

STUDYING REVOLUTION

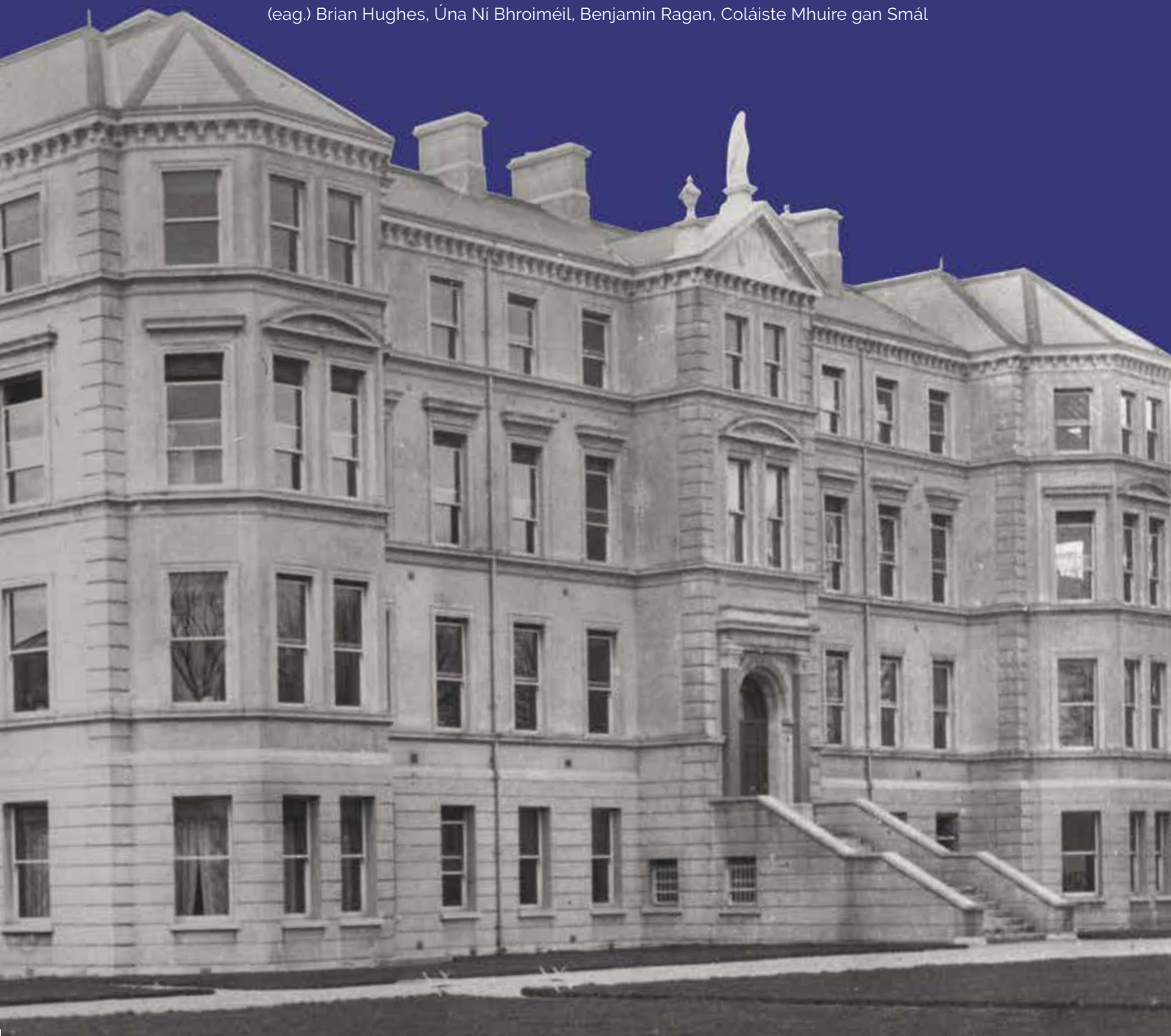
Accounts of Mary Immaculate College, 1918–1923

Brian Hughes, Úna Ní Bhroiméil, Benjamin Ragan, Mary Immaculate College (eds.)

AG STAIDÉAR RÉABHLÓIDE

Tuairiscí ó Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál, 1918–1923

(eag.) Brian Hughes, Úna Ní Bhroiméil, Benjamin Ragan, Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál



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Fig.1

Foreword

In 1921 the War of Independence entered its most violent phase and this has been reflected in Limerick City and County Council's Decade of Centenaries programme this year. But against the backdrop of ambushes such as Dromkeen and atrocities like the Curfew Murders, everyday life in Limerick city and county proceeded with a surprising degree of normality. We believe that this aspect of Limerick's revolutionary experience too deserves commemorative attention and this volume is the result. Produced in collaboration with Mary Immaculate College (MIC), *Studying Revolution* comprises edited transcripts of a selection of documents, most sourced from MIC's archive and previously unpublished, accompanied by insightful, introductory essays by staff. These documents (which include contemporary teaching reports, diary entries, and a retrospective account by a former student) provide a fascinating window on MIC during the Irish revolutionary years. Taken together, they demonstrate that the training of primary teachers, which had commenced in 1901, continued throughout the War of Independence and subsequent Civil War, the routines of college life essentially uninterrupted by the surrounding local and national turmoil. The extent to which MIC was representative of other Limerick institutions in this regard is at present unknown, opening an interesting avenue for further research.

We are proud to present *Studying Revolution* as part of Limerick City and County Council's Decade of Centenaries programme for 2021. It forms a significant and important contribution to this programme and will, we hope, inaugurate a tradition of collaboration between Limerick City and County Library Service and MIC in this regard.

