

Sydia carly colum

Finding a Rifle

As a young boy my Grandy used to visit his relations naer Foynes in Co.Limerick.

On one of his visit's, he went exploring and in a cow house between some slates he discovered a replica wooden rifle!

He used to carry it around with him. One day he decided to go up to his Uncle Tom's who told him to burn it or get rid of it!
My Grandy said his Uncle lost his head when he saw him with the replica.

Tom told Grandy about a local man called John Joe, who Grandy knew, who was part of a group of 70 or so men, from the area who used to march and train with replicas just like the one that Grandy had found.

John Joe told of a raid that had happened in the area some time around then, where the rifles were found and seized by either the Black and Tans, or the Royal Irish Constabulary.

But it is a mystery where the replica rifle is now.

The Cable Station in Valentia

My Grandy also told me a story about when the Easter Rising was about to happen, there were about 50 soldiers guarding the cable station to control any information being sent by the supporters of the rising. There was one fellow called Eoin Lyne who got a message out to America, and the code he used to say the rising was called off was that "his Grandmother had died."

The message got sent.

Nowadays the Cable Station is a Cellotape Factory.

At this time, there also was reported three men who were sent down from Cork to attempt to get news of the Rising and its progression out over the wire. Story holds that the three took a wrong turn at Cromanne and drove over a pier near Killorglin and were drowned.