fair at Newbridge. For the previous six months there had been no military guard at the shed.

1920

February 15

Presentation of medals at a G.A.A. Victory Ball in the Town Hall Naas, to mark a successful year for Kildare footballers in 1919. Speech by Art O'Connor, T.D. for South Kildare. Championship and National Aid medals were presented to the successful team members.

February 20

Applications for an increase in wages by members of the I.T.G.W.U. of December 12, 1919 and February 12, 1920 had been unsatisfactorily responded to. Notice to strike was issued by the union representing the labourers of Naas Urban Council to begin on Saturday February 28.

February 23

Curfew came into effect in Dublin Metropolitan area, midnight – 5 a.m.

February 28

Strike of Naas U.D.C. labourers. Strike at Naas Waterworks and Royal Engineers from the Curragh were called in to help maintain the water supply.

March 4

Unanimously passed at a meeting held in Rathangan and to be sent to the Secretary, Boston Point-to-Point:

'As a protest against the present regime of coercion and the imprisonment of Irishmen for holding political opinions not approved of by the military governors of this county, we wish to inform you that the military point-to-point advertised for Boston will not be allowed to be held.'

A Carabiniers and 12th Lancers point-to-point meeting was successfully held on March 23.

March 6

Leixlip R.I.C. Barracks was closed and Sergeant Lane transferred to Maynooth: four constables were transferred to different parts of the county.

March 7

T. P. Brophy replaced Jack Fitzgerald as Chairman of Kildare G.A.A.

March 7-8

Castledermot and Ballitore R.I.C. Barracks, deemed too isolated to summon aid in the case of attack, were closed and the men re-distributed amongst the stations in the county. Kilcullen constabulary staff were augmented by the sergeant and men of the Ballitore station.

Maynooth R.I.C. Barracks was closed from March 8 and the constabulary and staff stationed at Celbridge, which was to be a headquarters station. Men from Kilcock Barracks were also sent to Celbridge.

The Carbury station was closed and the men transferred to Robertstown. The Brownstown station near the Curragh Camp was closed on March 7 and the Lumville Barracks was also closed.

Rathangan station closed and the sergeant and 5 constables transferred to Monasterevin.

March 9

An agreement was reached to increase the workmen's wages at a meeting of Naas Urban Council with the intention of the men returning to work the following morning.

March 13

Peter Gavin appeared on bail in front of Major Thackeray at Kildare Petty Sessions, charged with arson at the military pumping station, Brownstown in February.

March 20

Tomás MacCurtáin, Lord Mayor of Cork and commandant of 1st Cork Brigade, I.R.A., was shot dead in front of his wife at his home, by men with blackened faces who were later seen entering the local R.I.C. Barracks. In April 1920, the coroner's jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the R.I.C.

1920

March 22

Burning of Maynooth R.I.C. Barracks ahead of projected re-opening. It had been closed and men transferred to Celbridge.

March 25

Arrival of the first new police recruits to the R.I.C., later known as the 'Black and Tans' due to the mixture of police and military uniforms. A section of Black and Tans were stationed at Naas Military Barracks.

March 26

First ever Maynooth Mission to China from Dalgan Park seminary in Galway.

Alan Bell, a magistrate investigating Sinn Féin and Dáil Éireann funds, was taken from a tramcar in Dublin and executed.

March 29

The 'Better Government of Ireland Bill' was passed by 348 votes to 94 in Westminster.

March 30

Five days after the arrival of the 'Black and Tans,' the I.R.A. issued a proclamation:

'Whereas the spies and traitors known as the Royal Irish Constabulary are holding the country for the enemy, and whereas said spies and bloodhounds are conspiring with the enemy to bomb and bayonet and otherwise outrage a peaceful, law-abiding and liberty-loving people; wherefore we hereby proclaim and suppress the said spies and traitors, and do hereby solemnly warn prospective recruits that they join the R.I.C. at their own peril. All nations are agreed as to the fate of traitors. It has the sanction of God and man.'

March 31-April 2

Edward Malone of Dunbrin, Athy was one the I.R.A. leaders during riots in Mountjoy Prison in support of a hunger-strike.

Malone was himself on hunger-strike in the prison hospital and was handcuffed by warders.

April

Depot for Black and Tans opened at the Curragh Camp.

April 3-4

The I.R.A. burned over 300 abandoned R.I.C. barracks in rural areas throughout the country and almost 100 income tax offices.

In County Kildare, men gathered at Easter, at night and into the early hours of the morning. Several evacuated R.I.C. barracks were burned, including a barrack and the adjoining courthouse, at Lumville, near the Curragh Camp. Donadea, Ballinadrimna, (Moyvalley), Clane, Ballitore and Kiltel barracks were reduced to ruins. The attack on Carbury barracks was unsuccessful. Kildare I.R.A. also set fire to the barracks at Maynooth, Sallins, Kildoon, Ballymore-Eustace and Kill. Six courthouses, including Donadea, were burned.

April 5

Some 80 I.R.A. prisoners began a widespread hunger-strike in Mountjoy Prison, demanding prisoner of war status.

April 10

Leixlip R.I.C. Barracks was burned.

April 12

Sir Hamar Greenwood appointed Chief Secretary.

General Strike called in support of hunger-strikers in Mountjoy.

Black and Tans arrived at the Curragh Camp.

April 13

Sallins railway Signal Box was burned.

1920

April 13-14

A labourers' strike in Naas in support of the prisoners in Mountjoy included a procession through the town of several hundred, with a Rosary afterwards in the grounds of the Church.

Punchestown meeting cancelled.

April 14

Mountjoy hunger-strikers released after a widespread national general strike.

April 21

I.R.A. prisoners began a hunger-strike in Wormwood Scrubs Prison, London.

April 27

The I.R.A. captured and destroyed the R.I.C. Barracks at Ballylanders, Co. Limerick and seized arms and ammunition. In reprisal, Black and Tans went on a rampage in Limerick city.

April 29

Hearty welcome in Athy for Eamon (also Edward or Ned) Malone of Dunbrin. He had been 12 days without food as part of the hunger-strikes in Mountjoy. It was estimated there were some 3,000 people in the Market Square in Athy to receive him on his release. The meeting was addressed by Arthur O'Connor, T.D.

May 2

Viscount FitzAlan was sworn in as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the first Catholic to hold the viceroyalty since the reign of King James II.

May 7

12.30 -1 a.m. Disused Sallins R.I.C. Barracks set on fire. Interior destroyed.

May 8

The house of Mrs. Boyhan, Baltracy, Eadestown, was raided for arms and a gun was taken away. Her husband, an officer, had been killed in W.W.I.

May 10

Forty Irish republican prisoners on hunger-strike at Wormwood Scrubs were released.

Irish Jockeys beat English Jockeys 2-0 in a Charity match at the Arsenal ground of Highbury. The game, played before an estimated 30,000 people, was the idea of Captain Greer of Curragh Grange, first Director of the Irish National Stud. Kildare Jockeys, Joe Canty, Joseph Doyle and W. J. Parkinson were amongst the Irish Squad. Funds raised would benefit St. Dunstan's Home for Blinded Soldiers and the Drogheda Memorial Fund.

May 14

1 a.m. raid on home of Excise Officer, Mr. A. Sheridan; raiders took papers and keys to the office in Naas; income tax documents were seized and destroyed.

Maynooth Town Hall and Courthouse was blown up in the early hours of the morning around 2.30 a.m. A terrific explosion was heard which shook every house in the vicinity. A hole had been made in the dividing wall, and a bomb caused extensive damage within and to other premises in the vicinity. The walls of the Town Hall, the property of the Duke of Leinster, were still smouldering at mid-day.

May 14-16

Every member of the Dáil (not in prison) received a note through the post that said 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Therefore a life for a life'.

May 15

The *Leinster Leader* contained a letter from the 'Kildare Soviet Committee, Liberty Hall, Kildare,' demanding an apology

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from a lady who had apparently refused not to go to work when demanded to do so by the strike picquet.

May 16-19

Soviet established at central creamery, Knocklong, Co. Limerick.

May 17

In the early hours of Monday morning the Co. Kildare War Pensions Committee offices in Naas were entered and the records of the county and district War Pensions Committee were destroyed.

A W.W.I. memorial unveiled at St. John's Church, Kill, by Lady Mayo.

May 18

Donadea Courthouse and adjoining Post Office destroyed by fire. Telephone wires cut between Sallins and Donadea.

Majority vote of Naas Town Council for the removal of a resolution passed by the Council on May 9, 1916, which condemned the 1916 Rising.

May 19-20

Customs and Excise Offices in Athy raided. Tax documents removed.

May 20

Dublin dock workers refused to handle war material and were joined by members of the I.T.G.W.U.

May 22

General Sir Henry Tudor appointed Police Adviser in Ireland.

May 23

Beatification by Pope Benedict XV of Archbishop Oliver Plunkett.

Munitions strike' by railwaymen at Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire), Co. Dublin. It soon spread to most of the country as train drivers refused to drive trains carrying British troops.

May 25

Presentation in Naas of Medals and commemorative silver watches to the Kildare 1919 Gaelic Football team who won the 1919 All-Ireland Final.

May 28-29

The vacant R.I.C. Barracks at Carbury was destroyed by fire (*Kildare Observer* June 5, 1920). Attack on night April 3, had been unsuccessful.

May 30

Kildare (1-2) beaten by Dublin (1-8) in the Leinster Final in Croke Park.

June 1

The railway men in Kildare town unanimously adopted a resolution that all railway employees were to refuse to handle munitions or to work on trains carrying troops.

10 chests of weapons were delivered to Newbridge Station, but the guard on the passenger train refused to take them stating that 'he had instructions from his society not to do so'.

Wires were cut at Sallins and at the Sallins Signal Cabin. Sallins R.I.C. Barracks was burned again at 12.30 a.m. An earlier attempt had been unsuccessful.

June 2

A special train to take 2 officers and 31 men from Kildare to Portarlinton failed to run when the driver refused to take the train.

June 4

Elections of county councils, rural district councils and boards of guardians: Sinn Féin dominated, North and South.

1920

June 15

Percival Lea-Wilson, a District Inspector in the R.I.C. who was stationed at Gorey, Co. Wexford, was shot dead by the I.R.A. outside his home, on the orders of Michael Collins. Lea-Wilson had ordered Tom Clarke stripped in the grounds of the Rotunda in 1916.

June 16-19

The R.I.C. in Listowel were ordered to hand over their barracks to the British military and were to be transferred to different stations in the district. New orders by Lieutenant-Colonel Gerard Bryce Ferguson Smyth, Divisional Commander for all Munster, gave the police power to shoot I.R.A. suspects on sight. The police refused to obey the order. One of the 'mutineers' was a Kildare native, Constable Joseph Downey.

June 20

Strike over pay of about 200 stable lads (members of the I.T.G.W.U.) declared at the Curragh ahead of the 3-day Irish Derby meeting. The matter was resolved the next day by agreement it would go to arbitration. Michael Smyth and Hugh Colohan represented the workers. T.D.s Domhnall Ua Buachalla and Art O'Connor were both present at the meeting on June 21.

The annual pilgrimage to Wolfe Tone's grave saw thousands descend on the village of Sallins and the graveyard at Bodenstown. Countess Marckievicz and Mrs. Eamonn Ceannt laid wreaths on the grave. Mrs. Pearse was also present. Seán O' Muirthuile gave the oration. Crowds camped out the night before and 500 Volunteers cycled from Parnell Square on Sunday morning. A republican flag was reportedly flown from the ruins of the former Sallins R.I.C. Barracks.

June 21

At the first meeting of Kildare County Council in Naas, it was decided to pledge allegiance to Dáil Éireann and to repudiate any claim by the British to legislate in Irish Affairs. The Chairman elected was Domhnall Ua Buachalla, a post he

held until 1922, while Éamon Ó Modhrain was elected Vice-Chairman. Republicans Michael Smyth and Thomas Harris were also members of the council. In 1916 Kildare County Council had voted to condemn the Rising in Dublin: now a motion to rescind that condemnation was passed and a red line drawn through the original motion in the Minute Book.

June 28

Two Companies of the 1st Battalion, Connaught Rangers, mutinied in India on hearing of atrocities in Ireland. Private James Daly was later court-martialled and executed, and other mutineers sentenced to penal servitude.

June 29

Dáil Éireann assembled for the first time since October 1919. Dáil Courts replaced the Sinn Féin Arbitration court system and try civil and criminal cases.

A meeting was held in Market Square, Naas, in support of the railwaymen and dockers refusal to handle munitions for use by the military and police in Ireland.

June–July

Summer assizes failed across the South and West, and trials by jury could not be held because jurors refused to participate. The collapse of the court system demoralized the Royal Irish Constabulary; many policemen resigned or retired over the summer.

July

In July 1920, an I.R.A. training camp was established at Ladytown, Naas and was attended by officers from all companies in the battalion area. Peadar McMahon, organiser, was in charge.