Damien Brady and Tony Storan

Coordinators - Decade of Centenaries, Limerick City and County Council

Réamhrá

Sa bhliain 1921 dhruid Cogadh na Saoirse isteach i ré a bhí suaite le foréigean agus tá sé sin le feiscint go soiléir i gclár Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh do chomóradh Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneacháin mbliana. Ach in ainneoin chúlra na luíochán agus na n-ainghníomhartha ar nós Dhrom Chaoim agus na nDúnmhairithe Chuirfú, lean an gnáthshaol coitianta ar aghaidh i gcathair agus i gcontae Luimnigh mar bahiondúil. Dar linn, is fiú aird a tharraingt ar an ngné seo de thaithí shaoil na réabhlóide i Luimneach, agus is chuige sin an t-imleabhar seo. Foilsithe i gcomhar le Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál (CMgS), séard atá sa leabhar *Ag Staidéar Réabhlóide* ná scríbhinní agus cáipéisí staire a aimsíodh i gcartlann CMgS nár foilsíodh go dtí seo, agus iad curtha in eagar maraon le gearraistí léirsteanacha ag léachtóirí an choláiste. Tugann na cáipéisí úd, (ina measc tá tuairiscí chomhaimseartha ar chleachtadh múinteoireachta, sliochtanna dialainne, agus cuntas iardhearcach ar an am ó iar mhacléinn), léargas thar na bearta dúinn ar CMgS i rith blianta na réabhlóide. Nuair a léitear le chéile iad, tugtar le fios dúinn gur lean oiliúnt na múinteoirí bunscoile a thosaigh sa bhliain 1901 ar aghaidh gan stad le linn Chogadh na Saoirse agus freisin le linn Chogadh na gCarad, agus nár chuir an cíorthuathail áitúil ná an t-aighneas náisiúnta isteach ró-mhór ar ghnáthaimh an choláiste. Ní fios fós an raibh an scéal mar an gcéanna in instidiúidí eile i Luimneach, rud a chuireann conair taighde úr nua amach anseo romhainn.

Táimfid bródúil as an leabhar seo, *Ag Staidéar Réabhlóide*, a chur ós bhúr gcomhair mar chuid de chlár Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán 2021. Is mír thabhachtach agus suntasach sa chlár chuimhneacháin í, agus tá súil againn go spreagfaidh sé níos an chomhshaothair idir Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh agus CMgS dá bharr.

Damien Brady and Tony Storan

Comhordaitheoirí – Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán, Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh



Fig.2

Foreword

The Decade of Centenaries has encouraged the publication of a rich array of new histories of the Irish revolutionary period. The influence of social history and women's history, in particular, on our understanding of the Irish Revolution is evident in the wave of new work. As a result, some of the most exciting recent work has investigated those who figured little, if at all, in earlier accounts. This book exemplifies the trend.

The editors have assembled a wonderful collection of documents, some never published before, which illustrate the manner in which people, especially the women who worked and studied at Mary Immaculate College, experienced the events of the War of Independence and the Civil War. Catherine Daly's vivid account, albeit written decades after the events that she described, reminds us of the importance of the ordinary in the middle of conflict: she comments on classes, recreation, food, heating and other aspects of daily life. German historians have a word for the kind of history that this source permits – *Alltagsgeschichte* – literally, history of the everyday. As the editors point out, her account is remarkable too for what is not recorded. Catherine Daly's memoir is a case study in remembering, but also in forgetting.

One of the other great advances of the Decade of Centenaries has been the avalanche of newly available primary sources. While the records assembled by the Bureau of Military History and the military service pension files have rightly grabbed much attention, perhaps they have also reinforced the focus on those who participated directly in the events of the period. For this reason, the publication of sources like those in *Studying Revolution* have an important role to play in reminding us of the life that continued, although not smoothly, as violence ebbed and flowed. Indeed, this book illustrates the potential of the archive held by Mary Immaculate College and papers in private hands. The sharp commentary of teaching practice reports, the diary of a member of staff during a period of intense conflict, the private correspondence of a college 'neighbour' – all of these sources allow us to imagine the college in ordinary and extraordinary circumstances.

It is, therefore, my great pleasure to welcome this wonderful publication and to offer congratulations to my colleagues at Mary Immaculate College who have put it together. The publication results from an opportune collaboration between the college and our friends in Limerick City and County Library Service. I hope that this is one of many joint endeavours.

Dr Liam Chambers

Department of History, Mary Immaculate College

Réamhrá

Spreag comóradh Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán raidhse shaibhir d'fhoilseacháin agus de thuiscintí staire nua ar ré na réabhlóide in Éirinn. Tá tionchar nach mór ag an stair shóisialta agus ag stair na mban ach go háirithe ar an gcur amach atá anois againn ar aimsir na réabhlóide ón saothar nua seo. Faighimid léargas dá bharr, ó chuid de na tuairiscí is spéisiúla agus is spreagúla, orthu siud nach raibh le sonrú, nó a bhí le sonrú go fíor annamh, sna cuntaisí go nuige seo. Is eiseamláir an leabhar seo ar an gclaonadh úd.

Tá bailiúchán iontach de cháipéisí staire, cuid acu nár foilsíodh riamh roimhe seo, curtha in eagar ag na heagarthóirí agus cuireann siad in iúl dúinn conas mar a mhair daoine, agus na mná a bhí ag staidéar agus ag obair i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál ach go háirithe, le linn imeachtaí Chogadh na Saoirse agus Chogadh na gCarad. Cé gur scríobhadh cuntas beoga Cháit Ní Dhálaigh blianta i ndiaidh na n-imeachtaí a cuireann sí síos orthu, tugtar chun cuimhne cé chomh tabhachtach is atá an choitiantacht i lár na coimhlinte: nochtann sí a tuairimí ar ranganna, ar chaithimh aimsire, ar bhia, ar theas, agus ar ghnéithe eile dá saoil. Tá focal ag staraithe Gearmánacha ar an saghas seo staire – *Alltagsgeschichte* – sé sin stair an tsaoil laethúil. Agus mar a léiríonn na heagarthóirí, is inspéise a cuntais chomh maith toisc na rudaí uilig nach luann sí. Is dea shampla iad cuimhní cinn Cháit Ní Dhálaigh ar an gcaoi ar féidir eachtraí a thabhairt chun cuimhne ach freisin ar an gcaoi ar féidir eachtraí faoi leith a ligint i ndearmad.

