

My Grandad Noel Grimes gave me this story about Michael Joseph O'Rahilly (The O'Rahilly).

story 1

Michael Joseph O'Rahilly, universally known as "The O'Rahilly" was born in Ballylongford, County Kerry on the 22nd April to the 23rd of April 1916. When he was five years old, he went to the local national school in Ballylongford where the headmaster was Patrick O'Connor, a native Irish speaker from Dingle. When Michael was sixteen, he was sent to Clongowes College acknowledged as one of the best Irish Catholic boarding schools at that time. He became an enthusiastic supporter of the Irish language and was a member of An Coiste Gnotha, the Gaelic League's governing body. He travelled extensively and spent at least a decade living in America where he married before returning to Ireland in 1909 and settling in Dublin.

The 'O'Rahilly was a founding member of the Irish Volunteers and its Director of Arms. He personally orchestrated the landing of the German arms on board Robert Erskine Childers' yacht *Asgard* at Howth County Dublin in July 1914.

My Grandpa also gave me this part about the Founding of the Volunteers in Killarney 1913

story 2

Tom Barrington emphasises the importance of the convergence of three groups in this era, the GAA in (1884) the Gaelic League (1893) and the Volunteers (1913). Killarney had an active Craobh na nAoine since 1900 and given its traditions of publications (notably *Lock Léin* (1902-1905) and *Leubhra Locha Léin* books) and *seiseanna* was chosen as host of the 18th Oireachtas Festival in late July 1914. Some 10,000 visitors attended the festival and its competitions. Huge attention centred on the parade through the town of 2,500 Volunteers. As the Killarney Company ventured fully armed from An Dáin they mesmerised the 12 local Royal Irish Constabulary at the market cross who got dumbfounded and could not move (O'Sullivan M.J and Spillane, MI No 783). Little did they know that the arms were props on loan from the American Kalam Company based on filming location in Beaumont. This was also the weekend of the Hawthorn - Rinnings and consequent Bachelor's Walk massacre. At an Oireachtas Extraordinary General meeting in the East Avenue Hall. Douglas de la J de declared "we most emphatically protest against the murders in Dublin,

story 2

In 1916 Killarney Volunteers actively co-operated with the ill-fated party assigned to carry out the abortive capture of radio equipment in Caherciveen. Kerry's part in the Rising countermanded on Easter Sunday by Eoin MacNeill.

By Cianán B. Shave - St. Patrick's BMS Skibb
Co. Cork

story 1

The O'Rahilly was not a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood who were planning the Easter Rising of April 1916 in Dublin. The IRB went to great lengths not to inform the leaders of the Volunteers about their plans as they were opposed to unprovoked, unilateral action. When news arrived on Easter Saturday that the Aid carrying 20,000 German rifles and ammunition for the Volunteers was intercepted off the Kerry Coast MacNeill decided to cancel the Rising. O'Rahilly volunteered to go to Limerick to deliver an order from MacNeill counter mandating volunteer mobilisation for counties Cork, Kerry, Tip and Limerick.

On his way to Dublin finding that the rising was going ahead on Easter Monday he decided to take part and drove to Liberty Hall and then into the GPO. With the GPO in flames by Friday Pearse and the leaders decided to abandon ship. He volunteered to lead a party to clear an escape route. A long way with most of the party he was shot as they were coming up Moor Street towards the British barricade. Badly bleeding he sought shelter in Sackville Lane. The O'Rahilly died some time after being shot on the 28th of April 1916 a sad day for all.