July 7

At a meeting of the Naas No. 1 District Council a resolution was proposed by Michael Smyth calling for the release of Jim Larkin from Sing Sing Prison in America.

1920

11 p.m. Naas Post Office raided by a number of masked men armed with revolvers; letters for the R.I.C. Barracks were seized.

July 11

Alexander Will, from Forfar, Scotland, became the first Black and Tan to die in the conflict, during an I.R.A. attack on an R.I.C. Barracks in Kerry.

Aeridheacht Mhór at Newbridge addressed by Art O'Connor, T.D. A republican flag flew above the platform with Volunteers in uniform looking after the arrangements.

July 15

The local I.R.A. burned the courthouse in Athy in the early hours of the morning. The building, situated in Emily Square adjacent to the Town Hall, was completely consumed by fire.

July 16

Ballymore Eustace R.I.C. Barracks evacuated.

July 17

Dáil Minister for Finance, Michael Collins, announced that the £250,000 internal National Loan issue has been over-subscribed by some £40,000.

Lt-Col. G. B. F. Smyth, divisional commissioner of R.I.C. in Munster, shot dead by I.R.A. at a Country Club in Cork in retaliation for a speech he made encouraging reprisals. County Inspector George Craig, a native of Naas, Co. Kildare, was wounded, and recovered. Railway workers refused to carry Smyth's body. His death and funeral in Banbridge, Co. Down, July 21, provoked retaliation in the North against Catholics in Banbridge and Dromore resulting in 7 deaths and nearly 100 injured.

July 18

Burning of Ballymore Eustace R.I.C. Barracks; attack on courthouse, which was partially destroyed, and the books and records were taken out and burned.

July 19

At 12.30 p.m. a rural postman was held up between Rathangan and Clonbulloge, Kildare district, by two armed and masked men, who searched the mails.

July 19-20

I.R.A. ambush near Tuam, resulting in the death of two policemen, provoked police riots in Tuam, Co. Galway.

July 19-24

There was sectarian rioting in Belfast and Derry. Loyalists forced over 7,000 Catholics and left-wing Protestants from their jobs at Harland and Wolff shipyards in Belfast. 20 people were killed in the disturbances in Derry. Another 22 people were killed in rioting in Belfast.

July 20

At 2 a.m. Nurney R.I.C. Barracks was burned and destroyed.

At 2.30 a.m. Castledermot R.I.C. Barracks and courthouse were burned; one Volunteer accidentally injured. Telegraph wires were cut. The weights and measures and a number of books were destroyed.

July 21

Over 60 Black and Tans tried unsuccessfully to board trains at Kingsbridge Station in Dublin. At least 5 officials were suspended for refusing to allow the trains to depart. Three special trains for the Curragh Races were among the trains disrupted and racegoers disappointed.

July 23

A critical meeting of the Coalition Government's Cabinet was held in London. The Cabinet was divided on how to proceed. Some Liberal ministers and Dublin Castle officials were in favour of offering dominion status to Ireland. Unionist ministers argued that the Government had to crush the insurgency and proceed with the Government of Ireland Bill.

1920

Summer Assizes opened in Naas Courthouse: county returns described by Lord Chief Justice as exhibiting 'a truly deplorable state of affairs.' Police and infantry guarded the hotel where the judges stayed. Lancers patrolled the streets, while an infantry picquet was placed in front of the courthouse.

July 25

Between midnight and 1 a.m. Naas Post Office was raided. Letters for the police were taken. Wires reported cut.

Mail trains passing through Sallins were stopped and mail bags opened at 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. Official letters for the police were taken.

July 27

The first British recruits arrived in Ireland to join the Royal Irish Constabulary's newly formed Auxiliary Division. Recruited from ex-officers of the British army they were barracked first at the Curragh Camp, where they received a six-week training course, and later at Beggars' Bush Barracks, Dublin.

July 31

Irish-born, Australian Catholic Bishop, Daniel Mannix, was detained on board his ship and prevented from landing in Ireland at Queenstown (Cobh) or from speaking in the Irish Catholic communities elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

August

Around 2,000 railway workers were dismissed from their employment country-wide due to their continued refusal to handle trains or railway wagons conveying arms or ammunition for the Crown forces. The railway strike badly hampered British troop movements until December 21, when the strike was called off.

Dowdington House, Athgarvan, was taken over as Kildare 2nd Battalion headquarters. Fortnightly meetings of the battalion council were held under the various battalion officers. Classes were conducted on drilling, engineering, rifle and revolver practice, first-aid and signalling. The battalion had a very

efficient and experienced training officer in William Jones, who had been a corporal in the Connaught Rangers.

August 2

The 'Restoration of Order in Ireland Bill' was introduced and first read in the House of Commons. It empowered the authorities to impose curfews, restrict movement of traffic, establish military courts of inquiry to replace coroners' inquests, and provided for trial of civilians by court-martial and imprisonment on suspicion.

August 3

Robertstown R.I.C. Barracks was vacated. Two lorries with 20 military arrived to remove furniture, etc.

August 6

In retaliation for attacks on Catholics the Dáil introduced a boycott on Belfast businesses and manufacturers.

August 9

'Restoration of Order in Ireland Act,' 1920, received Royal Assent.

August 12

Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork was arrested for the possession of seditious documents and a cipher key to coded messages used by the R.I.C.

August 12-13

Midnight attack on Ballindoolin House of William Tyrell. Shots fired by Tyrell and the assailants. Tyrell claimed they fired at least thirty shots at the house before disbanding and to have wounded one of the attackers.

August 16

Terence MacSwiney was tried by court martial and sentenced to a two-year term in prison. McSwiney began a hunger-strike and was joined by ten other prisoners.

1920

August 21

Commandant Tom Harris led the Kill Company in an attack on a police patrol at Greenhills, near Kill. Four policemen, Sergeant O'Reilly and Constables Haverty, Flanagan and Flaherty left the barracks at Kill at 10.45 p.m. to cycle to Naas to take up guard duty at the home of C.I. Kerry Supple. Sergeant Patrick O'Reilly and Constable John Haverty were shot in the first volley. The policemen were stripped of their rifles, revolvers and ammunition belts. Flanagan and Flaherty were marched to the Earl of Mayo's demesne at Palmerstown and ordered to remain there. Constable Haverty died in the attack and Sergeant O'Reilly died a few days later. The attack was afterwards condemned by Bishop Patrick Foley of Kildare and Leighlin in a letter to the parish priest (P.P.) at Kill.

August 22

R.I.C. District Inspector Swanzy was shot dead by Cork I.R.A. while leaving Church in Lisburn, County Antrim. Swanzy had been blamed by an inquest jury for the killing of Cork Mayor Tomás MacCurtáin. Catholic residential areas of Lisburn were burned in revenge by local loyalists. Loyalists attacked Catholic areas of Belfast. A total of 33 people died over the next ten days in sectarian rioting and shooting in the city.

R.I.C. destroyed the creamery at Knocklong, Co. Limerick.

August 24

Meeting of Kildare County Council chaired by Domhnall Ua Buachalla, T.D., at which a resolution was unanimously adopted protesting the action of the British Government denying Dr. Mannix, Archbishop of Melbourne, the right to visit Ireland. A request that republican employers would employ only Trade Union employees was also unanimously adopted after some discussion.

August 25

First sitting of Sinn Féin Court in Athy.

August 26

Death of Dr. Henry Shackleton father of Ernest Shackleton, the explorer, formerly of Kilkea, in Co. Kildare.

At 7 p.m. The Dew Drop Inn and Broughall's public house in Kill were visited by a party of twenty police armed with rifles and revolvers. Shots were fired in Broughall's and a large amount of liquor was taken away and more was destroyed on the premises. A horse tethered outside was shot through the neck. A local man was assaulted.

August 26-27

Two lorries with 10 police in each arrived in Naas between midnight and 1 a.m. from the Curragh direction. People were awoken by sustained firing for about ten minutes from the Black and Tans, who were in open formation across the street. The premises of Boushell's Family Bootmaker and Leather Merchant at South Main Street went up in flames. Three members of the family escaped unhurt. Police remained in barracks thinking they were under attack. The Tans left, firing shots along New Row and near the military barracks as they went.

August 29

Kildare (0-3) defeated by Dublin (1-3) in the Leinster Football Final in Croke Park.

August 30

Large, fortified, R.I.C. Barracks at Celbridge evacuated; R.I.C. men sent to Lucan.

August 31

Celbridge Barracks and the courthouse were burned and destroyed.

Death of Sergeant O'Reilly in Dublin: wounded in Kill ambush. He had been previously in charge of Clane Barracks.

September 1

At a meeting of Kildare Co. Council, presided over by Vice-Chairman Éamon O'Modhráin, a resolution was unanimously passed calling on the Magistrates of Co. Kildare to resign their Commissions of the Peace immediately. At the same meeting a resolution was adopted that only Trade Union Labour would be employed by the County Council. The *Kildare Observer* of September 11 reported 6 magistrates in Co. Kildare had resigned.

September 1-2

Several houses in the vicinity of Ballymore Eustace were raided for arms in the night and early hours.

September 4

The Gaelic League Rooms in Kildoon were burned down by persons unknown.

September 10-11

Reports of 7th Brigade Kildare I.R.A. referred to arms raids by Newbridge and Athgarvan Companies.

September 20

I.R.A. members ambushed a party of troops at Monk's Bakery near North King Street in Dublin. The British lost one killed and a number wounded. I.R.A. Section Commander, Kevin Barry, eighteen years old, was captured. He was a medical student at UCD. Barry sought cover under a lorry but was captured and charged with murder.

A Head Constable was shot and killed by the I.R.A. in Balbriggan, in north County Dublin. That night, police rioted and attacked Balbriggan, killing two men, Seamus Lawless and Seán Gibbons, looting and burning the town.

James Doyle, Mill Street, Baltinglass and Constable Everard, R.I.C. ambushed at Coolrake, Co. Kildare, while driving home in a trap from Moone. Both men received gunshot wounds and had to be treated later in a Dublin Hospital.

September 23

English newspapers burned at Sallins Railway Station.

September 29

A Crossley tender travelling at a dangerous speed and containing three plainclothes policemen knocked down and killed Edward Nolan riding a motorbike towards Newbridge, at Newhall, Naas. Nolan had been awarded the O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) for his work as an ambulance driver during the Easter Rising. The men, who were attached to the R.I.C. Depot, Phoenix Park, Dublin, seemed to be lost and were looking for a back road to Carlow near Newhall. Nolan's body was brought to Naas by the local R.I.C.

Fintan Brennan and Hugh McNally were arrested at Monasterevin in possession of a total of thirty-two guns, including nineteen single-barrel shotguns and a large quantity of ammunition.

October 4

Chairman of Naas Board of Guardians, Thomas Patterson, was arrested and brought handcuffed to the barracks. Later released. Houses and Offices in Naas were raided by police. Tom Harris, Chairman of Naas No. 1 District Council was arrested and his home in Caragh searched. He was later released.

October 7

Tom Harris again taken into custody, by a party of Black and Tans. Later released.

Daniel Coughlin, Monasterevin, was arrested on the Portarlinton Road, Monasterevin and charged with having an Irish Volunteer membership card; sentenced to six months with hard labour.

October 10

Kildare played Dublin in Croke Park to raise funds for the Muniton Workers Strike Fund.

1920

October 12

Fintan Brennan and Hugh McNally were court-martialled at the Curragh, but they refused to recognise the court. They were sentenced, respectively, to three and five years penal servitude in Wormwood Scrubs and Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight, for the possession of arms. Brennan's release came in January 1922 under the general amnesty.

October 13-14

7.45 train from Kilkenny boarded by armed military party in Newbridge both days, but guard and driver refused to proceed causing delay. Guards were suspended.

October 14

Seán Treacy, I.R.A. Volunteer, was shot dead by British troops in Talbot Street, Dublin. Auxiliaries, Lt. Price and Sergeant Christian were also killed.

October 19

In the House of Commons, the Chief Secretary for Ireland (Lt.-Colonel Sir H. Greenwood) reported:

The outrages against the police and military forces since the 1st January last, which I regret to say include the loss of no less than 118 lives, are as follows: —

Police killed-100; Military killed-18; Police wounded-160; Military wounded-66 ... 667 attacks on police barracks, resulting in most cases in their complete destruction. There has been an organised attempt to boycott and intimidate the police, their wives and relations...

The Royal Irish Constabulary is rapidly increasing in numbers owing mainly to the flow of recruits from ex-officers and ex-service men who served in the Army or Navy during the War. The effective strength of the Force is now higher than it has been for the last 15 years. In the last three weeks alone there have been 194 trials by Court Martial under the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, 1920, and 159 convictions. The Forces of the Crown

are now effectively grappling with the organised, paid and brutal campaign of murder in Ireland.

Large scale I.R.A. attack on Trim Barracks, Meath, which included volunteers from Maynooth and Leixlip companies.

October 20

A motion in the House of Commons to have an impartial inquiry held into the reprisals in Ireland was defeated by a majority of almost 5 to 1.