Ceann de na buntáistí móra a d'eascair as comóradh Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán ná an mhaidhm mhór de bhun-fhoinsí ar cuireadh ar fáil don phobal agus do lucht taighde don chéad uair. Tá an-spéis curtha sa bhfianaise a chuir Biúró na Staire Míleata ar fáil agus freisin sna comhaid ó bhailiúchán pinsean na seirbhíse míleata, ach seans gur tharraing said aird agus clú orthu siúd amháin a raibh ceangail díreach acu le heachtraí na haimsire. Mar sin, nuair a foilsítear foinsí ar nós iad siúd atá sa leabhar *Ag Staidéar Réabhlóide*, tuigtear dúinn gur lean an gnáthshaol ar aghaidh 'fhaid is a bhí an foréigean ag tuille is ag trá, cé go raibh an saol tré chéile níos corraithí. Is cinnte freisin go léiríonn an leabhar seo an t-achmhainn iontach atá leagtha i gcartlanna ar nós Chartlann CMgS agus i gcáipéisí coiméadtha faoi úinéireacht phríomháideach. Tugann na foinsí uilig deis dúinn saol an choláiste a shamhlú i rith ré a bhí suaithinseach, sonraíoch ach a lean ag plé le gnáthchúrsaí agus cúraimí an tsaoil – an ghluais ghéar sna cuntaisí ón gcleachtadh múinteoireachta, cinn lae an bhaill fóirne i dtréimhse dhian-choimhlinte, comhfhreagras príomháideach chomharsan an choláiste.

Is cúis mhór áthais dom mar sin fáiltiú roimh an bhfoilseachán iontach seo agus tréasláim le mo chomhleacaithe i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál atá taréis é a chur i gcrích. Comhfhiontar caothúil idir an coláiste agus ár gcáirde dílse i Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh atá sa leabhar seo agus tá súil agam nach bhfuil anseo ach tús.

An Dr Liam Chambers

Roinn na Staire, Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál.

Editors' Introduction

This short book brings together a collection of documents relating to the history of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick: a memoir, a diary, and teaching practice reports written by teaching staff and students, and a letter written by J.P. Goodbody, a neighbour of the college. These reports and accounts – some contemporary and some retrospective – span the aftermath of the 1916 Easter Rising, the final phase of the First World War (1914–1918), the Irish War of Independence (1919–1921), and the Irish Civil War (1922–1923); all part of a period now commonly known collectively as the Irish Revolution.

As well as a period of political and military conflict, this was the college's second decade providing training for teachers for Catholic national schools. The accounts and reports gathered here thus provide insights into the War of Independence and Civil War as it was experienced in one part of Limerick city, while also showing us how academic life – including lectures and teaching practice – carried on alongside or in spite of war and conflict. Combined, they give the reader some sense of what it was like to work and study in MIC during the Irish Revolution. The book is also illustrated with original photographs, sourced from the college's own collections, from the Limerick Diocesan Archives, and from the family of Catherine O'Sullivan (née Daly), the author of the memoir reproduced in the book.

The college was a female space, and this is reflected in the documents. Both the students and lecturers, religious and lay (aside from some part-time teachers such as George Clancy), were women. Their contemporary and retrospective accounts give voice to their lived experiences and encounters, and invite us to reflect on their positioning at the time: both participants in an era of political change and upheaval and yet outside politics and set apart from the world outside the college walls, in spite of its impact on their personal and professional lives. Irish women (over the age of 30, subject to a property qualification) were given the vote for the first time in 1918, but there is no mention of female suffrage here.

Each document has been edited and introduced by a member of the college staff with relevant expertise. Transcriptions appear as in the original, including errors of spelling or inconsistencies of punctuation, though in some cases silent corrections have been made for the sake of clarity. In the case of teaching practice reports where passages were handwritten in either Irish or English, the Irish has been transcribed using modern script with an English translation provided underneath. A bibliography of sources used to compile introductions to the documents has been included at the back of the book.

The editors would like to thank all of the contributors, Dr Gary O'Brien and Elaine Mulqueen at MIC for their assistance in accessing college archives, Ted O'Sullivan, grandson of Catherine O'Sullivan, and Sr Angela Bugler, past president of Mary Immaculate College (1988–99). Special thanks to Damien Brady, Tony Storan, and Dr Seán Gannon of Limerick City and County Library Service for their support for the project. The publication has been generously funded by Limerick City and County Council, under their Decade of Centenaries programme.

Réamhrá na nEagarthóirí

Tugann an leabhar gairid seo bailiúchán de cháipéisí le chéile a bhaineann le stair Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach: cuimhní cinn, dialann, agus tuairiscí ar chleachtadh múinteoireachta a scríobh foireann teagaisc agus mic léinn an choláiste, maraon le litir a scríobh JP Goodbody, comharsa béal dorais an choláiste. Cuimsíonn na tuairiscí agus na cuntais seo - cuid acu comhaimseartha agus cuid eile iardhearcach - gach raon de thréimhse ar a dtugtar Réabhlóid na hÉireann anois air go coitianta - an ré i ndiaidh Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916, an chéim dheiridh den Chéad Chogadh Domhanda (1914-1918), Cogadh Saoirse na hÉireann (1919-1921), agus Cogadh Cathartha na hÉireann – Cogadh na gCarad (1922-1923).

