

WEST CORK:

STORIES OF

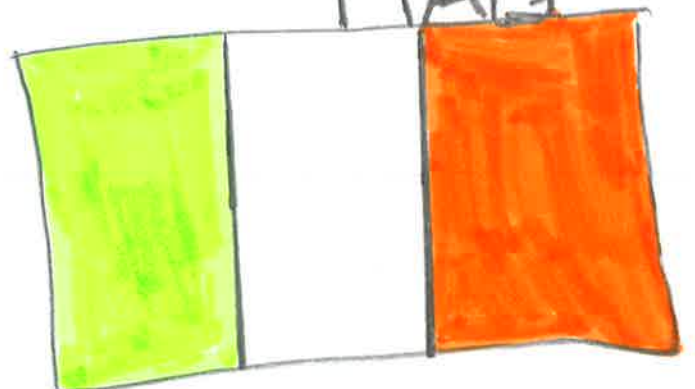
THE
REVOLUTION

1916 - 1923



Irish

FLAG



WEST CORK: STORIES OF THE REVELOUTION
1916-1923

Hi my name is Caoimhe O Donovan. I am writing about Patrick O Donovan from Killbrennan, Crookstown, Co. Cork, my great grandfather, he was involved in the Quarries cross company during this time.

I am going to write the things he did.

CHAPTERS

1. Billeting
2. Key houses
3. Scouting
4. Dispatches & intelligence gathering
5. Trenching, barricading, bridges, construction, etc.
6. Munitions, provisioning, transports

BILLETING

Billeting or holding up stations were for men on the run, wounded or men of the column travelling through the area. They had to be fed and kept there until they were needed to move on. Each company was responsible for billets in their area.

My great grandfather and his neighbours helped the company set up and run billets. His house was used as one of the billets.

KEY HOUSES

A key house is the same as a billet but there are a few differences. They had to be fairly large farmhouses because lots of the column men would turn up unexpected and they would need to be fed and places for them to sleep. Smaller houses such as cottages were

not big enough for them and farm houses would have lots of food and livestock to feed the men from. The key houses would have good view of the countryside for scouts to keep a look out for British encase they were coming that way. The houses were well off the main road where the British could not have quick access to the house. They had good escape routes such as lanes etc. for men to get away quick if needed.

SCOUTING

Scouting was one of the most important parts of the war. Local people were used as scouts because they knew the land and countryside. The biggest part of the job was gathering intelligence and watching out for British military patrols, recording the times and routes they were taking. This information was passed onto the column intelligence officer

and he gave this information to the column leader General Tom Barry.

DISPATCHES AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Back in the 1920's there were no mobile phones so the only way to pass on dispatches or any intelligence that was gathered was to travel with it by hand from town to town. This was very dangerous because if you were caught with any information on you about the British that would help the IRA you were arrested and maybe shot. Most of the local people would pass on information by mouth when they went to mass on Sundays or when they went to the market. This was a safer way to pass information.

TRENCHING, BARRICADING, BRIDGES,
CONSTRUCTION ETC.

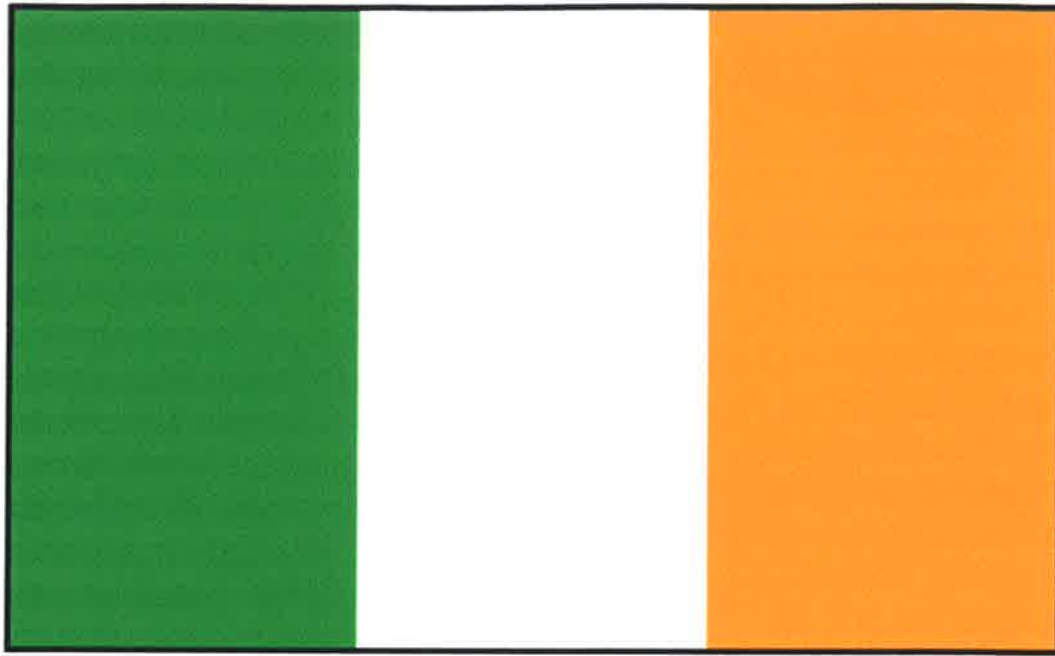
These activities were carried out by the company to stop the progress of the military through the countryside. These helped the company move more freely and avoid being captured. Roads were dug, bridges knocked and barricades put up so the military Lorries could not pass. The company travelled by foot and went through fields and did not use many roads.

MUNITIONS, PROVISIONING AND TRANSPORTS

Guns, bullets, bombs were used by the flying column. The companies around the county used to hide the weapons in their houses, sheds in ditches and drains. They were responsible to hid, move and transport the weapons around the county depending on where the next fight was going to be held. They moved them on horse and carts and by foot or bicycle.

When the men and women moved the weapons around they had to be fed as they were a long way from home so billets were used to feed the company.





_By Caoimhe O Donovan 15th Jan 2017
3RD Class

Ballinacorney N.S

My Dad's side in the family tree

