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West cork stories of the revolution
1916-1923

I found this project very difficult because my mum is Polish and my dad is French so I don't know many older, local people. I tried to ask some people around town of Clonakilty, but nobody had any story for me. So instead I decided to use internet and books for my research. I hope you will enjoy my work anyway. I found some stories I think are important.

- Story by Ann Hales about Ballinadee Ira Company

6 miles south west of Bandon town lies Ballinadee village and rural community. This area was to play a very significant role in Ireland's fight for freedom. Here there lived men and women who were passionate about Irish freedom and who were willing to sacrifice their lives. This passion resulted in the establishment of the Ballinadee IRA Company which grew from 24 members in 1915 to 100 volunteers by Easter 1916. It was well organised, well trained and best armed company of volunteers in West Cork. In support of 1916 raising, a group of 65 members marched to Macroom town to meet sir Roger Casement's shipment of arms, but when they got there, they found out that Casement was captured. The British authorities now knew about rebel activity and sent out military to the district. The homes of members were searched and some members of company were arrested and kept in Detention Barracks in England. They were released by Christmas

1916 and began to re-organise. In March Major A.E. Percival arrived and brought terror and destruction. The company strengthen in numbers

In 1918 and 1919 the Ballinadee IRA company were involved in many of the attacks on British military forces in the name of Irish freedom. Today a memorial is placed in honour of the brave men of the Ballinadee.

- Michael Collins sites in West Cork by Tim Crowley



Michael Collins was an Irish military and political leader in Revolutionary Period of 1916- 1922.

He was born in 1890 in the townland of Woodfield. The birth place of Michael Collins is located 7 KM from Clonakilty and its open for public all year around. You can visit a house remains there, that were burned down in 1921. Marianne O'Brien, Michael's mother was born at Sam's Cross located 1 km from Michael Collins' birthplace is. The most famous place is a pub called Four Alls. On the day he died, August 22ND 1922, Michael Collins visited Sam's Cross on his return from Skibbereen. In the Four Alls, he bought two rounds of Clonakilty Wrastler for his men. This stout was brewed in Deasy's Brewery in Clonakilty. That evening he also visited his cousins, the O'Briens in the two-story farmhouse across the road, where his brother Johnny joined him. A monument, dedicated to Michael Collins stands at Sam's Cross to the left of the O'Briens homestead.

The parish centre located on the west side of Clonakilty's Roman Catholic Church used to be Scoil na'M Buachaili (Clonakilty Boys National School) , where Michael Collins attended from 1904 to 1906, his teachers were John Crawley and John Blewitt. There are many plaques on the front of the building to remember him.

Beal na Bla was the site of a skirmish, which resulted in the death of Michael Collins. Travelling in a military convoy, he passed through Beal na Bla in the morning and an Anti-Treaty IRA party set up an ambush, thinking that the convoy may return in the evening. The various little roads and lanes in that area provided ideal firing positions and escape routes for members of the ambush party. Collins and his convoy eventually returned to Beal na Bla at 7.45 pm. He died in a action during a skirmish. A large monument mark the place.

- Story by Pat Canniffe About Bandon



Looking at its history, Bandon town and the surrounding area played a very important role in the war of independence. A good place to start is a visit to the heritage Center at Christ Church. The British Cavalry Barracks was located where Trunwits Transport is based now. Major A.E. Percival was in charge of the Essex Regiment there. Across the road stands the maid of Erin. The maid of Erin originally stood at the bridge and was destroyed during the trouble times. As a reprisal for it's destruction the Allin institute was burned by the old I.R.A. on 23 June 1921. Kilkbrogan Roman Catholic cemetery is the resting place of the 3 local volunteers who died during the troubles. On the south side of town is the Munster arms hotel. Michael Collins visited here where his last picture was taken on the day of his killing. The war of independence memorial to all the brave volunteers who died for Ireland since the year 1916 onwards is located at the east of the town. Nearby is the site of the old work house which was burned in 1921 by armed republicans. The old IRC barracks stood at the south main street. On Sunday morning 25th July 1920, Sergeant William Mulhern

left the barracks to attend 8 o'clock mass St patrick church.
As he entered the church, he was shot dead. As the shooting
took place at a sacred place, there was widespread
condemnation of the event.

The End