Ba é seo an dara deich mbliana don Choláiste a bheith i mbun múinteoirí do na scoileanna náisiúnta Caitliceacha a oiliúint, agus tréimhse a bhí trína chéile ag coimhlintí polaitiúla agus míleata a bhí ann. Mar sin tugann na cuntais agus na tuarascálacha a bailíodh anseo léargas dúinn ar Chogadh na Saoirse agus ar Chogadh na gCarad mar a tharla siad i láthair faoi leith i gcathair Luimnigh. Léiríonn siad dúinn freisin an chaoi ar lean an saol acadúil ar aghaidh - léachtaí agus cleachtadh múinteoireachta san áireamh - taobh le cogadh nó in ainneoin an chogaidh agus na coimhlinte. Tugann siad tuiscint faoi leith don léitheoir agus iad bailithe le chéile anseo conas mar a bhí sé bheith ag obair agus ag staidéar i gCMGS le linn Réabhlóid na hÉireann. Tá an leabhar deartha le grianghrafanna ó chartlanna an Choláiste agus ó Oifig Dheoise Luimnigh maraon le grianghrafanna ó bhailiúchán mhuintir Cháit Uí Shúilleabháin (née Ó Dálaigh), údar na gcúimhní cinn a foilsítear sa leabhar.

Tá sé le sonrú sna cáipéisí seo gur suíomh baineann a bhí sa choláiste. Mná fré chéile a bhí inti (seachas roinnt múinteoirí páirtaimseartha ar nós Seoirse MacFhlannachadha), idir mic léinn agus léachtóirí, tuataigh is cléir. Cuireann a gcuntais chomhaimseartha agus iardhearcach in iúl dúinn conas mar a d'airigh siad agus mar a ghabh said tríd an saol, agus tugann siad deis dúinn machnamh a dhéanamh ar ionad na mban úd ag an am: iad rannpháirteach i ré a bhí lán le hathraithe agus le coraíl pholaitiúla ach fós iad scoite amach ón bpolaíocht agus ón saol mór lasmuigh de bhallaí an choláiste cé go raibh an-tionchar ag a raibh ag tarlú ann ar a saolta pearsanta agus gairmiúla. Ní luaitear cearta vótála na mban in aon cháipéis anseo cé gur bronnadh an ceart sin ar mhná (iad siúd a bhí ós cionn 30 bliain d'aois, agus cáilíochtaí maoinne acu) don chéad uair in Éirinn sa bhliain 1918.

Tá gach cáipéis curtha in eagar agus curtha i láthair ag ball d'fhoireann an choláiste a bhfuil saineolas ábhartha aige/aici. Tá na trasríbhinní le feiceáil díreach mar a bhí sa bhunleagan, maraon le haon earráidí litrithe nó poncaíochta, cé gur deineadh roinnt ceartúcháin bheaga i gcásanna áirithe ar mhaithe le soiléire tuisceana. I gcás na dtuairiscí chleachtadh múinteoireachta inar scríobhadh sleachta i nGaeilge rinneadh an Ghaeilge a thras-scríobh ag baint úsáide as scríbhinn nua-aimseartha maidir le haistriúchán Béarla thíos faoi. Tá liosta de na foinsí a húsáideadh chun na réamhráite a chur le chéile le h-aimsíú ar chúl an leabhair.

Ba mhaith leis na heagarthóirí buíochas a ghabháil leis na scríbhneoirí uilig; leis an Dr Gary O'Brian agus le Elaine Ní Mhaoilchaoin i gCMGS as a gcabhair chun foinsí a aimsíú i gcartlann an choláiste, le garmhac Cháit Uí Shúilleabháin, Tadhg Ó Súilleabháin, leis an tSr Angela Ní Bhuigléir, iar-uachtarán Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál (1988-1999). Gabhaimid buíochas faoi leith le Damien Brady, Tony Storan, agus leis an Dr Seán Gannon ó Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh as a dtacaíocht mórchroíoch don tionscadal. Maoiníodh an foilseachán go fial ag Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh, faoina gclár Deich mbliana na gCuimhneachán.



Catherine Daly's memoir of Mary
Immaculate College, 1919–1921

Cuimhní Cinn Cháit Ní Dhálaigh ar
Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál, 1919-1921

Catherine Daly's memoir of Mary Immaculate College, 1919-1921

Brian Hughes and Úna Ní Bhroiméil

Catherine Daly spent the Irish War of Independence as a student in Mary Immaculate College. Her typescript memoir of these years is a rare account of the experiences of an ordinary student during the Irish Revolution and demonstrates how ordinary life – including academic life – continued in spite of the conflict. Trains were disrupted by the movement of troops, and study was halted by the sudden death of a college Irish teacher and mayor, George Clancy. But otherwise, as we see, studies carried on as normal. Indeed, less famous moments were deemed worthy of recording for posterity, such as a trip to the cinema or the newly opened Woolworths.

The ambush at Kilmichael in Co. Cork that made Tom Barry and his West Cork Flying Column famous, or the shooting of a young man and a priest by Auxiliaries, were stories learned second hand – if still shocking or exciting for that. It appears that there was relatively little discussion of politics or the War of Independence within the college walls. Care was needed when revealing political sympathies, and teachers and students clearly understood with whom it was safe to discuss such matters. This suggests that there was not necessarily a consensus in the college, with political debate discouraged.

And so it appears to the reader that Catherine Daly was – like most – an observer of revolution rather than a participant, with the raids, ambushes, and assassinations a backdrop as she undertook her teacher training. But she was, in fact, a member of Cumann na mBan in Bantry – attending meetings (some of which were held in her house), delivering despatches, storing and transporting arms and grenades, and feeding and housing IRA men on the run when home from Limerick. It is not clear if ‘Miss Murphy’ (one of the three republican Murphy sisters to have taught in the college) knew about all of this, but she clearly knew enough to know that Catherine would be interested in news about IRA ambushes and executions. This and her relationship with Volunteer Ted O’Sullivan are perhaps very subtle hints at her activism, which otherwise goes completely unmentioned.

