

Philip Holland - 1921 → 1968

My Great Grandfather Philip Holland, also known as Sonny Holland, grew up in the Bandon Valley otherwise known as the Cromwellian Valley in previous centuries. He was born in 1894, his job was a Dispatch Officer which meant he had to pass on information to the Newcestown Column that Black and Tans were coming close to his area. It was Cromwell who once said Catholics had a choice; to 'Hell or to Connacht', therefore it was in your system (DNA) to defend what you owned. Philip got involved in the fight for freedom at a very young age. I believe he was aged 27 years back then. He also had cousins in Cummann na mBan - the Corcoran sisters.

On June 21st 1921, a party of nine men (not including Philip) went to the home of Lord Bandon, where they captured him and burned down the castle. As they burned down the castle Sealy King (one of the nine men) was captured and then taken to Newcestown company area where Philip acted as an armed guard for one week guarding Sealy. Then Sealy King was later recaptured by the British Forces after a round up with Philip and other men.

They were taken to Bandon where they were held at the Devonshire Arms Hotel, which was taken over as a Military Base. Philip later made a dramatic escape through a small window with someone else (unknown) and fled to Newcestown where he hid away in a safehouse until the truce was signed.

On May 9th 1921, his close friend and ally Godfrey Joseph Carty was shot in Murragh. My Great Grandfather unveiled a new monument to his fallen friend where he died in September 1968 when he was 72 years of age. He was appointed a Peace Commissioner in the early sixties until his death in 1972.

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John Holland,
Mawmore, Enniskene,
Co. Cork

Caoimhe Dehane
6th Class
Scoil Naomh Seosamh,
Laragh



Here is my great grandfather
Philip Holland (standing) with
his brother Fr. Chris Holland
following his ordination
mass in Gaggin.

Here is the Cross that
Philip Holland unveiled in
honour of his friend
Godfrey Joseph Carty
located just out Murragh
Enniskeane Co. Cork.

