

# Cornelius O Mahony

Cornelius O Mahony was a member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) from 1916 to 1923. Cornelius was 18 to 25 years old. Cornelius was a member of the first battalion first brigade which was Cork City's division of the IRA. Terence MacSwiney was Lord Mayor of Cork when he was arrested on charges of sedition 1920. Sedition means encouraging people to rebel against the state. Terence MacSwiney was sentenced to prison in Brixton, London. Terence MacSwiney went on hunger strike. Cornelius O Mahony went to visit Terence in Brixton prison. When Cornelius was in Brixton Terence MacSwiney died of hunger strike after 74 days of fasting. Cornelius O Mahony reportedly helped to bring Terence MacSwiney's body back to Cork for burial. Terence MacSwiney was a hero because his hunger strike and death drew a lot of attention to the Irish dream of independence. American, South American, Australian, French and German political leaders intervened to Britain to help Ireland and to stop the War of Independence. Cornelius O Mahony was a member of the A Company first Battalion Cork no. 1 Brigade who took over the then named Victoria Barracks in 1922. The Barracks was very badly damaged during the Irish Civil War. The first battalion set about rebuilding the Barracks which is now known as Collins Barracks in Cork. (See the picture)

Cornelius O Mahony was one of many IRA members excommunicated from the Catholic →

Cornelius O Mahony  
church for being an active Republican.

Cornelius O Mahony refused to collect a pension for his services as he didn't believe that he should be paid for what he did for his country.

Every Easter Sunday Cornelius O Mahony visited the monuments of some of those who died in the War of Independence Spriggs (Blarney Street), Delaney brothers (Dublin Hill) a memorial at ucc and the graves of Tomás Mac Curtain and Terence Mac Swiney in St. Finbarrs Cemetery. He then attended an Easter parade after that.

My Great Grandfather (Cornelius O Mahony) died in 1976.

At his burial in 1976 army representatives played "The Last Post" and fired some bullets as a salute at his graveside.

By Róisín Curtin

6<sup>th</sup> class

Scoil Eoin, Innishannon

Cornelius Mahony  
25 Roches Building  
Cork.



WAR of INDEPENDENCE 1916 — 1923  
**CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE**



**THIS** is to **Certify**  
*Cornelius O'Mahony*  
was a member of *A* Coy.  
*1<sup>ST</sup>* Batt., *Cork No. 1 Brigade*  
*Irish Republican Army*



SIGNED

*Tomás Crofts*  
*Robertson*  
*Michael Murphy* Brigade Officers.

PERIOD ..... to .....

U.M. 64



A COMPANY, 1st BATTALION, CORK No 1 BRIGADE