When Catherine Daly was called to training in 1919, she was a young student of 18 attending a young institution which had only begun training teachers for the Catholic national schools in 1901. Although she does not discuss her own background in this memoir, she had the benefit of a secondary education, some science classes, as well as extra-curricular classes in the Irish language in Bantry – and had clearly been a ‘promising pupil’ as she had been chosen as a monitress for her final years in secondary school. Her future career was laid out for her long before she arrived in Limerick as a King’s Scholar for the two-year training programme.

Although MIC was a city college and its location on the South Circular Road was close to the main commercial centre of town, it was also a closed world in itself. While Catherine was sent on ‘messages’ to town, and the students attended the cinema on special occasions, most of their time was spent within the confines of the institution. Isolation was reinforced by the fact that visitors to the college were rare, and even though Catherine’s sister and her friends, as well as a clerical student from Bantry, did call and ask for her, she was not informed or allowed to meet them. Discipline was strict. When students were allowed outside, they walked together in a line supervised by a senior student on a preordained route. They were not allowed to speak at breakfast or when going to bed at the early hour of 9pm. As Catherine remembers, when she answered out of turn in the science class she was often made to stand as a reprimand. And yet, there were myriad ways that students managed to circumvent the restrictions. Signing up for a film on St. Patrick allowed them to instead see the 1919 romantic film ‘The Belle of New York’, and Catherine herself managed to slip a less than perfect poached egg past the examiner during a domestic science exam. Her curiosity and connections outside of MIC made her occasionally chafe at regulations within the walls, and may have led to her being classed as ‘a mediocre student’ in her Teaching Practice reports. In her second-year marks, however, she received a first class honours result as recorded in the Mary Immaculate College Register for 1919–1921.

Cuimhní Cinn Cháit Ní Dhálaigh ar Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál, 1919-1921

Brian Hughes agus Úna Ní Bhroiméil

Chaith Cáit Ní Dhálaigh Cogadh na Saoirse mar mhac léinn i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál. Is cuntas neamhchoitianta a cuimhní cinn ar shaol an ghnáth mhac léinn i rith na réabhlóide in Éirinn agus léiríonn sé conas mar a lean an saol i gcoitinne ar aghaidh - maraon leis an saol acadúil - in ainneoin na coimhlinte. Chuir gluaiseacht shaighdiúirí isteach ar thraenacha, agus cuireadh cosc leis an staidéar nuair a maraíodh Seoirse MacFhlannachadha, múinteoir le Gaeilge sa choláiste agus méara na cathrach, gan coinne. Ach seachas na n-eachtraí seo, feicimid gur leanadh leis na staidéar mar ba ghnách. Go deimhin, breacadh síos cuimhneacháin do na glúnta a thiofadh inár ndiaidh nach gceapfá a bhí chomh tabhachtach sin, ar nós turais go dtí an phictiúrlann nó oscailt siopa Woolworths sa chathair.

Ní raibh sna cuntais a fuair na mic léinn ar luíochán Chill Mhichíl i gContae Chorcaí a tharraing cáil ar Thomás de Barra agus a Cholún Reatha Iarthar Chorcaí, nó ar lámhachán a d’imir an tArm Cúnta ar fhear óg agus ar shagart, ach scéal scéil - cé gur scéalta corraitheacha agus millteannacha a bhí iontu. Is cosúil nach raibh mórán plé ar pholaitíocht ná ar Chogadh na Saoirse taobh istigh de bhallaí an choláiste. Bhí gá le cúram agus claonadh polaitiúil á nochtadh, agus thuig múinteoirí agus mic léinn go soiléir cé leis a raibh sé sábháilte ábhair den tsórt sin a phlé. Tugann sé seo le tuiscint dúinn gur dóigh nach raibh comhdhearcadh polaitiúil sa choláiste, agus cuireadh in aghaidh cursaí polaitiúla a phlé.

Mar sin, samhlaítear do léitheoir na gcuimhní cinn gurbh breathnóir seachas gníomhaí a bhí i gCáit Ní Dhálaigh - ar nós mórán daoine eile ag an am - agus ruathair, luíocháin agus feallmharaithe mar chúlra chomhthéacsach amháin dá hoiliúint. Ach ba bhall ghníomhach de Chumann na mBan i mBeantraí a bhí inti – ag freastal ar chruinnithe (cuid acu a reachtáilleadh ina teach féin), ag fáil oiliúint sa gharchabhair, ag tiomsú airgid, ag seoladh teachtaireachtaí, ag stóráil agus ag iompair airm agus lón cogaidh, agus ag beathú agus ag cur tithe slán ar fáil d’fhir ón IRA a bhí ar a gcoimeád nuair a bhí sí sa bhaile i gCorcaigh. Níl sé soiléir an raibh cur amach ag ‘Iníon Uí Mhurchú’ (duine de thriúr deirfiúracha poblachtánacha a bhí mar léachtóir sa choláiste) ar gach aon rud a bhí ar bun ag Cáit ach is léir gur thuig sí go mbeadh suim aici i dtuairiscí faoi luíocháin IRA agus futhu siúd a cuireadh chun báis. Idir seo agus a gaol leis an Óglach Tadhg Ó Súilleabháin, tuigtear dúinn cé chomh sáite sa choimhlint is a bhí sí, cé nach ndeireann sí amach díreach é.

Nuair a glaodh Cáit Ní Dhálaigh chun traenála sa bhliain 1919, mac léinn óg 18 bliana d’aois a bhí inti agus í ag freastal ar institiúid óg nár thosaigh ach ag traenáil múinteoirí do na scoileanna náisiúnta Caitliceacha sa bhliain 1901. Cé nach bpléann sí a cúlra féin sna cuimhní cinn seo, bhí leas bainte aici as oideachas meánscoile, chomh maith le roinnt ranganna eolaíochta agus ranganna sheach-churaclaim sa Ghaeilge a d’fhreastail sí orthu i mBeantraí - agus is léir gur ‘dalta tréithiúil’ a bhí inti toisc gur roghnaíodh í mar mhonatóir i rith a blianta déanacha sa mheánscoil. Bhí an ghairm a bhí i ndán di socraithe i bhfad sular shroich sí Luimneach don chlár oiliúna dhá bhliain mar dhuine de Scoláirí an Rí.