The Auxiliaries arrived in Trim, attacked local people and burned buildings. Subsequently, Trim was garrisoned by Auxiliaries and Black and Tans, and in the words of one resident in the town: 'Then real hell was let loose upon us.'

October 21

When asked in the House of Commons, how many persons in Ireland had been punished in connection with the servicemen and police killed and wounded, and the attacks on R.I.C. Barracks since January 1, last, the Chief Secretary for Ireland Sir H. Greenwood responded:

Sixty-one persons have been convicted since 1st January last for complicity in attacks on military or police, or on police barracks. In 21 cases sentences of penal servitude for periods exceeding two years have been inflicted, and there have been 20 cases of sentences of imprisonment with hard labour for periods of two years. In the remaining 20 cases sentences ranging from 18 months' to one month's imprisonment with or without hard labour, were imposed. There has been no case in which capital punishment has been inflicted.

He also declared that since January 1, 1919, some 127 meetings had been prohibited and 22 newspapers suppressed, while 16 creameries had been totally destroyed and 11 partially destroyed or damaged.

10.45 a.m. express train from Cork held up at Newbridge and the 1.15 p.m. from Dublin held up for 3 hours at Sallins. Workers refused to allow the trains to proceed when the military tried to board.

1920

October 25

Terence MacSwiney died in Brixton Prison, London, after a 74-day hunger-strike. Hours later, another Cork I.R.A. man, Joseph Murray, also died. Arthur Griffith called off further hunger-strikes. Letters of support and offers of condolences from public bodies in Kildare were recorded in newspapers of the day.

October 26

8 a.m. train from Thurles boarded by military on its arrival in Newbridge. Train guard refused to proceed and caused delay. Guard suspended on arrival in Kingsbridge, Dublin.

October 31

The Watchword and Voice of Labour, November 13, described a raid by Black and Tans on the I.T.G.W.U. offices at Cloncurry, Kildare where £33 10s and the branch records of the Union were taken.

November 1

Kevin Barry (18), was executed in Mountjoy jail for the killing of a young soldier on September 20; the first execution since May 1916.

November 2

Éamonn O'Modhráin, Vice-Chairman of Kildare County Council, arrested at his home on November 2, in possession of seditious literature. He was later tried by court-martial and sentenced to 16 months imprisonment, 6 months remitted.

November 3

Thomas Domican arrested by police on his way home from a meeting of Naas District Council and lodged in Naas R.I.C. Barracks.

November 9

Lloyd George declared at lord mayor's banquet in London: 'We have murder by the throat!'

November 13

James Collins, Intelligence Officer, Kilcullen Company, called with several I.R.A. Volunteers, to a house at Knockbounce, Kilcullen, to settle a family feud. Seven R.I.C. policemen called on the Volunteers to halt at the house. The I.R.A. allegedly fired on them, the R.I.C. returned fire and Thomas Hazlett and William Martin were wounded. Five more republicans were arrested, but found not guilty and released.

November 21

In the morning 'The Squad' shot dead 14 British military personnel, including six Secret Service agents (known as the Cairo Gang). Two Auxiliaries were killed in a shoot-out and four others were wounded in the attacks.

Later that afternoon, members of the Auxiliary Division and R.I.C. opened fire on the crowd at a Gaelic football match between Dublin and Tipperary in Croke Park, killing 14 civilians, including Tipperary player, Michael Hogan.

Three prisoners, republican Conor Clune and two I.R.A. officers, Dick McKee and Peadar Clancy, were killed in Dublin Castle. It became known as Bloody Sunday.

Mick Sammon, from Clane, winner of an All-Ireland medal in 1919 with Kildare, was the referee that day in Croke Park, while Carbury native, Frank Burke, who had fought in the G.P.O. in 1916 and ran St. Enda's school after Pádraig Pearse was executed, was marking Michael Hogan.

November 22

Michael Smyth, Secretary of Newbridge Branch of the I.T.G.W.U. was arrested in Naas on his way to a County Council Meeting on Monday afternoon. He was later released. On the same day Thomas Patterson and Tom Harris were arrested and later conveyed to the Curragh.

R.I.C. County Inspector, Kerry Supple, arrived at the Kildare County Council Meeting at the head of a party of police and military and took away the Minute Book, Rates documents and correspondence from Dáil Éireann.

1920

November 23

R.I.C. Sergeant McGowan of Newbridge Barracks passed on information that there was to be an intensive campaign of raids by Crown forces in County Kildare the following week. Volunteers were warned not to sleep at home, but some did and their houses were surrounded in the early hours of the morning and they were arrested. Among those picked up in the raids on Monday and Tuesday were: Adjutant Seán Curry and O.C. Tom Patterson, Naas; John Traynor, Kill; Captain Tom Dunne, Newbridge; and Commandant No. 2 Kildare Battalion, Tom Harris.

November 25

J. J. Fitzgerald was arrested by the military and brought to the Detention Barracks in the Curragh Camp, where he was charged as being an officer in the I.R.A.; later moved to Hare Park, the Curragh. In January 1921 he was transferred to Ballykinlar Internment Camp, in Co. Down, where he was held until December 9, 1921.

November 28

The west Cork unit of the I.R.A., under Tom Barry, ambushed a patrol of 18 Auxiliaries at Kilmicheal in County Cork, killing all of them. Three I.R.A. volunteers were also killed in the action.

Patrick Colgan was arrested in Maynooth and brought to the Curragh Camp and then transferred to Ballykinlar Internment Camp, Co. Down, in mid-December where he was appointed Camp Commandant.

December 4

Armed raiders took official correspondence from mail bags at Sallins Railway Station. Considerable police activity followed during the day. Edward Swan, Sallins, was taken into custody and conveyed to Naas Barracks. Searches were also made in Naas.

December 7

Train bound for Dublin held up at Newbridge at 4.30 p.m.

December 10

Martial law was introduced for counties Cork, Kerry, Limerick, and Tipperary. It had been proclaimed in London just the previous day.

At 3 a.m. a number of men arrived at Newbridge Railway Station by car. The staff were held up, the mail searched and one bag of letters was taken.

December 11

De Valera left the U.S.A. for Ireland returning in secret and amidst much speculation, having spent 19 months in the U.S.A. where he raised \$6 million for the Irish National Loan.

A lorry of Auxiliaries was ambushed by the I.R.A. near Dillon's Cross in Cork: one Cadet was killed, and several wounded. That night, Crown forces killed two I.R.A. Volunteers, set fire to the commercial centre of Cork city, and burned both the City Hall and the Carnegie Library.

December 12

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Cork, Daniel Colahan, issued a decree saying that 'anyone within the diocese of Cork who organises or takes part in ambushes or murder or attempted murder shall be excommunicated'.

December 13

Flax burned at Tiermoghlan, Donadea, property of D. D. Leitch and Son, Belfast.

December 21

Railwaymen agree to resume normal handling of government traffic as alternative to closure of railways by government.

December 23

The 'Government of Ireland Act' received Royal assent, creating the provinces of Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland, each with its own parliament.

1920

De Valera arrived in Dublin in secret from U.S.A.

Shots were fired by the R.I.C. as they raided the Workingman's Club, the Sinn Féin Hall and Hibernian Hall, all in Main Street, Naas.

December 26

Arrest of Liam McGrath, Honorary Secretary of South Kildare Sinn Féin Executive.

Paddy Domican and Seán O'Sullivan, on the run since the August attack on the R.I.C. at Greenhills, were arrested in Kill. They were taken to Newbridge and then to the Curragh under armed escort.



Republican prisoners at the Rath Internment Camp, 1921.



Crowd at Mansion House, Dublin, ahead of Truce declaration, 8 July 1921.



Hare Park Camp, the Curragh, under construction.



Kildare Fianna Éireann outside Naas Town Hall, c.1918.



Irish supporters praying for peace at Downing Street, London, 14 July, 1921.



Military Barracks, Naas, Co. Kildare

Naas Military Barracks, depot of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.



Republican prisoners at Ballykinlar Internment Camp, Co. Down, c.1921.



Inspection of Auxiliary Cadets.

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January

Frank and John Corrigan from Blackrath, Curragh, were court-martialled in the Curragh Camp on a charge of having seditious literature and possessing a miniature rifle and ammunition; sentenced to eighteen months each.

Patrick Lee's grocery, hardware, drapery and public house in Calverstown, was surrounded by the Black and Tans. The occupants, Anastasia Lee, wife of Patrick, and their daughter, Elsie (9), were ordered to leave. The Black and Tans threatened to burn the building because it was a meeting place for republicans. Anastasia Lee refused to leave. A local clergyman arrived. The siege lasted an hour until the Tans withdrew.

With Hare Park filled to capacity, many prisoners in the Curragh were moved to Ballykinlar Internment Camp in County Down. Among the twenty-five transferred from County Kildare were Seán O'Sullivan, Sallins; Jack Fitzgerald, Newbridge; Bapty Maher, Athy; and Tom Harris, Prosperous.

January 1

First government-authorized reprisals with the destruction of 7 houses at Midleton, Co. Cork, by order of the military governor.

Clane Curate, Fr. M. Kelly was shot at by Crown forces when failing to stop at a checkpoint. He did not hear the order to stop.

January 2

Six masked men entered a house in Maynooth (Leinster Lodge, property of J. J. Wade, V.S.), situated between the destroyed R.I.C. Barracks and the college gate. The occupants were told it would be burned because the military were to

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use it as a barracks. The furniture was moved outside and the house set ablaze. Neighbours took in the occupants and helped store the furniture. Wade claimed £6,900 for losses, while the owners of the property (relatives of Domhnall Ua Buachalla) claimed £4,000.

James Brady, Kilcock, was arrested; courtmartialled at the Curragh Camp on January 17, he was jailed for possession of three rounds of ammunition.

January 9

Destruction of poles and wires at Moyvalley.

January 9-11

Bridges at Maynooth, Celbridge, Straffan, Kilcock, Allenwood and Rathangan were damaged in a campaign of destruction by local I.R.A. Trenches were dug along the road from Rathangan to Edenderry and in some districts in North Kildare trees were felled across the road.

Kildare Co. Council met to discuss the possible placement of night watchmen and lights on the damaged bridges to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

Kildare County Council subsequently warned the public that various roads in Co. Kildare were rendered impassable and dangerous by reason of the destruction of bridges and trenches cut at the following places: Liffey bridges at Celbridge and Straffan, canal bridges at Leixlip, Kilcock, and Maynooth, and a railway bridge at Maynooth; also a bridge between Allenwood and Carbury, and various trenches across roads near Rathangan and Edenderry.

January 11

Two drunken men temporarily stationed at Naas Military Barracks visited several pubs in the town of Naas, brandishing their revolvers in the main street. Regular R.I.C. men arrived and arrested them. One was a Scot and the other was reported to be a Mexican.

January 15

Seán Kavanagh was arrested in Dublin's Exchange Hotel, after arriving by train from Newbridge; sentenced to one year in Mountjoy Jail.

January 24

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, Thomas Gilmartin, issued a letter saying that I.R.A. Volunteers who took part in ambushes 'have broken the truce of God, they have incurred the guilt of murder'.

January 26

Grey Abbey Bridge near Kilcock destroyed.

January 27

Daniel Buckley's (Domhnall Ua Buachalla, T.D.) shop in Maynooth was visited by the Black and Tans. The door was smashed in and the raiders demanded the name in Irish be removed above the door. A pot of red paint was taken and the initials 'B and T.' and phrase 'God Save the King' were painted on the front of the shop. A similar incident had occurred in Fermoy the previous day.

January 31

Notice issued by Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Company declared Louisa Bridge (Leixlip), Mullen Bridge (Maynooth), Bond Bridge (Maynooth), Shaw's Bridge (Kilcock) and Allen Bridge (Kilcock) in the vicinity of Leixlip, Maynooth and Kilcock to be unsafe for traffic and closed until further notice.

Photo of Puck Bridge, Maynooth in *Irish Independent*, described as 'broken down and rendered impassable.'

February 1

Captain Con Murphy, from near Millstreet, County Cork, was executed by British authorities, the first man to be executed in front of a firing squad since the 1916 Rising.

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The Irish White Cross was established to distribute funds raised by the American Committee for Relief in Ireland.

February 4

James Craig succeeded Edward Carson as leader of Ulster Unionists; Craig appointed Prime Minister on June 7.

Military and police, carrying revolvers and rifles with fixed bayonets, raided a ball in Naas Town Hall organised by the County Kildare Farmers' Union.

February 11

Peter Nolan and his sons John and Simon were arrested at their home at Walshestown, Newbridge, after a military raid.

February 13-14

Roads disrupted in South Kildare: trenches dug at Booleigh and Kilmeade, trees felled at Mullaghmast and on the roads from Bolton Hill to Castledermot and Kilkea to Castledermot.

February 17

Eamon Broy arrested in Dublin and charged with high treason; held in solitary confinement in Arbour Hill Prison, Dublin, until after the Truce was signed in July 1921.

