

## THE OLD RUSTY GUN

In around 1970, when my dad was a little boy he used to stay with his uncle Dennis and aunt Cait on a farm in Glanmire. One day his uncle Dennis was ploughing a field and he came across an old rusty gun. The previous owner of the farm had been ploughing in the same field during the war of Independence. Two I.R.A men who had the gun were being hunted by a group of soldiers. They wanted to get rid of the gun, so they dropped it into the furrow behind the plough. It was found again about 1970. By the time my father's uncle found it, it was very rusty and none of the wooden parts survived. It was a bolt action rifle, possibly a Lee Enfield. It was as tall as my dad at the time, and was very heavy. Until very recently the gun was still in his uncle's house.

## AN SEAN GUNNA MEARGACH

Thart ar 1970, nuair a bhí m'athair ina bhuachaill óg, chaith sé an-chuid ama ag teach a uncail Dennis agus a aintín Cáit. Bhí feirm. Lá amháin bhí a uncail Dennis ag treabhadh, tháinig sé ar sean gunna meargach. Fuair an duine déarnach a bhí i bhfeighil an feirm seo an gunna le linn Cogadh na Saoirse. Bhí beirt fhear a bhí ag obair don I.R.A timpeall agus bhí an gunna acu. Bhí grúpa saighdúirí ar a thóir. Theastaigh uatha fáilt réidh leis an gunna, mar sin chaith siad an gunna sa pháirc taobh thiar den treabhadh. Bhí sé aimsithe arís timpeall 1970. Nuair a fuair uncail mo dhad é, bhí ana cuid

mearg ar agus ní raibh aon adhmaid fágtha ar. ‘Bolt action rifle’ é agus tá seans ann gur ‘Lee Enfield’ a bhí i gceist. Bhí sé cómh h’ard le m’athair ag an am agus bhí sé an-trom freisin. Bhí an gunna i dtigh m’uncail ar feadh tamaill fada ach tá sé imithe anois.

Scéal bailithe ag Shane Langley – Rang 6