Cé gur coláiste cathrach a bhí i gCMgS agus í suite ar an gCiorclán Theas gar do phríomhionad tráchtála na cathrach, domhan druídte ann féin a bhí sa choláiste freisin. Chaith na mic léinn an chuid ba mhó dá gcuid ama laistigh de theorainneacha na hinstiúide cé gur seoladh Cáit ar ‘thimireachtaí’ chun an bhaile, agus gur fhreastail na mic léinn ar an bpictiúrlann ar ócáidí speisialta. Ach bhí cuairteoirí ar an gcoláiste gann, agus fiú nuair a tháinig deirfiúr Cháit agus a cáirde, chomh maith le mac léinn cléireachais as Beantraí ar cuairt chuici, níor lorgaíodh í agus níor ceadaíodh di bualadh leo. Threisigh rudaí mar seo scoiteacht an choláiste.

Cuireadh smacht i bhfeidhm go daingean sa choláiste. Nuair a ceadaíodh do na mic léinn siúl amach, shiúil siad le chéile ar shlí réamhordaithe faoi stiúir mhac léinn sinsearaí. Ní raibh cead acu labhairt lena chéile ag am

The training of teachers followed the Revised Curriculum of Instruction implemented during the period 1900-1922. Although rigorous, it was broader and more child-centred and included physical education, elementary science, and a focus on infant education. The Gaelicisation of Irish political and social life that had begun with the foundation of the Gaelic League in 1893, and which would become policy with the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922, was seen in the teaching of Irish in the college and in the schools. The manual and practical aspects of the new curriculum are manifested in her account of the excitement and cachet of receiving the romantic gift of a box of violets from Ted O’Sullivan and how it was negated by the hands-on dissection of the rare flowers in the nature-study class. This focus on practicality and the celebration of what was often referred to as the ‘cailín stuama’ or ‘steady girl’ is referenced in hindsight, as Catherine points out that well-trained Mary Immaculate teachers had no trouble gaining teaching appointments.

Preparing young women for the new world that they were about to face in a time of political upheaval potentially strengthened the Sisters of Mercy’s case for insularity behind the college walls. The threats the students faced on their journeys outside were replaced by the vagaries of bad heating and chilblains within. The middle-class status and respectability for which they were being trained and formed, and through which they would become role models for the children in their care, meant that more ‘primitive’ ways of cooking – and even their accents – were refined.

By the time of graduation in 1921, there was the beginnings of a new political and national order, a loosening of old bonds and the creation of new ones. Some of the relationships formed in the college lasted a lifetime, and established a sense of belonging and kinship between the teaching sisters and the students that endured. Having finished her training at Mary Immaculate College in 1921, Catherine Daly taught in the national school in Ardgroom in Co. Cork. She married the sender of violets, Timothy ‘Ted’ O’Sullivan, son of a Bantry farmer, in Ardgroom on 24 July 1926. During the War of Independence, he had been officer commanding the 5th Battalion of the 3rd Cork Brigade of the IRA before promotion to Brigade vice-officer commanding. Taking the anti-Treaty side in the Civil War, he was interned and participated in a hunger strike with other republican prisoners. By then back in Cork full-time, Catherine’s republican activities seem to have increased significantly. She provided intelligence on the movement of National Army troops in Bantry and organised wakes and funerals for anti-Treaty IRA men killed in action. Having ‘scouted’ for an ambush on National Army forces, she claimed to have been ‘looked for by Free State Troops’ but managed to ‘evade arrest until times got quieter’.

Family history tells that Catherine began her teaching career in Céim an Fhia national school in 1923 but was not kept on and was informed by her parish priest in Bantry that she would not get a job in the diocese of Cork. She applied for and got a job in Ardgroom, in Co. Cork but in the diocese of Kerry.

Catherine applied for a military service pension under expanded legislation introduced by Fianna Fáil in 1934, and the couple moved to the South Douglas Road in Cork where they bought a farm. She then taught in the Model School in Anglesea Street, which was not a diocesan school, and taught there until she was 70. Some of her younger children were born in Cork at a time when there was no maternity leave. She would sleep in the nursing home on the South Terrace and go to school each day until the baby was born, claiming she never missed a day.

In 1937, Ted O’Sullivan was elected as a Fianna Fáil TD for Cork West. He held the seat until he stepped aside in 1954 and was elected to Seanad Éireann, serving until his retirement from politics in 1969. He died on 3 March 1971. The couple had twelve children, one of whom was Cork senior football captain and GAA administrator Donal O’Sullivan.

Catherine Daly’s memoir was composed some time before her death on 6 July 1986. It is preserved among the archival collections at MIC and published here for the first time. Military Service Pension application files

bhricfeásta ná ag am codlata ag a 9 a chlog san oíche. Ba chuimhín le Cáit go mbeadh uirthi seasamh amach sa rang eolaíochta mar phianós dá bhfreagróidh sí ceist nár cuireadh uirthi. Fós féin, d’éirigh leis na mic léinn na srianta a sháru ar iliomad bealaí. Cé gur chláraigh siad chun freastal ar scannán faoi Naomh Pádraig chuaigh said chun an scannán rómánsúil ‘The Belle of New York’ (1919) a fhesicint nuair a shroich said an phictiúrlann, agus d’éirigh le Cáit í féin ubh phóitseáilte nach raibh chomh foirfe sin a scaoileadh thar an scrúdaitheoir le linn scrúdú tís.