February 19

Suicide of Constable Thomas Bradshaw (24), R.I.C., at Monasterevin Barracks.

February 21

At 10.15 p.m. a patrol consisting of one sergeant and five constables was attacked in Maynooth. The patrol was approaching the Roman Catholic church in single file when fire was opened from the direction of a low wall. Sergeant Joseph Hughes, who was leading the group, fell, shot through the head. The R.I.C. returned fire and withdrew to cover and the fighting continued for over ten minutes, when the attackers escaped using the protection of the wall. The I.R.A. group, consisting of men from Kilcock and Leixlip Companies,

used shotguns, rifles and revolvers in the attack. Police and military arrived for the follow-up search and many locals fled their homes in terror. Sergeant Hughes was brought unconscious to Dr. Steevens's Hospital, Dublin, where he died the following day. He was a native of Wolfhill, Ballylinan, Co. Laois and had only been transferred to Maynooth the previous month.

A report in the *Freeman's Journal* announced a proclamation had been signed prohibiting fairs and markets in the districts of Bagnalstown, Carlow and Castledermot due to the attacks on roads and bridges in those areas.

February 24

Terence MacSwiney's play *The Revolutionist* (set and published in 1914) had its stage premiere posthumously at the Abbey Theatre. His writings *Principles of Freedom* were collected from *Irish Freedom* (1911-12) and published in 1921 also.

February 25

Funeral of Sergt. Hughes at Wolfhill. The body arrived in Athy by train, accompanied by an honour guard. Mourners marched behind the coffin to Ballylinan and then to the graveside. Business premises in Athy were closed by the police while the cortège moved through the town.

February 26

Military raids at Prosperous (premises of Miss Tierney and Thomas Harris) and Donadea (premises of William Murray and A. Crosbie). No arrests were made.

February 27

Roads trenched around Rathangan.

March 1

Internment camp opened at the Rath, Curragh. A large number of prisoners were also transferred from nearby Hare Park Camp. The new camp consisted of about ten

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acres of the Curragh plain enclosed in a rectangle of barbed wire entanglements. There were two fences ten feet high, separated by a passage, twenty feet wide, which was patrolled by sentries. The prisoners called this 'no man's land.' At each corner of the compound stood high blockhouses from which powerful searchlights lit up the entire passage. The watchtowers were manned all day and night by sentries armed with rifles and machine guns, who called out 'All's well,' on the stroke of the hour throughout the night. Beyond the main barrier, the camp was surrounded by another fence consisting of five single strands of barbed wire about four feet high.

Sylvester Delahunt was arrested at his premises in Naas, and interned at the Rath Camp, the Curragh, until December 8, 1921.

March 3

Louisa Bridge at Maynooth and the road from Leixlip to Maynooth were damaged. Roads trenched between Straffan and Maynooth and at Ardrass between Celbridge and Straffan.

March 4

Damage to bridges over the River Lerr near Castledermot and two bridges near Monasterevin, as well as trenching of roads at Kilcrow and Burtown.

March 5

Anglo-Celt newspaper declared fairs and markets within a 10 mile radius of Maynooth and Edenderry were prohibited. The *Nationalist and Leinster Times* reported that they had also been prohibited in Monasterevin, Kildare, Portarlinton, Maryborough (Portlaoise) and Mountrath.

March 6

Kildare Post Office broken into, but the attempt to force the cash drawer failed.

March 7

Rory O'Connor and Daniel Ryan escaped from the Rath Internment Camp.

Constable Harold Stiff, a Black and Tan recruit from London, committed suicide in the R.I.C. Barracks, Maynooth. He was buried in Laraghbryan Cemetery, Maynooth

March 10-11

Roads to Kildare Town trenched at Kildoon and Pack Bush. Road between Castledermot and Baltinglass rendered impassable at Irongrange.

March 11

Dáil Éireann declared war on the British administration.

March 14

Six republicans executed by hanging in Mountjoy jail: Thomas Bryan, Patrick Doyle, Frank Flood and Bernard Ryan convicted of 'high treason by levying war.' Thomas Whelan and Patrick Moran convicted of participation in the execution of British agents on Bloody Sunday, November 1920.

General stoppage of work till 11 a.m. in Dublin at the request of the Irish Labour Party.

About 8.15 p.m., one of the largest gun battles took place in Dublin on Brunswick Street. A Rolls Royce armoured car and two lorries of Auxiliaries had left Dublin Castle to raid 144 Brunswick Street, the headquarters of the Dublin Brigade of the I.R.A. The I.R.A. attacked them from a number of directions. Two I.R.A. volunteers, 2 policemen and 3 civilians died; two men were captured including Thomas Traynor, who was married with ten children.

March 15-16

The newly built Ulster bank in Kilcock was burned; republicans believed it was to be used as a R.I.C. Barrack, but it was most likely part of the Belfast Boycott. A claim was made for £8,000.

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March 16

After several roads were trenched and blocked by trees and bridges damaged by local I.R.A. the R.I.C. ordered a curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. in Athy No. 1 District and prohibited the Tuesday market in Athy.

Art Doran was arrested in the Thatch, Ballymore, in possession of seditious documents; he was courtmartialled on May 13, 1921, and sentenced to two years hard labour.

March 18

Auxiliaries broke into the Sinn Féin office in Naas Town Hall, removed Irish Volunteer caps, armbands and a large flag and daubed British slogans on the front of the Town Hall.

March 19

The I.R.A. Cork No. 3 Brigade under Tom Barry fought an action against 1,200 British troops at Crossbarry, Co. Cork; 3 volunteers and 10 British soldiers were killed.

March 20

Fifty-five I.R.A. men from the Prosperous, Allen and Robertstown companies, armed with seven rifles and thirty shotguns, gathered to ambush a police patrol near the Hill of Allen. The R.I.C. tender did not arrive until late in the evening and a number of the men had been demobilised. Those remaining opened fire but, while fire was returned, the vehicle did not stop and there were no injuries on either side. The military and police were active in the area after this and a number of men were arrested, including Michael Fitzgerald, O.C. Allen Company, who was interned at the Rath Camp, where he remained until after the Treaty was signed.

March 21

Frank Burke was arrested at Rathfarnham and detained in Dublin Castle, and Arbour Hill Prison; he was interned in the Rath Camp, The Curragh, until December 8, 1921.

March 23

Patrick McDonnell, a Maynooth student was shot dead by party of police at his home in Oldcastle, Co. Meath. He had

been at home for some time because of ill-health according to newspapers. A government bulletin described him as a commandant of the I.R.A. McDonnell was Intelligence Officer of the Stonefield/Oldcastle Battalion.

Kildare I.R.A. companies felled trees on the road to the Curragh; trenched the main Dublin road at Johnstown and the main road to Kilcullen; damaged the canal bridges at Naas and Blackwood where they also trenched 3 roads.

March 24

Leinster Leader editor, Michael O'Kelly, and reporter, T. J. Williams, were arrested in Naas and interned in the Curragh.

A dwelling house at Kishavanny, Carbury, the property of Sarah Moroney, was burned.

March 26

R.I.C. Constable Edward Leslie died from gunshot wounds at the Curragh Military Hospital. He had been wounded in an ambush near Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.

Laurence O'Callaghan, Main Street, Naas, was arrested.

Man taken by armed men in Castledermot and decorated with a placard stating he had been giving information to the enemies of his country and paraded in front of the congregation as they emerged from Mass. Later he was tied to a gate under guard before being driven off in a motor car to an unknown destination.

April 5

Police entered the Town Hall in Athy and examined the Minute Book and other books of the Urban Council and took away the Minute Book.

April 6-7

Wednesday night, the midnight goods train was held up at Sallins by masked men. Large consignment of sacks taken and burned in the station yard.

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April 7

James Harris, brother of Thomas Harris, arrested at Prosperous and conveyed to Naas R.I.C. Barracks.

April 8

Nellie Wallace arrested at Newbridge and spent the night in the R.I.C. Barracks.

April 13

Cabinet informed cost of military campaign in Ireland was £20 million per annum since 1919.

April 14

Arthur Vicars, a prominent member of the Co. Kildare Archaeological Society, was killed by the I.R.A. at his home in Kilmorna House, near Listowel in Co. Kerry.

Party of men dumped flour from Shackleton's Mills destined for the military into the canal at Rathangan. One estimate said 450 bags of flour. Claim reported in November for 347 bags or 20 tons.

Wire cut and telephone apparatus removed at the Grand Stand, Punchestown.

April 18-19

Road trenching in the vicinity of the Curragh made it difficult for racegoers to attend the Curragh Races.

April 20

Gearóid Ó Sullivan, adjutant general of the I.R.A., reported his satisfaction to Chief of Staff Richard Mulcahy that the Kildare I.R.A. was stepping up their activities in road and communications destruction and thought it well to send them encouragement.

April 21

Lord Derby met in secret with Éamon de Valera in Dublin.
Destruction of wire at Bishopscourt Upper.

April 22

Richard Mulcahy wrote to Michael Smyth, O.C. Kildare 2nd Battalion, that he was happy with the offensive action by Kildare I.R.A. which had virtually paralysed enemy transport and communications in the county.

May 2

Viscount FitzAlan was sworn in as Lord Lieutenant having been appointed to the post on 27 April; the first Catholic to hold the viceroyalty since the reign of James II. He publicly admitted the Black and Tans had committed 'crimes, horrible crimes'.

May 3

Seán 'Jack' O'Sullivan, Sallins who had participated in the Greenhills Ambush at Kill, died in Ballykinlar Internment Camp allegedly from the effects of a beating he received when he was arrested. The injuries were aggravated by his subsequent treatment and the long journey to Ballykinlar in January, 1921, on board a battleship from Dublin.

May 5

James Craig and de Valera met in Dublin.

John Hickey (44) was found face down in a trenched road at Harristown, Nurney. Hickey, a farmer from Newtown, Kildare, had suffered a fractured skull when he fell into the trench.

May 6

2,000 people attended the funeral of Jack O'Sullivan in Naas.

May 7

Michel Carpenter, Kildare Post Office, arrested and taken to the Rath Camp. Sentenced to five years penal servitude in June for documents in his possession relating to telephone and telegraph tapping. His address was given as Raheen, Kildare.

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May 11

James Doyle, Baltinglass, was shot near Sheriff's Hill, Moone on the way to take shelter with his wife's family at Bolton Hill. A publican, he had been boycotted for supplying the police, but had continued to do so. He lost custom and sold the premises, but was attacked and shot (awarded £700 in compensation). Later, the house where he was living was burned. While he was journeying to Bolton Hill he was shot a second time and it was presumed he would lose much of the use of his arm. The magistrate awarded £1,250.

Flax burned at Tiermoghlan, Donadea, property of D. D. Leitch and Son, Belfast.

May 12

Michael Breslin was arrested in Kildare Town and interned at the Rath Camp, the Curragh.

May 13-15

A general election for the parliament of Southern Ireland was held on 13 May. Sinn Féin won 124 of the new parliament's 128 seats unopposed, and its elected members refused to take their seats.

May 14

Flax burned at Fennor, Kildare, property of D. D. Leitch and Son, Belfast.

May 16

Volunteers James O'Connor and Jim Lacey, members of B Company, 5th Carlow Battalion, were killed in an attempted ambush of an R.I.C. patrol at Barrowhouse, Co. Laois. That night a party of Black and Tans arrived in the Barrowhouse district and subjected the inhabitants to a reign of terror in which two houses, a threshing mill and quantity of hay were destroyed.

May 17

R.I.C. Constable Edmund Kenyon, born at the Curragh Camp, was killed, in an ambush in Longford. Three others in the patrol were injured.

R.I.C. Constable John Dunne was killed in an I.R.A. ambush as his patrol served jurors summonses in Kinnity, Co. Offaly. Constable Edward Doran (born in Wexford) whose family lived at Cardenton, Athy, was wounded and died on May 19.

May 18

R.I.C. Constable Albert Carter, from Kilmeague, Co. Kildare was killed in an attack at Letterkenny, Donegal; a sergeant was wounded. Constable Carter was buried at Kilmeague Graveyard.

May 19

Funerals of Lacey and O'Connor who were interred at Barrowhouse graveyard. There was an extremely large congregation in attendance, with Volunteers bearing the coffins on their shoulders to the graveside. The Last Post was sounded and three volleys were fired over the single grave.

Destruction of telegraph wire at Donaghcomper.

May 21

Peter Gray, Sallins, who was arrested after an ambush at Inchicore, was released. Reports of the arrest described a young boy named Gray standing in his doorway.

Four armed and masked men raided the Post Office at Rathangan and dismantled and removed the telephone, leaving a receipt which said I.R.A.

May 22

Series of rifle and other fire-arm explosions in the vicinity of the R.I.C. Barracks in Athy from about 11 p.m., for about half an hour. Police employed a machine gun. After some thirty minutes the firing ceased as suddenly as it had begun, and

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the police discharged Verey rockets in the air. There were no casualties.

