

This story is about my great grandfather Timothy

O Donovan

My granddad, Seán O' Donovan, Acres, Leap told me this story about my great granddad.

In 1919 he volunteered to help with the fight for the freedom for Ireland.

The Volunteers used to go out in the late evening, blocking the road before the Black and Tans would travel to intimidate local people. When they were blocking the roads they used to have scouts on the hills looking out for when the British would come and then they would send a signal.

One evening the scout shouted a signal to inform that the British army was coming down the field to enter onto the road .Timothy and his friends ran under a foot bridge. General Percival walked over the foot bridge. This was how close they were to death, if they had been caught.

The curfew was at 8pm and the army would roam the country side to see if this law was being obeyed

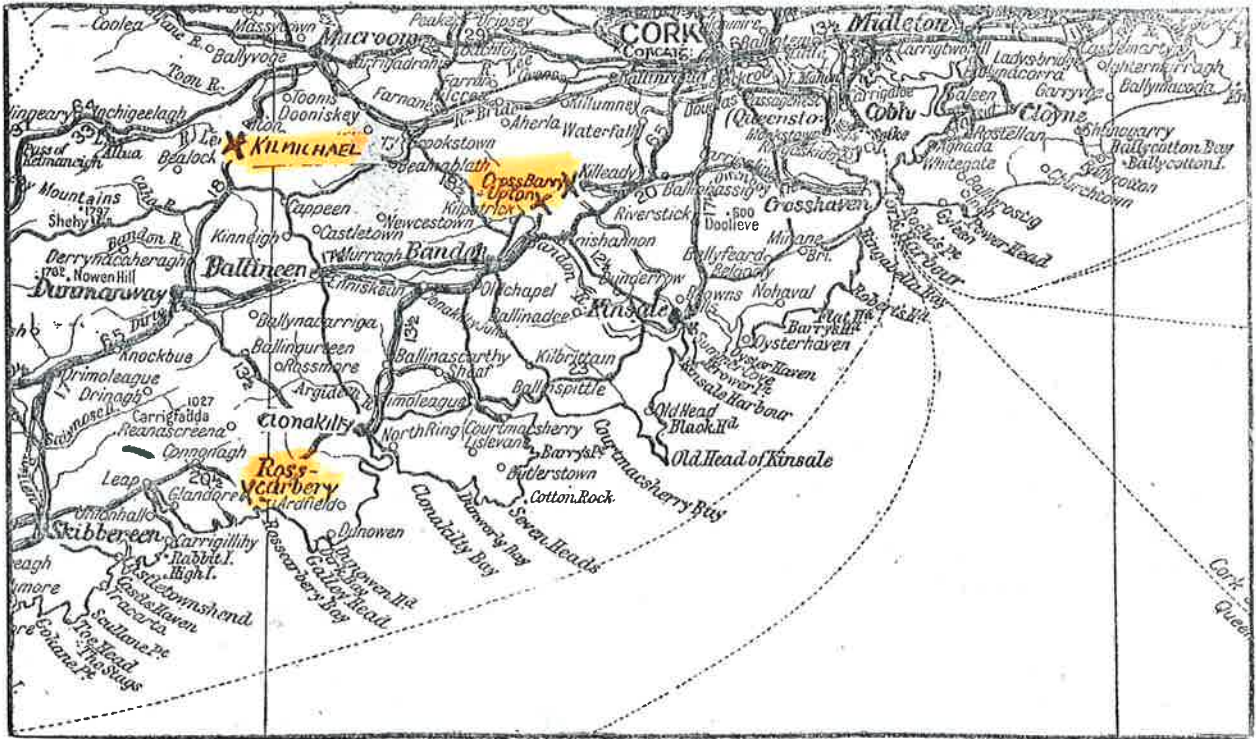




1916-1923



This is the car General Percival had



Map of the Third Cork Brigade Area over which the famous West Cork Column, under Commandant Tom Barry, operated with great success against British Crown forces in the years 1920 and 1921. Places mentioned in the stories of the fights at Crossbarry, Kilmichael and Rosscarbery are clearly indicated.

When my great grandad was 12 years old, he used to go to Michael Collins house and he used to clean the guns and load them up with ammunition for the next ambush.

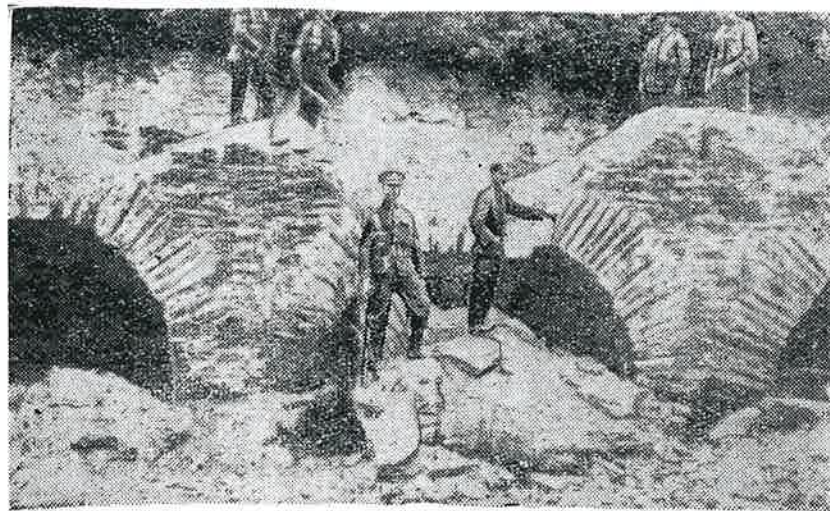
When the soldiers were coming to raid Michael Collins house for the guns Timothy and his father would have already taken them away to their house.

They hid the guns in the bottom of the churn. When the soldiers came to the farmyard they couldn't find the guns as they were hidden in the churn. There was a false bottom in the churn.

One day when Timothy was moving the weapons he was taken by surprise when he saw the soldiers coming.

They interrogated him to try to find out where the guns came from but he wouldn't tell them.

He was sent to Cork City Jail. He made a ring in there to show how much he honored Michael Collins.



Bridges were blown up and roads
trenched to impede the move-
ments of Britain's armed Forces.