Ghoill na rialacha ar Cháit ar uairibh toisc a cuid fiosracha féin faoin saol máguaird agus freisin toisc go raibh an oiread sin ceangal agus caidrimh aici lasmuigh de bhallaí an choláiste. Ba é sin ba chúis b’fhéidir gur áiríodh mar mhac léinn ‘measarta’ í sna tuairiscí Chleachtadh Múinteoireachta. Mar sin féin, ghnóthaigh sí céad onóracha i marcanna na dara bliana, toradh atá breactha síos i Leabhar Chláirúcháin Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál, 1919–21.

Chloígh clár oiliúna na múinteoirí leis an gCuraclam Teagaisc Leasaithe a cuireadh i bhfeidhm le linn an tréimhse 1900–1922. Cé go raibh an curaclam dian, bhí sé níos leithne agus níos dírithe ar leanaí ná mar a bhí roimhe sin, agus bhí corpoideachas, eolaíocht bhunúsach agus naí-oideachas mar chuid den chúrsa.

Ó bhúnú Chonradh na Gaeilge sa bhliain 1893 i leith, bhí próiseas an Ghaelúcháin i bhfeidhm ar shaol polaitiúil agus sóisialta na hÉireann agus dearbhaíodh mar pholasaí é le bunú an tSaorstáit sa bhliain 1922. Bhí an polasaí seo le sonrú sa choláiste agus sna scoileanna le múineadh na Gaeilge mar ábhar faoi leith. Feictear na gnéithe láimhe agus praiticiúil den churaclam nua sna cuimhní cinn nuair a chuireann Cáit síos ar an scleodar agus ar an stad a bhain léi i measc na mac léinn nuair a sheol Tadhg Ó Súilleabháin bosca sailchuach chuici mar bhronntanas rómánsúil. Gearradh iad ina ribeoga chun mionscrúdú a dheanamh orthu sa rang staidéar dúlra. Déantar tagairt don bhéim a leagadh ar an bpraitiúlacht agus ar chlú an ‘chailín stuama’ nuair a luann Cáit agus í ag breathnú siar nach raibh aon deacracht ag na múinteoirí a hoileadh i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál postanna teagaisc a fháil toisc chomh dea-oilte is a bhí said.

Gach seans gur neartaigh an suaitheadh polaitiúil cás Siúracha na Trócaire do scoiteachas an choláiste agus na mná óga a n-ullmhú acu don domhan úr-nua a bhí amach rompu lasmuigh de bhallaí an choláiste. Laistigh bhí fuachtáin agus guagaíl na teasa le fulaingt, gnéithe a bhí go hiomlán difriúil leis an mbaol a bhí rompu agus iad ag taisteal lasmuigh. Deineadh modhanna cócaireacta ‘tútacha’ a raibh taithí ag na mic léinn orthu agus fiú a mblasanna cainte a shéimhiú chun iad a chur in oiriúint don mheastúlacht agus don mheánaicmeachas a bhí i ndán dóibh, agus chun iad a mhúnlú mar dhea-eiseamláirí do na páistí a bheadh á múineadh acu sna scoileanna.

Faoin mbliain 1921 nuair a bronnadh céim ar Cháit, bhí ré nua polaitiúil agus náisiúnta i réim. Scaoileadh sean-cheangail agus cruthaíodh cinn nua. Lean cuid de na gaoil ar cuireadh tús leo sa choláiste le linn a saolta, agus cothaíodh caidreamh agus muintearas idir na siúracha a bhí ag teagasc agus na mic léinn, caidreamh a mhair ar feadh i bhfad. Taréis do Cháit Ní Dhálaigh a cuid oiliúna a chríochnú i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál sa bhliain 1921, thosaigh sí ag múineadh i scoil náisiúnta an Dá Dhroma i gCo. Chorcaí. Phós sí seoltóir na salchuach agus mac feirmeora ó Bheanntaí, Tadhg ‘Ted’ Ó Súilleabháin, i nDá Dhrom, 30 Iúil 1926. Oifigeach ceannais ar an 5ú Chathlán den 3ú Bhriogáid Chorcaí den IRA a bhí ann le linn Chogadh na Saoirse roimh dó ardú céime a fháil mar leas-oifigeach ceannais Briogáide.

Chuaigh Tadhg Ó Súilleabháin leis an dream a bhí in éadan an Chonartha i gCogadh na gCarad. Rinneadh é a imtheorannú le linn an chogaidh agus ghlac sé páirt i stailc ocrais maraon le príosúnaithe poblachtánacha eile. Faoin am sin, bhí Cáit ar ais i gContae Chorcaí go lán-aimseartha agus fuadar faoina cuid gníomhaíochta. Lean sí uirthi ag soláthar tearmainn do lucht an IRA a bhí ar a gcoiméad chomh maith le teachtaireachtaí a sheoladh, fáisnéis a bhailiú ar ghluaiseachtaí an Airm Náisiúnta i mBeanntaí, agus tórraimh agus sochraidí a eagrú do

for Catherine (Daly) O'Sullivan and Timothy O'Sullivan, detailing their republican activities during the Irish Revolution, are available to view online at <https://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection-1916-1923>.



Fig.4

shlua an IRA a bhí in aghaidh an Chonartha agus a maraíodh sa chogadh. Taréis di 'bheith 'ag scabhtáil' chun luíochan a chur roimh lucht an Airm Náisiúnta, dúirt sí go raibh 'trúpaí an tSaorstáit ar a tóir' ach déirigh léi 'fanacht amach uathu go dtí gur shocraigh rudaí síos.' De réir chuntais a muintire, thosaigh Cáit ag múineadh i scoil náisiúnta Chéim an Fhia sa bhliain 1923 ach scaoileadh léi. D'inis a sagart paróiste i mBeanntraí di nach mbeadh post ar bith ar fáil dí i nDeoise Chorcaí.