May 24

A raid on four shops in Celbridge on Tuesday night in connection with the Belfast Boycott.

May 25

Customs House in Dublin burned by the I.R.A. Involving over 100 Volunteers. It was a military disaster and resulted in the death of 5 and arrest of about 80 Volunteers. Three civilians were also killed.

All motor cars going to the Curragh Races were searched by the military. Various houses were searched in Naas.

The mail was held up by young men at Hazelhatch; at least one armed with a rifle.

May 25-26

I.R.A. fired shots at Kilcullen R.I.C. Barracks at three different times during the night; shortly after midnight, about 2 a.m. and finally around 4 a.m. when the police in the barracks replied with rifle fire. Roads from Kilcullen to the Curragh Camp had been blocked or trenched and telegraph wires cut.

May 26

Trees felled to block roads in the vicinity of Kilcullen. Post Office bicycle taken at Kishavanny, Carbury.

May 28

Reported in the *Leinster Leader* that as a result of police and military raids in the Athgarvan area, Matthew Cardiff, Insurance Agent, Blackrath, Curragh, was arrested and taken to the Curragh Camp (later sentenced to 2 years). Thomas Wilmot arrested about 3 o'clock on Friday morning at his residence, Both prominent members of the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League. They were also members of the I.T.G.W.U.

John Lee, D.C., Broadleas, chairman of the Ballymore-Eustace

branch of the I.T.G.W.U., was arrested and conveyed to the Curragh Camp.

Telegraph poles were knocked down near Gormanstown chapel and in the neighbourhood of Kilcullen. Roads trenched in the district about a month previous were still practically in the same condition. The military and police cars carried planks for the purpose of bridging the space, but the people attending to business were inconvenienced.

May 30

Proclamation posted by the military prohibiting fairs and markets in Athy due to road obstruction.

June 5

Private William Green of the 1st North Staffordshire Regiment accidentally shot dead by an R.I.C. constable in his own convoy near Kildangan Crossroads, Doneany, Monasterevin. The three-car convoy had been on its way back to Carlow from the Curragh.

June 6

The British government called off the policy of house burnings as official reprisals.

June 7

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland appointed James Craig as the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. Preliminary meeting of the House of Commons of Northern Ireland, attended by Unionists only.

June 10

The mail train from Sallins to Tullow was raided at Colbinstown and all the mail taken. A police patrol from Dunlavin investigated and was fired upon.

June 12

Raid on Newbridge Railway Station: paraffin poured on stores and set alight; 41 cases of salmon, 50 sacks of flour, 6

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barrels of oil and 1 sack of sugar, property of the Navy, Army, Air Force Institute destroyed.

June 13

Ex-soldier and worker at Curragh Camp named Michael Power killed by I.R.A. He had been tried by a republican court in 1920 for larceny, but, allegedly, had named the people involved. He was sentenced to leave the country but found quarters in the Curragh Camp, working with the Royal Engineers in September 1920. In April, his wife visited her sister where she worked at Kilboggan and Power joined her, leaving just before men came in search of him. He was not so lucky in June. Death cert recorded he was killed by 3 gunshot wounds in a stable belonging to Henry Scully at Kilboggan House, Suncroft on June 13.

Telephone apparatus taken from Brannockstown Post Office.

June 14

Armed men visited Dunne household at Grangehiggin near the Hill of Allen, but were repulsed by the elderly mother, her son and daughters. One story says the son was an informer or that he delivered turf to the barracks in Newbridge. Another suggestion is there was a dispute over land.

Conference in Naas to discuss the abolition of the workhouses in July.

Post Office bicycles were taken in various parts of the county.

June 15

Naas Company I.R.A. seized mails at Naas; letters for the police and the Ulster Bank were destroyed.

Military Court of Inquiry at Kilboggan, Nurney, into the death of Michael Power, found he was wilfully murdered by some person or persons unknown.

June 16

Five men revisited Dunne's of Grangehiggin with revolvers. Philip Dunne and his mother, 70, were wounded. They

managed to reach the parochial house and were ministered to by the Rev. Fr. Bennett, C.C. Philip Dunne died the next day at the parochial house, where he was attended by Dr. Blake. His mother was conveyed to Kildare hospital in a precarious condition. Five men were arrested: Laurence Flood, Mayfield; Charles Dunney, Dunbyrne; Joseph Ward and Michael Dunne, Grangehiggin, and Martin Heavey, Blacktrench. They were removed to Mountjoy Prison.

Kilcullen Post Office raided, wires cut and safe and telephone apparatus taken.

Flax burned at Tiermoghlan, Donadea, property of D. D. Leitch and Son, Belfast.

June 17

Order from General Military H.Q. proclaiming Annual Procession to Bodenstown planned for Sunday June 19.

June 19

Funeral of Philip Dunne to Allen cemetery, the only persons present at the interment being Rev. Fr. Bennett, C.C., Dr. Blake, the priest's servant, deceased's brother and a cousin.

All roads to Bodenstown manned by military from 3 a.m. There was no procession to the graveyard.

June 20

Mail train held up near Carbury and mail from Edenderry and Carbury was taken away. The operation was carried out by No. 1 Offaly Brigade, 4th Battalion. That morning 4-5 postmen had been deprived of their bicycles by the same party of men. Lorries containing R.I.C. and Auxiliaries arrived from Edenderry and searched for a few hours. They found the missing mails in a wood at Ticknevin, along with 8-9 bicycles including red post bikes. No arrests were made.

June 22

King George V addressed the first session of the parliament of Northern Ireland, calling on 'all Irishmen to pause, to stretch

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out the hand of forbearance and conciliation, to forgive and to forget, and to join in making for the land they love a new era of peace, contentment, and good will'.

June 22-24

Curragh Races included the Irish Derby (won by Ballyheron) on the middle day, Wednesday. Trees reported felled on approach roads to the Curragh on Thursday from Monasterevin and Laois direction. Four telegraph poles were cut down and two damaged on night of 23-24.

June 23-24

Night and early hours of the morning. Newbridge, Allenwood, Athgarvan, Brannockstown, Clane, Johnstown, Kill, Kilmeague, Rathangan, Robertstown and Ballymore Eustace post offices raided. Cash, stamps and postal orders taken, mails censored and in some places telegraph poles cut down. Bicycle taken at Newbridge, safe taken at Clane but raid on Naas called off at last minute.

Main Monasterevin-Athy road blocked at Cloney by felled trees. The military used explosives to clear them on June 24.

June 24

The British Cabinet proposed talks with the leaders of Sinn Féin. Austen Chamberlain, the new leader of the Unionist Party, said that 'the King's Speech ought to be followed up as a last attempt at peace before we go to full martial law'. Lloyd George invited de Valera to a conference.

June 27

Manager of Munster and Leinster bank, Kilcock, held up by 3 armed and masked men on the Maynooth-Kilcock Road. Between £200-300 taken.

Flax burned at Kilpatrick, Monasterevin, property of D. D. Leitch and Son, Belfast.

Augustine 'Gus' Fitzpatrick was arrested by the R.I.C. in Naas and interned at the Rath Camp, the Curragh; he was released on November 8, 1921.

June 28

Southern Ireland parliament, attended by 15 of a possible 64 senators and 4 of a possible 128 members of the House of Commons, meets in Council Room of the Department of Agriculture, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin.

Dick Harris was arrested at an aeridheacht at Donore, Caragh, and imprisoned at the Rath Camp, the Curragh.

June 29

Wires and poles cut at post offices at the Curragh Camp, Blackrath and Athgarvan. Post Office bicycle and stamps stolen at Tipperkevin. Principal roads trenched, trees and poles cut down in Curragh district.

June 30

The Pearson brothers were executed by an I.R.A. firing squad at Coolacree, County Offaly. They were seized while gathering hay, shot several times and died from blood loss some six hours later. The family house was also burned out. There are conflicting versions of the incident. Some locals contend that the two men were killed for sectarian reasons and to steal their land. Others argue that the family were British informers and that they had fired at an I.R.A. party some days before.

End of June-Truce 1921

Kildare I.R.A.

2nd Battalion North Kildare I.R.A.

9 Battalion Staff, 42 officers, 402 men and 14 companies:

Athgarvan, 39 officers and men; Ballymore Eustace, 56; Hollywood, 60; Kill, 53; Naas, 31; Newbridge, 70; Prosperous, 43; Robertstown, 27; Two-Mile House, 24; Allen, 48; Allenwood, 28; Clane, 20; Eadestown, 16; Clongorey, 24; Lewistown 17.

An Active Service Unit formed in April 1921 consisted of 2 officers and 20 men.

Rathbride Company formed c. April 1921, 23 all ranks.

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6th Battalion Carlow Brigade 3rd Eastern Division

Companies: Dunlavin, Seven Stars and Kildoon, Suncroft, Kilcullen, Kilgowan, Kildare, Monasterevin.

1st Meath Brigade – 1st Eastern Division

3rd Battalion: Unit strength on July 11, was 92 all ranks. Companies: Leixlip, Celbridge, Straffan, Maynooth, and Dunboyne.

4th Battalion: Unit strength on July 11, was 138 all ranks. Companies: Kilcock, Coole, Broadford, Clogherinka, Cloncurry, Mainham, Carbury, Enfield, and Johnstown Bridge.

1st Offaly Brigade – 3rd Southern Division

4th Battalion: Unit strength on July 11, was 203 all ranks. Companies: Edenderry, Bracknagh, Castlejordan, Rathangan, and Cushina.

Early July

Armed men visited the residence of D. More O'Farrell, D.L., J.P., at Kildangan Castle, near Monasterevin, and at gunpoint made him promise not to sign any more summonses.

July

Michael Collins came to Naas and called off an attack on local police at the time of the Truce. Local story was that Collins stayed at Whytes shop directly across from the R.I.C. station.

July 2

A gunfight took place at Stacumny Bridge, Celbridge, when I.R.A. Volunteers attempting to ambush a military train were attacked by a British Army patrol. The Meath/Kildare Flying Column, under Seán Boylan, had planned a major operation to derail a troop train which included the commandeering of houses; trees were cut down and roads trenched and a Thompson machine gunner was brought down from Dublin. After a brief firefight the I.R.A. retreated. The military found 6 land mines, guncotton, gelignite, detonators, arms and ammunition. No arrests were made. Paddy Mullaney was in charge of the Kildare men.

Raid at Maganey Railway Station. Goods taken from train and destroyed.

July 3

Curragh Camp Post Office raided.

Jul 4-8

Meeting between de Valera, Arthur Griffith, and Lord Midleton (representing Southern Unionists) at the Mansion House, Dublin; led to Midleton acting as an intermediary with Lloyd George, which led to a Truce on July 11.

July 6

The mail was taken from Monasterevin Railway Station and the postman locked up in the shed. Some letters returned on Saturday censored and stamped 'Passed by the I.R.A.'

July 7

Armed men held up the caretaker, William Doran, at the Navy, Army and Air Force Canteen which adjoined Moorefield Lodge, at Moorefield in Newbridge. They took away a quantity of goods and sprinkled the remainder with paraffin to render them useless. Mr. Doran later checked the premises with a lighted candle, which fell, setting off a conflagration. Bridget Doran (34) and her son John Doran (14) died in the fire. Their other son William was badly burned.

The I.R.A. reports stated the goods were taken away in two commandeered lorries, but one lorry broke down at Athgarvan and was captured. The military and police were active throughout the day, July 7, and Michael Smith (Commandant) and William Jones (Training Officer) were arrested at Athgarvan. The Military Court of Inquiry held on Friday July 8, ruled a verdict of manslaughter.

Coolcarrigan Post Office raided

July 9

Truce terms were signed in Dublin, to be effective on July 11.

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July 10

Bloody Sunday, Belfast. The I.R.A. mounted an ambush in Raglan Street in Belfast, killing 2 policemen. This sparked an outbreak of ferocious fighting between Catholics and Protestants in west Belfast in which 16 civilians (11 Catholics and 5 Protestants) lost their lives and 161 houses were destroyed.

I.R.A. levied fines on 2 residents in Kilcock and a farmer in the vicinity, for doing business with the Ulster Bank.

July 11

The Truce came into effect which prepared the way for negotiations and an Irish delegation to London.

Some 1,000 (from all sides) were killed between January and July 1921 and 4,500 suspects were interned. The British executed 24 men between November 1920 and June 1921 and had garrisoned Ireland with some 60,000 troops and 15,000 Auxies and Black and Tans. Casualties amongst the I.R.A. and civilians during the entire conflict were estimated at 752 killed and 866 wounded.

The War of Independence had lasted 30 months.

Tom Behan, Rathangan, was arrested and interned in the Rath Camp, The Curragh.

July 12

Irish delegation consisting of de Valera, Arthur Griffith, Austin Stack and Erskine Childers departed for London.

July 14-21

Meetings in London between de Valera and Lloyd George; Lloyd George refused to recognise the Irish Republic, and de Valera rejected Dominion status.

July 15

John J. Breslin, Kildare Town, was arrested and sentenced to three months; he was jailed in Mountjoy until his release in October.

