

## Stories of the Revolution 1916-23.

The main action in the whole period was the taking of Ross Barracks on March 31, 1921. The Flying Column were billeted the night before in the houses in the Leashel and Dunscaillib area, in the homes of the White, Mc and Collins families. The column marched into the town and placed a bomb at the door of the bar. The bomb exploded and only did minor damage to the building, but did great damage to several buildings across the road. A fire fight lasting several hours ensued until eventually the roof caved in, but not before the garrison were able to escape. It was because of their previous good treatment of the local population that they were able to escape. On Feb 1, 1921 Burgatia House was burned.

On April 2, 1921, 'The College', a Protestant secondary school was set alight.

April 9, 1921, Derry House, home of Sergeant Sullivan K.C. was burned. Sgt Sullivan had defended Roger's basement.

June 18, 1921, Bahermore House, home of H. J. Hungerford, landlord of Bahermore was burned.

June 25, 1921, Merton House, home of the Misses Whitley was burned.

The Coastguard Stations at Mill Cove and the Pier Rd were burned in June of 1921.

Burgatia House, home of Thomas Kingston burned on Feb. 1, 1921.

As regards safe houses there were none in this area due to the proximity of the R.I.C., and the two coastguard stations. Nevertheless military training for the Volunteers was frequently held in Perry wood. Guns and ammunition were stored in the Dan farm at Ardagh. There were Cumann na mBan activists in Rosscarbery. Katty Hayes, Church St, her sister Julia Collins West Square were two. There was also a Sinn Féin cummunn.

On January 14, 1922, the Southern Star carried report of an all-night céili organised by Rosscar Cumann na mBan in the spacious Ardagh Boys School room on Friday night January 6, 1922. The room was suitably decorated for the occasion, and after the guests had partook of an excellent dinner the floor manager Mr Tom McMorley announced the arrival of the guests of honour Capt Tom Barry & wife Leslie. After a very enjoyable night's dance Mr John McCarthy V. T. returned thanks to all concerned. There was also a Sinn Féin cummunn but this had to operate in secret of necessity up to the signing of the truce in July 1921. A report in the Southern Star of Sept 10, reveals that the Sinn Féin cummunn in Ross has been reorganised and set working. Its membership has increased two fold, and the spirit that prevailed at its inception still prevails. On Oct 15, an aeriocht held in Ross, organised by the S. F. cummunn.

Another notable incident occurred in June 1921, when Spud Murphy and Jim Lane of Belonakilty were tre by a group of Black + Tans in Ross, and were forced to hide among the stalks of a potato garden on the road for a couple of days. Eventually they made a escape under cover of darkness and headed for Mli on the way they saw a light in the home of John and knocking on the door they were immediately in in and given food. Meanwhile John Collins roused his neighbour and got him to bring his boat into Buasn gaorach, (Sheep's Cove) where it was boarded by who were then taken across Rosscarbery Bay to Beal a bhuan near the Galley Head by the boatou Jim Hayes Millcove.

- Some of the members of the Ross I.R.A.
- Sonny Moloney Postman.
  - James Donovan Downeen, Carpenter.
  - John Dad Donovan Downeen, Soldier.
  - James Hayes Derry Postman.
  - James Hayes Downeen Farmer.
  - Bill Batt O'Sullivan Free, Farmer.
  - Batt Harte, Behermore, Farmer.
  - Stephen Holland, Ardagh West, Dairyman.

The most famous song of this period is The Boys of Kilmichael.

caimhe murphy  
8 years old  
st mary's school  
ross carberry  
3rd class