



STORIES
OF THE
REVOLUTION

Supt. Bartholomew Harte

From 1902-1972

IRA = Irish
Republican Army

Explaining

Percivals: Headman of
British forces stationed
in Bandon.

RIC: Royal
Irish Constabulary

Family Tree



Daniel

Catherine

Bartholomew, Hannah + 10 siblings

Tom + 9 Siblings

Tara + 5 Siblings

Kadi + 8 biological cousins

Before the I.R.A

My great Gran-Uncle, Bartholomeu Harte was born in Rosscarbery parish, in 1902 and was the sixth child of Daniel and Catherine Harte. He was one out of twelve children eleven who lived with nine brothers and two sisters. He stayed in school until the age of fifteen and as his education was coming to an end, he was trained to be a teachers assistant and remained at this job for a number of years.

Joining the I.R.A

Bartholomew joined the local I.R.A around 1919 at the age of seventeen. After some training and instruction, he became an official dispatch rider in the 3rd West Cork Brigade under Comdt General Tom Barry. He witnessed trouble at Rosscarbery barracks and other ambushes throughout West Cork.

Captured by Percivals

Batt (Bartholomew) was captured by Percival's column in the Dinagh area in 1920. He was first moved to Dunmanway where they camped for a day. He was then taken to Charlesfort in Kinsale, where he remained for about three weeks. Batt suffered a bad assault while in Charlesfort. His nose was broken for refusing to answer questions and not allowing them to take his photograph.

Taken to Prison

4 From Charlesfort, Batt and his comrades were moved to the prison on Spike Island in Cork Harbour.

While held there, some new prisoners succeeded to sneak some matches into the prison. And do you know what happened then? Yes, these matches were used to burn down the prison during the fourteen day hunger strike and riot in October 1921. They were the only people who had EVER escaped this prison.

Cheese, Cheese, Cheese!

This prison was run by a brutal regime which was violently resisted by the prisoners. The main diet consisted of cheese and a bucket of water. Consequently, his family in later years, never saw cheddar cheese served in Kullarney as Batt couldn't stand either the sight or the smell of cheese after his time on Spike Island. Batt fashioned both a ring and a medal from silver coins while on Spike Island. The ring is lost, but medal is in possession of his grandson Patrick Hunt.

Moving Prison

When the prison on Spike Island was burned down the prisoners were moved to Maryborough Prison (now Portlaoise or the Midlands Prison). Here Batt was kept busy helping dig a tunnel under the outer prison wall. The plan was to escape on a moonless night but, before the plan could take effect, the truce was signed and the prisoners were released on December 8th 1921.

Gardaí Síochána

After being released from prison, Ball returned to his home in Cahermore and worked round the farm until he joined the new Garda Síochána that was then being formed at the Depot in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, 18th April 1923. He was promoted sergeant on January 1st 1924 and later that month, January 31st he was sent to open the new barracks, at Dromineer, with four other guards, all ex-RIC men.

1 He remained in Droimideer for 2 years,
transferring to Thurles on January 11th
1926. After a short stay at the Garda
Headquarter in Phoenix Park, Dublin and Melvita
Street, Cork, Ball was promoted Inspector on
December 22nd 1930

Family Promotions, and Honours

While working in Thurles he met Julia O'Callaghan, daughter of a local business man. Batt and Julia were married at the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, on September 9th 1931. They lived in Waterford for a few years, where their first son, Donal, was born in September 1932. Batt was promoted to the rank of Superintendent on July 14th 1934 and transferred to Killarney where he served for the next 33 years until retirement on December 19th 1967. His total service in the ...

guards was 44 years and 246 days. Batt did not seek, nor was he offered, an IRA pension. What he did receive was the official IRA services rendered and this entitled him to an additional two years service as superintendent in Killarney.