July 16

Special meeting of the Board of Guardians on the winding up of Naas Union which signified the end of Naas Workhouse.

August 3

The *Freeman's Journal* reported that Frank Corrigan, Blackrath, Curragh had recently returned home having served 8 months in an English prison; Louis Moran, Ballysax completed his 6 months sentence in Mountjoy.

August 16

Sinn Féin M.P.s elected to Southern Ireland parliament assembled in the Mansion House, Dublin, as the second Dáil Éireann.

August 19

James Staines, brother of Alderman Michael Staines, T.D., escaped from Hare Park Internment Camp, Curragh, Co. Kildare.

August 27

The General Officer Commanding the British Forces in Ireland issued an order cancelling all leave on parole, pending a return of James Staines to the Curragh Internment Camp. He did not return and parole was subsequently re-instated.

August 28

Kildare (1-3) draw with Dublin (0-6) in the Leinster Final in Croke Park.

September 2

Corporal Stanley H. Roadknight, 100 Squadron, R.A.F. died in an aeroplane accident at Celbridge.

September 7

Organisation known as the Association of Our Lady of Mercy (renamed Legion of Mary, Nov. 15, 1925) was formed by Frank Duff and others.

In a letter to de Valera, Lloyd George acknowledged that his

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government had a very weak case on the issue of 'forcing these two counties against their will' to be part of Northern Ireland: Fermanagh and Tyrone.

September 9

Over fifty internees escaped from the Rath Camp on the Curragh. It was at roll call next morning that the men were missed. Two tunnels were being worked at the same time, the Dublin Brigade Tunnel and the Tullamore Tunnel or Rabbit Burrow. The men who did most of the work were Jim Brady an experienced miner from Cavan, and Joe Galvin, helped by Joe Rochford, Joe Shaughnessy and Pat Regan. Their tools were a screwdriver and a crowbar, and table knives stolen from the dining hall. It took nineteen days to complete. The Tullamore Tunnel, so named because most of the men involved were from the west of Ireland, was ready first and twenty-five men from each venture were selected to escape. Brady and Galvin were the first to escape after cutting through the barbed wire entanglements making way for the other men. At least fifty-four men escaped, aided by a thick fog around the camp and friendly locals in the area. None were re-captured.

September 14

Dáil Éireann selected 5 delegates to negotiate an agreement with Lloyd George's government.

September 18

Kildare (1-2) lose to Dublin (3-3) in the Leinster Final replay in Croke Park.

September 24

Speaking in Dundee, Winston Churchill threatened 'real and certain war' if the Dáil refused to accept the British offer.

October 8

Patrick Dunne, Greenhills, Kill returned home. He had been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment on a charge of having seditious literature in his possession.

October 9

The delegation from Dáil Éireann arrived in London: Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, Robert Barton, Eamonn Duggan and George Gavan Duffy. Former policeman Eamon Broy, from Rathangan, Co. Kildare, acted as Collins' bodyguard.

October 11

The first meeting of the British-Irish conference was held.

October 16

Patrick Colgan, Maynooth, escaped from Ballykinlar Internment Camp with Maurice Donegan, Cork. Recaptured in Drogheda on October 17, they were held in Belfast Jail; after six weeks of solitary confinement Colgan was courtmartialled and sentenced to six months hard labour. He was returned to Ballykinlar and held there until his release on December 9, 1921.

October 26

Naas Quarter Sessions settled the question of claims from the burning of the Navy, Army and Air Force Canteen at Moorefield Lodge, Newbridge.

Monasterevin R.I.C. Barracks closed. All 18 police (including one head-constable and two sergeants) with all their belongings were removed to Naas in three military motor lorries.

November 3

R.I.C. Cinderella Dance in the Military Barracks Naas. Music by the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Jazz Band and the evening concluded with a rendition of *God Save the King*.

November 13

Arthur Griffith signed a document for Lloyd George agreeing that Northern Ireland could stay outside a united Ireland if she agreed to a Boundary Commission (Lloyd George confronted him with this on Dec. 5).

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November 18

Death of Lt.-Colonel Richard St. Leger Moore of Killashee, Magistrate, Steward of the Turf Club, and one time Master of the Kildare Hounds.

November 19-25

Rioting in Belfast led to almost 30 deaths.

November 21

Quarterly meeting of Kildare Co. Council, at Naas. E. Moran (Éamon O'Modhráin), of Ballysax, was re-appointed having been recently released from prison.

November 29

George Lawlor returned to Monasterevin on parole from Ballykinlar Internment Camp.

November 30

Reports in the *Freeman's Journal* of prisoner releases mentioned the release of Tom Harris (Prosperous) and Tom Patterson (Naas) on parole from Ballykinlar Internment Camp. Dick Harris from Prosperous, J. Haughey, Kill and L. O'Callaghan, Naas, were released on the grounds of ill-health from the Rath Internment Camp on the Curragh.

December

Republican courts continued to be active in Co. Kildare.

December 6

Anglo-Irish Treaty signed in London at 2.10 a.m. under threat from P.M. Lloyd George of 'war within three days.'

Under the terms of the Treaty, 26 counties of Ireland established as the Irish Free State with the same constitutional status within the British Empire as nations such as Australia and Canada. Northern Ireland was recognised as a separate area and provision made for a boundary commission to make changes in the border between the two states. Members of the Free State parliament were to take an oath of allegiance

to the Crown, and Britain would retain three naval bases. All interned prisoners were to be released.

December 8

De Valera denounced the Anglo-Irish Treaty as being 'in violent conflict with the wishes of the majority of this nation'. 500 prisoners, from Dublin and Kildare, were released from the Rath Internment Camp.

December 8-10

Large crowds and bands met prisoners from the Curragh and Ballykinlar as they disembarked from the trains in Athy Station. Parades included detachments of Volunteers and Boy Scouts as well as local bands. Bonfires were noted in other rural areas in Co. Kildare. Great receptions were evident in Maynooth and Newbridge where tar barrels blazed in the town.

December 9

The remaining 700 prisoners were released from the Rath Camp which was closed. With the signing of the Treaty and the release of internees, extension work ceased and the huts in the Rath Camp were taken down and sold off.

December 10

Meeting of the Supreme Council of the I.R.B. where 11 supported the Treaty and 4 opposed it.

December 12

Special Meeting of Kildare County Council which adopted the Scheme of Union Amalgamation, abolishing once and for all the Workhouses and Board of Guardians system and establishing the County Board of Health to include a County Home for the old and infirm in Athy and a county hospital in Naas.

December 13

Three battalions totalling 1,550 men of the Kildare Brigade

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(2nd, 5th and 6th Battalions) paraded on the Little Curragh. They demonstrated in signals, engineering and first aid and performed military drills, 'showing efficiency and good appearance of the men as they marched past.' Some newspapers record the event on the 14th.

December 14

Sir Edward Carson attacked the Treaty in the House of Lords. Both Dáil Éireann and the British Parliament began the debate on Anglo-Irish treaty. For the Dáil this ends Jan. 7, 1922.

Sir James Craig rejected the Boundary Commission clause in the Treaty and refused to accept Sinn Féin's right to speak for all Ireland.

December 15

De Valera produced an alternative to the Treaty which became known as Document No. 2 (he withdrew it from consideration on Dec. 19).

December 16

Anglo-Irish Treaty was passed in the British House of Commons (401 support, 58 oppose) and House of Lords (166 support, 47 oppose).

Co. Kildare R.I.C. Fancy Dress Dance in Naas Military Barracks gymnasium. Music by Royal Dublin Fusiliers Orchestra.

December 19

Arthur Griffith introduced a motion, seconded by Seán MacEoin: 'That Dáil Éireann approved the Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland signed in London on Dec. 6, 1921.'

December 21

Lord Mayo's shooting party with 2 guests and a gamekeeper were held up by armed men and their guns taken. Steps were taken by I.R.A. Liaison Officer for Kildare Capt. Liam Murphy to recover the guns. Liam Murphy had escaped from the Rath Camp in September.

December 22

House owned by Mr. H. A. F. Verschoyle and occupied by his Land Steward and family was burned in Athy.

December 23

House owned by Mr. H. A. F. Verschoyle was burned at Kilberry, Athy.

December 24

Band room of Athy War Pipers' Band burned in Athy.

December 30

A special meeting of Kildare County Council summoned to consider the terms of the Treaty. Ten councillors were present; one, James O'Connor, did not attend. After much discussion a motion was proposed by Jack Fitzgerald, seconded by Henry Fay and supported by councillors Michael Fitzsimons, Hugh Colohan and Nicholas Travers:

'That we, the Kildare County Council, are in favour of the ratification of the Treaty between Ireland and England and call upon the Deputies for Kildare and Wicklow to support it.

That copies of this resolution be sent to the Deputies for Kildare and Wicklow, and to Messrs. Griffith, de Valera and Collins.'

The motion was declared and carried. Éamon Ó Modhrain dissented and Tom Harris did not vote.

December 31

Meeting of North Kildare Farmers' Union in Naas Town Hall *'to call upon Dáil Éireann to ratify the Treaty in the best interests of the country'*.

Meeting of the Farmers' Union of South Kildare in Athy Town Hall to consider the Treaty; Athy Urban Council, representatives of the workers and traders and the public in general attended; they voted to ratify the Treaty.

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Members of the Irish negotiation committee returning to Ireland in December 1921.



British soldiers and relatives of the victims outside Jervis Street Hospital during the military inquiry into the Croke Park massacre (Bloody Sunday), 1920.



The takeover of Kildare Town R.I.C. Barracks, April 1922.



British cavalry regiment leaving Ireland, 1922.



Jim Dunne, Kill Coy, I.R.A.



Annie Moore, Cumann na mBan.



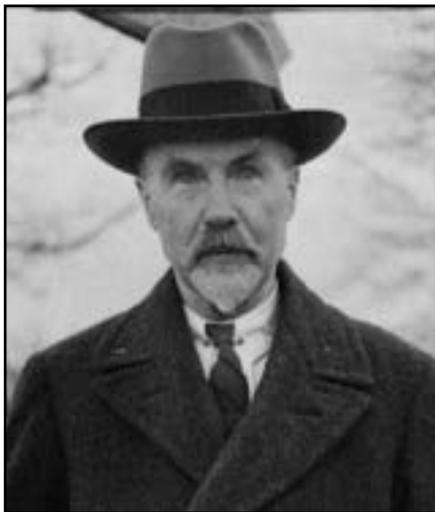
Comdt. Michael Smyth.



Vol. Alphonsus Sweeney, Naas Coy, I.R.A.



*Peggy, Katie and Lucy Daly,
Kildare Cumann na mBan.*



*Domhnall Ua Buachalla,
T.D. North Kildare.*



Eamon and Margaret O'Módhráin, Ballysax.



*Jimmy Whyte,
Naas Coy, I.R.A.*



*Frank Burke,
G.A.A. player and I.R.A. volunteer.*



Comdt. Tom Harris.



*Jack Fitzgerald,
Newbridge Coy, I.R.A.*



*Elizabeth and Mick Sammon,
G.A.A. referee.*

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Naas R.I.C. Barracks.

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January 1

North Kildare Sinn Féin Executive at Naas unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the Treaty.

January 5

Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Kildare-born Antarctic explorer, died onboard the *Quest* off the island of South Georgia, southern Atlantic.

January 7

Dáil Éireann approved Anglo-Irish Treaty, by 64 to 57.

January 9

De Valera resigned as president of Dáil Éireann and stood for re-election; de Valera lost by 60-58 on the motion for his re-election.

January 10

Arthur Griffith was elected President of Dáil Éireann; de Valera and his followers walked out.

January 14

Meeting of members elected to sit in the House of Commons of Southern Ireland; attended by 60 pro-Treaty T.D.s and four (Unionist) M.P.s for Dublin University; boycotted by anti-Treaty T.D.s; resolutions were passed approving the Treaty.

Provisional Government for the Irish Free State elected by members of Southern Ireland parliament; Michael Collins, Chairman.

Reported in the *Leinster Leader* January 14, 1922 that Lt. Bavin, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was fired on while

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travelling on his motorcycle through Suncroft; a bullet went through his coat. The incident was condemned by republican authorities, while Intelligence Staff of the I.R.A. investigated the incident.

January 14-19

Joyous scenes in Naas with the arrival home of Jack Mitchell, Caragh Road, well-known G.A.A. cyclist, after fifteen months' imprisonment in Gloucester Jail. Mr. Mitchell, who arrived by motor was met by the Naas Workingmen's Band and a large and enthusiastic gathering which included a local company of Volunteers, Republican Police and Fianna. Tar barrels blazed at several points and a torchlight procession was headed by the band playing national airs.

Ballymore-Eustace was illuminated and bonfires blazed in the Market Square and on 'Garrison Hill,' to welcome home Richard O'Brien from Mountjoy, and Arthur Doran serving a term of two years in Canterbury Prison. The Staff Officers and men of the 3rd Battalion (of which both men were officers prior to their arrest) turned out in full strength headed by the local band.

