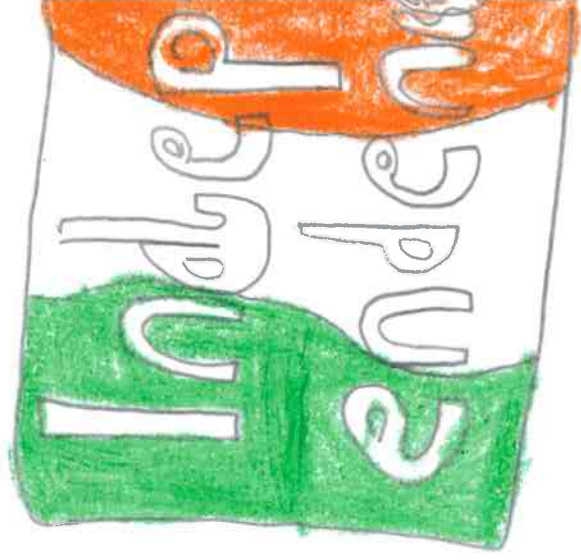


THE

WAR

of

1919-1923



THE WAR OF 1919-1923

Stories Of The Revolution

My Grandfather told me a story about Great-Granduncle in the war of independence. He took part in the west cork volunteers and was part of Tom Barry's "Flying Column's" most famous ambush: The Kilmichael ambush took place on a crisp morning on the 28th november 1920. The British Auxiliaries were travelling across West Cork to get to county Kerry. They didn't know that in Dunmanway, a group of brave volunteers of the newly formed Irish Republican Army, (I.R.A.) had arrived in Kilmichael after a long walk through the night. Few with rifles, many with knives and most with nothing but their bare hands, 36 of them all together. The Auxiliaries, or a Auxies as they were more commonly known, were less fierce than the deadly Black and Tans, but they were more like armed british police sent to control the "wild" Irish and most to their surprise a British Auxie was lying on the floor beside a worn, cooked motorbike. Little did they know that it was Tom Barry lying on the ground next to the motorbike, the bravest freedom fighter in West Cork. He had stolen the Auxie uniform from a previous victim. The Auxies helped Tom into their jeep, but it was to late. The rest of the volunteers ran out and open fired at the Auxies. Bombs were planted under the jeeps and the Auxies were set to flames. The Auxies couldn't handle the Irish every shot that the Irish fired could not be chased down as the Irish would hide back in the trees in total 17 Auxies were killed. But that wasn't it. Tom Barry's army weren't just called the flying column for nothing. My Granduncle and Granddad live in Ballinacarriga, about a mile from Dunmanway. It was their neighbors house, a creamery today, which the flying column marched to. So we should give thanks to the brave volunteers from 1916 to 1923 who fought for Ireland. A monument in Tom Barry's, My Great-Granduncle Jim's and the rest of the flying column's honour is in Kilmichael to this day.



Darragh Ó Mathúna

Gaeilscoil Mhícheil Uí Choileáin

Clonakilty