

Story of Kilbrittain

During the revolution of 1916-1923

Some men from Kilbrittain District decided to start an Irish Volunteer Company in 1915.

They got about 20 men together so that company always maintained close contact with Ballinadee Company.

Sunday parades which were a normal feature of in early 1916.

Men often travelled on foot three to six miles to the place of the parade.

Kilbrittain Volunteers formed No.3 Section of the Ballinadee Company until they set up their own B1 Company, 1st Battalion, Cork 111 Brigade in 1917.

The men purchased their own equipment, they had no rifles, they had six shotguns and a few pikes.

The pike heads were made in Bandon, until blacksmith Con Lehane came into their area from Timoleague in May 1920.

Uniform consisted of peaked cap, puttees, belt and haversack.

The following is a list of Kilbrittain company Denis Manning, Denis Lordan, Jackie O'Neill and others.

The Kilbrittain volunteers also took part in the St Patrick's Day parade in Cork in 1916.

On Sunday 16th April 1916, the men were to parade on Easter Sunday.

They were to have all arms and full equipment.

Captain Denis Lordan got orders from Tom Hales to meet the Ballinadee Company at Ballyvodane Graveyard, near Parnell street, Bandon on Easter Sunday morning.

The twelve volunteers from Kilbrittain marched to Ballyvodane and met the Ballinadee company there.

They had four or five shotguns and one revolver.

Men who had no shotgun carried a pike.

They met the Ballinadee company and were told that they were going to Macroom.

They met Clogagh, Kilpatick and Ballinhassig Companies at Beal na Blath.

They went to Kilmurray where they had mass.

After about an hour the Cork Volunteers came too.

Tomas MacCurtain and Terence MacSwiney arrived in a motor car, they told Tom Hales that Eoin McNeill had ordered to call off operations.

It was decided that the whole force assembled at Kilmurray, would march to Macroom and return home.

They returned to Crookstown station by train.

They stayed in Crookstown until Monday morning because it was raining.

They then marched to Bandon and the Kilbrittain volunteers went home.

The Ending of World War I in 1918 meant that the threat of conscription for the British Army had ceased to exist.

By Lisa-Marie O'Connor