Michael Smyth, Athgarvan, received a warm reception on arrival home from Mountjoy Prison from friends and the men of the I.T.G.W.U. of which he was the secretary for Co. Kildare. Also released were William Jones and Matthew Cardiff, Athgarvan (the latter was sentenced to 2 years), Michael Duffy, Kilgowan (2 years), Michael Carpenter, Kildare P.O. (5 years).

Volunteers from Monasterevin welcomed Fintan Brennan, and Hugh E. McNally, home from Parkhurst Prison, England. Houses were illuminated; there were torchlights on the streets. Bonfires blazed, and the local fife and drum band played national airs. Patrick Duffy, Gurteenoon, Monasterevin, also arrived home from prison.

January 16

General Michael Collins took possession of Dublin Castle from the Viceroy, Lord FitzAlan, under the terms of the Treaty.

Evacuation of British troops proceeded, as did the disbanding of the R.I.C.

January 18

General meeting of the Sinn Féin Club, Naas in support of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Rev. Fr. Doyle presiding.

January 21

Collins-Craig agreement: Collins agreed to end the 'Belfast Boycott'; Craig undertook to stop the attacks on Ulster Catholics and to protect Catholic workers in the Belfast shipyards; they also agreed to accept the findings of the Boundary Commission, but altered their positions later.

January 22

Meeting in Prosperous of North Kildare Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceanntair to appoint a delegate for Árd Fheis to decide Treaty. Donal Buckley (Domhnall Ua Buachalla), Erskine Childers and Robert Barton were present and Buckley was chosen as the delegate. The clubs represented voted 13:6 that the delegate to the Árd Fheis should oppose the Treaty.

January 30

First meeting of the committee to draft a constitution, under the Chairmanship of Michael Collins.

January 31

The National Army was officially established in Beggar's Bush Barracks, Dublin, and began training troops to be despatched around the country.

February 1

The Minister for Education in the Provisional Government assumed powers of commissioners of national education and confirmed that Irish was to be taught at least one hour daily in national schools.

A parade by the newly uniformed troops of the National

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Army from Celbridge Barracks formally took possession of Beggar's Bush in a highly visible display.

February 2

Death in New York of John Butler Yeats, painter and father of poet William Butler Yeats and artist, Jack Butler Yeats.
James Joyce's *Ulysses* published in Paris.

Deputation from the Curragh, Newbridge and Kildare received by Michael Collins and Kevin O'Higgins with regard to the potential economic loss on the evacuation of the military in those areas.

February 5

At a special convention Cumann na mBan rejected the Treaty.

February 7

The last detachment of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers left Naas Barracks. Their destination was Bordon, Hampshire, where they joined the 1st Battalion. The famous fighting regiment was one of six Irish regiments disbanded in June 1922.

February 7-8

I.R.A. kidnapped 42 prominent loyalists and Ulster Special Constabulary (U.S.C.) constables in counties Fermanagh and Tyrone (Northern territory). They were to be held as hostages for the Monaghan G.A.A. team who had been arrested in January. This operation had been approved by Michael Collins, Richard Mulcahy, Frank Aiken and Eoin O'Duffy.

February 9

A meeting to set up a new police force took place in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, attended by General Michael Collins, Minister for Defence, General Richard Mulcahy, Eamonn Duggan, T.D., Michael Staines, T.D., Colonel Patrick Brennan, T.D., Commandant Martin Lynch and General Michael Ring. Collins invited a number of former members of the R.I.C. who had assisted him during the War of Independence to the meeting. Among them was Sergeant Jeremiah Maher of Naas R.I.C. Barracks.

February 10

Lieutenant John Hubert Wogan Browne was shot dead while returning on foot, with the regimental pay, to Kildare Barracks from the Hibernian Bank in Kildare. Soldiers demonstrated in the town that night. The cinema managed by John J. Breslin was attacked and three soldiers slightly wounded by a shotgun blast. Soldiers were subsequently confined to barracks.

February 11

Newspapers carried notices for sale of 250 huts, kitchen ranges, boilers, etc.; new timber, galvanised sheeting, etc., at French Furze and Rath Camps on Thursday and Friday, 16 and 17 February 1922.

February 13

Michael Collins telegraphed Winston Churchill to say 3 men had been arrested for the murder of Lt. Wogan Browne. Republican police, I.R.A. and R.I.C. and British military had been involved in operations to bring the culprits to justice. No one was charged with the crime.

February 14

Funeral of Lt. Wogan Browne at Naas, the remains being interred in the new cemetery. Headed by a band, the coffin, which was covered with the Union Jack, and on which the cap and sword of the dead officer was placed, was drawn on a gun-carriage. Behind it his charger was led by a trooper and following in the mournful procession walked the bereaved father, Colonel Wogan Browne, and representatives of the principal residents of Co. Kildare.

February 17

First day of issue of British postage stamps overprinted 'Rialtas Sealadach na hÉireann.' ('Provisional Government of Ireland')

February 21

Free State government began recruitment into Civic Guard,

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later renamed An Garda Síochána. First commissioner of new unarmed police force was Michael Staines (Co. Mayo). First recruit was Patrick Joseph Kerrigan (Co. Mayo) and first serving member was Patrick McAvinia (Co. Cavan).

February 23

Gen. Richard Mulcahy, Minister of Defence, with his staff, inspected the Curragh Camp.

March 10

Evacuation of R.I.C. Barracks in Athy.

March 13

The Appointments Office for Counties Kildare and Carlow was opened at the Courthouse, Naas to manage recruitment to the Garda Síochána (Civic Guard).

March 14

Treaty Electoral Campaign for Kildare-Wicklow was launched at a special meeting in the Gresham Hotel. Naas would be the campaign H.Q. Organiser for North Kildare would be Thomas Patterson and South Kildare would be Fintan Brennan.

March 15

Anti-Treaty minority formed Cumann na Poblachta (League of the Republic) under the leadership of de Valera.

First meeting of the Kildare County Board of Health

March 21

The General Officer Commanding 5th Division, Major-General Sir Hugh S. Jeudwine, K.C.B., had a force of 12,500 troops, scattered from Sligo to Carlow. He consolidated this force into the confines of the Curragh, Kildare, Naas and Newbridge by March 21. In the process, five Infantry Brigades, a Cavalry Brigade, and sundry support elements were disbanded.

At the height of the Great War, the Curragh had employed up to 900 civilians, but by 1922 there were barely 150 on the

payroll. Of these, nearly all had requested retention by the Provisional Government. The British secured these employees three months' guaranteed employment by the Provisional Government, after which time, their contracts would be subject to review.

March 24

Naas R.I.C. Barracks, the headquarters of the R.I.C. in the county was evacuated. Maynooth and Kildare also evacuated. All R.I.C. stations in the county now vacated.

March 26

Challenge match in Croke Park in front of 10,000 spectators between Mayo (1-6) and Kildare (0-5) in aid of the Irish Republican Prisoner's Dependents Fund.

Meeting of the Co. Kildare Trades Council in the Town Hall, Droichead Nua, to prepare for the upcoming elections. The decision of the Executive Committee to run candidates in the elections was approved.

March 26-27

At the Army Convention held at the Mansion House and attended by 220 delegates representing 49 brigades of the I.R.A., the anti-Treaty I.R.A. formed the Executive Council under Oscar Traynor.

A large number of I.R.A. rejected the Treaty, and the authority of the Dáil. They elected their own 16-man 'Army Executive', led by Liam Mellows and Rory O'Connor and seized buildings and weapons.

March 28

Rory O'Connor, on behalf of the anti-Treaty I.R.A., repudiated the authority of Dáil Éireann.

March 30

Sir James Craig, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, agreed to recruit Catholics into the Special Constabulary and to reinstate Catholics in jobs in Belfast shipyards. Michael Collins, Chairman of the Provisional Government, agreed to

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act against I.R.A. units operating against the North from the South. Neither side delivered on its undertakings.

March 31

Irish Free State (Agreement) Act, 1922, giving force of law to Treaty articles, and providing for transfer of powers to Provisional Government and for the dissolution of the parliament of Southern Ireland within 4 months.

April 1

Transfer of power from Britain to the Free State authority was officially signed by Churchill and Collins.

April 8

Naas R.I.C. Barracks raided by anti-Treaty armed men and shotguns and revolvers taken.

April 9

Anti-Treaty I.R.A. Executive appointed a seven-man Army Council; Liam Lynch appointed Chief of Staff.

Front Page of the *Sunday Independent* carried a warning from the I.R.A.

'With regard to the recent burnings of houses of Protestants in Kildare district, a statement has been issued on behalf of the local I.R.A. pointing out that they had nothing to do with these outrages, and stating that if the perpetrators are apprehended, "they will be punished in such a manner as to prevent such cowardly outrages taking place in future." Protestants in the area are informed, "that should they require any protection whatever for person or property," they will be afforded it on making application.'

April 10

Eamonn Duggan, T.D., had suggested that the artillery barracks in Kildare might be suitable as a depot for the new Civic Guard, who were at the time housed in the Royal Dublin Society (R.D.S.) showgrounds.

April 11

The home of Captain Ernest Northern, Connaught Lodge in Kildare town, was burned down by armed men. Margaret Chaplin's Leinster Lodge in Kildare town had also recently been destroyed by fire.

April 12

On Wednesday night between 11.30 and midnight the house of Art Doran, Ballymore-Eustace, a prominent Volunteer and pro-Treaty man, who was imprisoned or 'on the run' for nearly two years prior to the truce, was raided by a number of armed men, who said they were in search of arms and ammunition, and alleged they were acting under orders. Doran stated that five shots were discharged in the taproom by the raiders, who threatened to arrest him. No arms or ammunition were found. The houses of Joe Winder and Christy Byrne, in Ballymore, were also raided on the same occasion.

April 14

An anti-Treaty force under Rory O'Connor seized the Four Courts and several other public buildings around Dublin in a show of defiance calculated to provoke a response by the British troops still stationed in the city.

At the Punchestown races two armed men held up the driver and stole the Crossley saloon of the Lord Lieutenant, Lord FitzAlan, who was in attendance.

April 15

The last of the Curragh garrison's family members were evacuated by April 15, with a weight allowance of 2 cwt. per wife and 0.5 cwt. per child over 3 years.

Kildare Barracks was evacuated, and all the patients of the Curragh Hospital were evacuated to the King George V Hospital (now St. Bricin's), Dublin.

Some 300 regular I.R.A. arrived in Kildare by road and rail from Celbridge Barracks and occupied Kildare Barracks, the Protestant School, the R.I.C. Barracks and the Club House.

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April 16

The Great Leinster Rally in support of the Free State was held in Naas and Michael Collins was the principal speaker. A platform was erected outside the Hibernian Bank (now the Bank of Ireland) and on the platform with Collins were Joe McGrath, Minister for Labour, Kevin O'Higgins, Minister for Economic Affairs, M. J. Staines, T.D., C. M. Byrne, T.D., and Gearóid O'Sullivan, T.D.

April 24

A general strike took place, called by the Labour Party (and supported by 75,000 workers) against the prospect of civil war.

Regular I.R.A. H.Q. at Celbridge Barracks was attacked at 11.30 p.m. and fire returned. An attempt was made to scale the walls.

April 25

Large force of new Civic Guards arrived from the R.D.S. Showgrounds, Ballsbridge, Dublin to set up a new H.Q. in the former military barracks, Kildare.

At 2 a.m a line of men seen advancing to the rear of Kildare Barracks was dispersed when fired on by a sentry. Later that day, at 13.45 p.m., a sentry at the front gate was fired upon.

April 26-28

After the fatal shooting of a local I.R.A. officer in a dispute over a car, which the I.R.A. wanted to commandeer, elements of the local I.R.A. killed 13 Protestant loyalists in revenge, in and around Dunmanway, County Cork.

May 3

Pro- and anti-Treaty leaders announced a 'truce' in the Dáil to try to prevent civil war.

May 10

The final orders for the evacuation of the Curragh Camp were issued.

May 15

Troops of the 30th Brigade, R.H.A., and 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers marched out to the Curragh Railway Siding for their eventual accommodation at Arbour Hill and Phoenix Park respectively.

Much of the camp, such as the abattoir, bakery, electric-generating station, etc., was already in the control of caretaker civilian employees.

That evening, an advance party of 80 Irish troops, under the command of Comdt. Patrick Cronin, arrived from Beggar's Bush Barracks, Dublin, and occupied Hare Park outside the Curragh Camp. Also present was Lt. Gen. J. J. 'Ginger' O'Connell, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Irish Army, and soon to be G.O.C. of the Curragh Command.

Unrest in Kildare Barracks developed into the Civic Guard Mutiny from ill-feeling caused by perceived favouritism toward ex-R.I.C. and D.M.P. over new republican recruits. Men deserted to the Four Courts Garrison in June and an Inquiry was instigated. Michael Collins visited Kildare on May 26, to try and reach a resolution. The newly appointed Commissioner Michael Staines resigned over the controversy.

May 16

Shortly after daybreak, the two remaining Infantry battalions, marched out of the Curragh Camp to the Curragh Siding, where they embarked on the train to Kingsbridge Station.

At 10:00 hrs, Lt. Gen. O'Connell marched into the Curragh Camp at the head of his staff and an advance party of the new National Army. Greetings were exchanged and Lt. Col. Dalrymple, escorted Lt.-Gen. O'Connell around the South perimeter road, observing the guards taking up their posts.

British officers and men boarded vehicles to join the convoy that had begun pulling out of the camp as the first Irish troops marched in. The official handover of the Curragh Camp took place at 10.30 a.m.

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When the new forces had ascended to the roof of the Tower at the Curragh Camp to hoist the tricolour it was found that the flagstaff had been taken down and sawn into three pieces before the departure of the British forces. A flagstaff was hurriedly improvised, and a huge tricolour floated in the breeze.

Hester Dooley, Athy, secretary to Lt.-Gen. O'Connell, was the only woman present at the hand-over of the Curragh Camp.

The Artillery stationed at Newbridge Barracks left for Dublin, and possession of the barracks was taken over on behalf of the Beggar's Bush authorities by Commandant Cronin, late captain in the American Army, who was operating with the Irish forces in the fighting prior to the truce. After the formal hand over at 10.30 a.m., 200 trainee Civic Guards from Kildare Barracks were billeted there.

At 11.30 men of the regular army, fully equipped, marched through the streets of Naas on their arrival from the training camp at Celbridge and entered the precincts of the R.I.C. Barracks, awaiting the formal handing over of the military barracks, formerly the Depot of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, but more recently in the occupation of the Leicester Regiment. At 12 o'clock the Irish troops were marched to the military barracks, where possession was taken by Captain Joyce on behalf of General Headquarters (G.H.Q.), Beggar's Bush.

May 20

Michael Collins and Éamon de Valera signed a Pact, in which the Pro- and anti-Treaty wings of Sinn Féin would jointly contest the upcoming first election of the new state.

May 22

About 100 men marched under a red flag to the Courthouse in Naas urging action for relief of unemployment. A deputation was sent to the Co. Council and the Council passed a resolution demanding a share of the special grant for the relief of distress passed by Dáil Éireann.

May 28

An I.R.A. unit of 100 men occupied Pettigo, just on the Northern side of the border. A gun battle broke out between them and 100 Ulster Special Constables, in which one U.S.C. man was killed. A battalion of British troops and an artillery battery of six field guns was then mobilised to dislodge the I.R.A. party.

June 1922

Michael Collins repudiated the election pact with de Valera in Cork.

June 1

The newly created Royal Ulster Constabulary (R.U.C.) took over the policing of Northern Ireland.

June 3-10

The 'Battle' of Pettigo and Belleek involving the Ulster Special Constabulary, British Army troops and Irish forces. It was the last time that pro- and anti-Treaty forces fought together before the Civil War. The British military occupied Pettigo until January 1923, when it was handed over to Free State troops and stayed in Belleek until August 1924, when the R.U.C. and the Specials took over the security of the village.

June 12

Disbandment of six Southern Irish regiments at Windsor Castle before King George V: Royal Irish Regiment; the Connaught Rangers; the South Irish Horse; the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians); the Royal Munster Fusiliers; the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

June 14

De Valera spoke at Athy and Kildare, where many of the new Civic Guards were among the spectators. An estimated 3,000 attended an anti-Treaty meeting in Naas where addresses were delivered by Éamon de Valera, Harry Boland, Austin Stack, Robert Barton, Eamonn Aylward, Domhnall Ua Buachalla and Art O'Connor.

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June 16

1922 Irish general election – The pro-Treaty Sinn Féin party won the election, despite the Collins/de Valera Pact stating the election was not to be held on the issue of the Treaty, but to form a Coalition Government, with 239,193 votes to 133,864 for anti-Treaty Sinn Féin. A further 247,226 people voted for other parties, all of whom supported the Treaty (except Unionist Party)

Castledermot Sinn Féin Hall, which was being used as election rooms for the Sinn Féin Panel Candidates, was taken by anti-Treaty forces, as a republican barracks, and garrisoned by four men. National Troops, under Brigade-Adj. Lillis, arrived in Castledermot on election duty and in the ensuing conflict Volunteer Thomas Dunne was mortally wounded by a bullet from a revolver accidentally discharged.

June 17

Thomas Daly, president of the disgruntled faction in Kildare known as the Men's Committee, met a force of anti-Treaty men from Dublin outside Kildare town. They accompanied him to the barracks and gained entrance, tied up the Guards on duty and commandeered 167 rifles and 243 revolvers, as well as an amount of ammunition from the armoury. A small number of the mutineers joined them and they returned to the Four Courts in Dublin, which was garrisoned by a force of anti-Treaty I.R.A. men. The majority of men remained in the depot and remained loyal to the government.

June 19-22

The Election Count took place in the Agricultural Buildings, Basin Street, Naas, and lasted from Monday to 2 o'clock on Thursday morning. Successful candidates for Kildare-Wicklow were:

C. M. Byrne (pro-Treaty); Wilson (Farmers' and Ratepayers' Party); Hugh Colohan (Labour); James Everett (Labour); Robert Barton (anti-Treaty).

Domhnall Ua Buachalla, Art O'Connor and Erskine Childers were amongst the unsuccessful candidates.

June 20

Near midnight Farrell Liddy, a member of the Civic Guard, stationed in Newbridge, was accidentally wounded and died soon after. Another member of the Guard was also wounded at the same time in the hand, by the accidental discharge of a revolver.

June 22

Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, who had been official adviser to Stormont Minister of Home Affairs on the organisation and control of the Special Constabulary, was assassinated outside his home in London. Two members of London Battalion I.R.A., Reginald Dunne and Joseph O'Sullivan, were hanged for his murder on August 10.

Winston Churchill assumed that the anti-Treaty Four Courts garrison was responsible and warned Collins that if he did not act, British troops would be used to re-take Dublin.

June 24

President Arthur Griffith and Minister Eamonn Duggan visited Kildare Barracks in an attempt to resolve the Civic Guard Mutiny.

June 26

The Four Courts garrison kidnapped Free State General J. J. 'Ginger' O'Connell in retaliation for the arrest of Leo Henderson, an anti-Treaty officer enforcing the Belfast Boycott.

June 27

Collins gave a final ultimatum to the Four Courts garrison to surrender before they were attacked.

June 28

The National Army bombarded the Four Courts with borrowed British 18-pounder field guns marking the definitive start of the Civil War. Emmet Dalton was in command. It concluded after three days of bombardment when the republican

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garrison of two hundred surrendered. Members of the I.R.A. Army Executive, Liam Mellows, Rory O'Connor, Joe McKelvey and Dick Barrett were among the prisoners, but Ernie O'Malley, who had assumed command after Paddy O'Brien was wounded, escaped.

On the same day, the Public Record Office, part of the Four Courts complex, was blown up, causing the destruction of the national archives dating back to 1174.

The Battle of Dublin raged until July 5.

This conflict effectively ended the violence in Northern Ireland as it distracted the attention of the republican and nationalist movements from the continued British presence in the North. The last reported conflict-related deaths in the North took place in October 1922.

June 28-29

The arrest of prominent leaders, Tom Harris, on June 28 and Domhnall Ua Buachalla, T.D., and Commandant Patrick Mullaney of Leixlip, on June 29, struck a huge blow to anti-Treaty republicans in Kildare. Ua Buachalla was imprisoned in Kilcock, Maynooth and then the Curragh, while Mullaney was imprisoned in Kilcock, Lucan and then the Curragh. Mullaney escaped less than a month later, on August 22, and led a column in the North Kildare area until his capture in December.

The War of Independence had ended and the uncertainty of the Truce period was over; the Civil War in Kildare had begun.



Kildare Artillery Barracks.



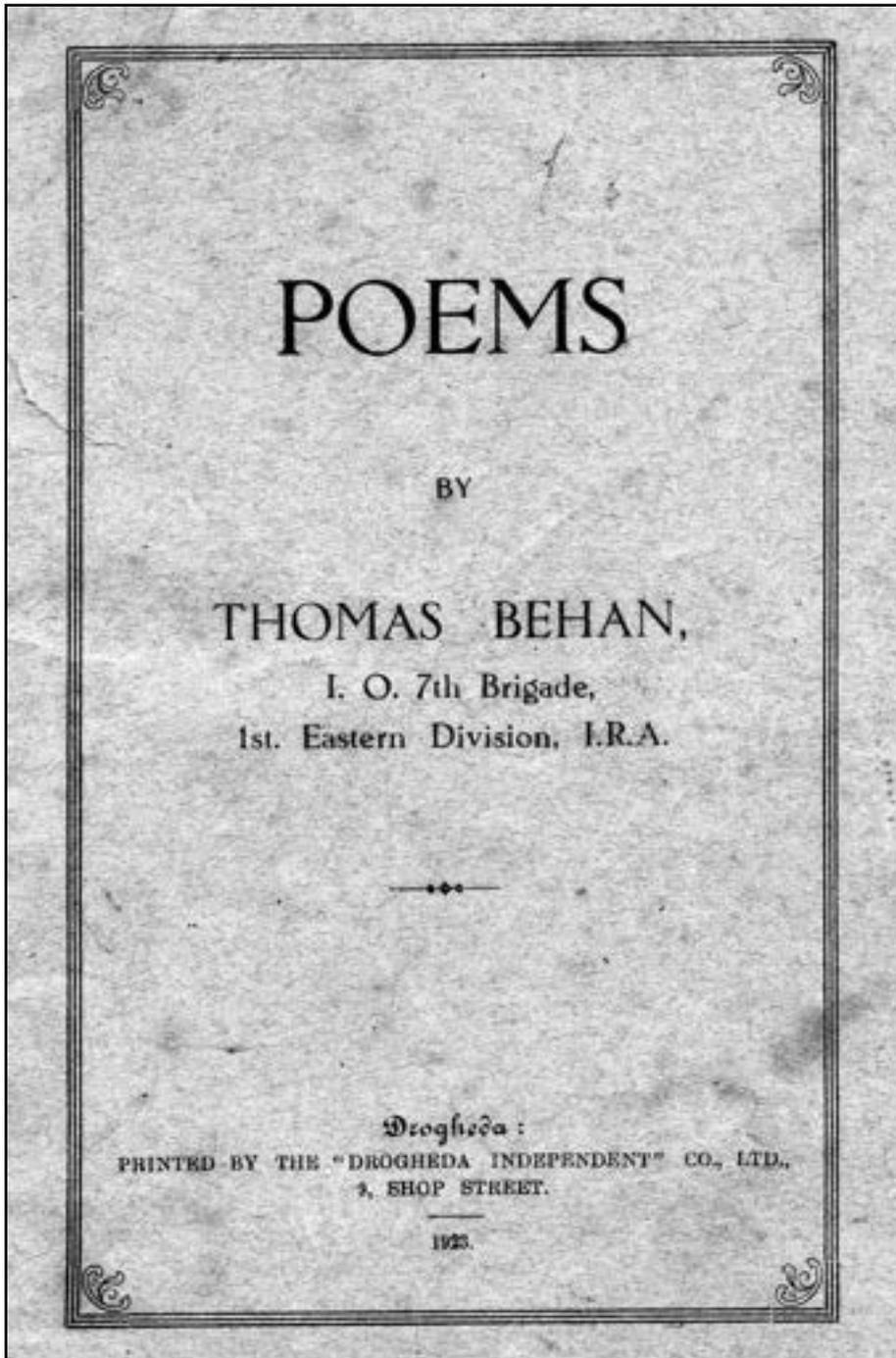
North Kildare Battalion internees pose for a photograph in the Rath Camp.



A guard tower with barbed wire at the Rath Camp, 1921.



Teresa Brayton, nationalist poet.



Front Cover of Thomas Behan's 'Poems', written while interned in the Rath Camp, published posthumously in 1923 after his death in the Civil War.



Co. Kildare Football team, All-Ireland Champions 1919.

Back row: Jack Fitzgerald, Bill White, Michael Buckley, Joe Connor, James Conlan, Tom Goulding, Tom Lawlor, Larry 'Hussey' Cribben, Bernie McGlade, Rev. Jim Stanley, Pat O'Grady, D. McDonagh, Peter Carey.

Front row: Joe McDonald, Peter Garret, Jim 'Ginger' Moran, John Carey, Paul Doyle, Albert O'Neill, Larry Stanley (capt.), James O'Connor, George Magan, Chris 'Kit' Flynn, Frank 'Joyce' Conlan, Tommy Kelly.



Art O'Connor, T.D. for South Kildare.

A Timeline of the War of Independence in County Kildare, 1919-1922



Lt. Gen. J. J. 'Ginger' O'Connell, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Irish Army, 1922.



Ernest Shackleton, explorer, formerly of Kilkea, in Co. Kildare who died January 5, 1922.

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