Chuir sí isteach ar phost i nDá Dhrom atá i gContae Chorcaí ach i nDeoise Chiarraí agus d'éirigh léi é a fháil. Nuair a tháinig Fianna Fáil i gcumhacht sna triochaidí, leathnaigh said téarmaí reachtaíochta na bPinsean Míleata sa bhliain 1934 agus chuir Cáit isteach ar cheann. Bhog sí féin agus Tadhg go dtí Bóthar Dhúglas Theas áit ar cheannaigh said feirm. Fuair Cáit post sa Mhodscoil i Sráid Anglesea a bhí faoi chúram an Roinn Oideachais seachas Deoise Chorcaí agus lean sí uirthi ag múineadh ann go raibh sí seachtó bliain d'aois. Rugadh na páistí ab' óige dá clann nuair nach raibh aon saoire máithreachais ar fáil agus d'fhanadh sí thar oíche sa teach altránais ar an Ardán Theas i gCorcaigh agus í ag teacht gar dá haimsir agus théadh ar scoil gach maidin go dtí gur rugadh an páiste. Dar léi féin, níor chaill sí lá oibre riamh.

Toghadh Tadhg Ó Súilleabháin mar Theachta Dála d'Fhianna Fáil do Chorcaigh Thiar sa bhliain 1937. Lean sé air mar ionadaí go dtí an bhliain 1954 nuair a toghadh é do Sheanad Éireann. D'oibrigh sé mar sheanadóir go dtí gur éirigh se as an bpolaitíocht sa bhliain 1969 agus d'éag sé 3ú Márta 1971. Bhí dhá pháiste déag ag Cáit agus Tadhg. Duine díobh ab ea Dónal Ó Súilleabháin a bhí ina chaptaen ar fhoireann peile sinsearach Chorcaí agus a d'oibrigh mar fheidhmeannach do CLG.

Scríobh Cáit Ní Dhálaigh a cuimhní cinn uair éigin roimh dí imeacht ar shlí na fírinne 6ú Iúil 1986. Bronnadh ar chartlann Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál iad agus foilsítear anseo iad don chéad uair. Is féidir teacht ar iarrataisí Phinsin Mhíleata Catherine (Daly) O'Sullivan agus Timothy O'Sullivan a dhéanann cur síos ar a gcuid gníomhaíochtaí poblachtánaigh i rith na Réabhlóide in Éirinn ar líne ag [<https://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection-1916-1923>]

My Memoirs of Mary Immaculate 1919 - 1921

My name is Catherine Daly and I was born in Ardnageeha, Bantry on March 22, 1901 - the year Mary Immaculate welcomed its first group of students.¹

At that time Bantry was a garrison town and famous Bantry Bay was a naval base for British warships. The Americans built a seaplane base on Whiddy Island and this was completed just before the end of the war in 1918.²

I attended the Convent of Mercy School from the age of four to eighteen and I was appointed monitress for the years 1916 - 1919. I passed the King's Scholarship examination in 1919 and I was called to Mary Immaculate that year.³ The then Bishop of Limerick⁴ was a friend of one of the Bantry Sisters of Mercy who came from Limerick and when he called to visit her my fellow student Helena Lynch, from Glengariff, and I were introduced to him as we had been called to the Training College. Every time he called to Mary Immaculate afterwards he asked for the 'Bantry girls'.

Travelling in those troubled times was not only slow but hazardous. The train from Bantry to Cork took about three hours (58 miles) and sometimes, when we got to Cork, the train to Limerick, which went via Charleville, Croom, Patrick's Well etc. was gone. I sometimes stayed overnight at Jack Lynch's house in Shandon as his father had been a neighbour of mine in Bantry.⁵

We were usually met in Cork by other students from West Cork and from the City. One of those was Maura O Driscoll from Douglas. We remained personal friends until her death six years ago. Some years before Maura's death, Sr. Vincent,⁶ who was a friend of hers, invited us to visit her in Limerick. We called to the Convent⁷ first and she took us to the College which was closed for the holidays at the time. Sr. Loreto⁸ was Uachtaran at the time. She showed us around and entertained us to a lovely tea. We went back to the Convent again with Sr. Vincent before getting the bus back to Cork. We were shocked to learn a week later that Sr. Vincent had died suddenly.

There were 100 students in 1919 - 54 seniors and 46 juniors, which included four student sisters who were not allowed to speak to us, nor we to them. I sat next to one of them for two years and never spoke to her apart from nodding and smiling to her occasionally. I met her in the Convent again when we called for Sr. Vincent to accompany us to the College. She recognised me when I said I was trained 1919 - 1921 and said she was the young nun who sat next to me for two years.⁹

Sr. Paul¹⁰ was semi-retired but she used to give talks to the students. Sr. Veronica¹¹ was Principal and taught English. She was a perfectionist and we all looked forward to her lectures. She had to put up with a lot of bad pronunciation what with the 'dis and dats' from Cork and the 'fhots and fhys' from Kerry. I remember one occasion when she was so fed up with a Kerry girl's pronunciation that she asked her 'Do you know Irish?'. 'Yes', replied the student. 'Good', said Sr. Veronica, 'because you don't know English!'.¹²

Mr George Clancy, then Mayor of Limerick, taught Irish.¹² I will never forget the morning we were waiting for him to come to his lecture. We were surprised he was late, as we thought. The door was open awaiting his arrival and after some coming and going in the corridor Sr. Veronica came in to say 'Students, ye will be sorry to hear that Mr Clancy and Mr O Callaghan were both shot dead this morning'.¹³ We just sat there and cried. Needless to say there was not much study done that day.

Mr O Callaghan, a former Mayor, had connection with the College too. Mrs O Callaghan had previously taught in the College and her sister Miss Murphy was our P.E. teacher and also taught history and Irish to some classes.¹⁴ She was a valuable contact with the outer world and with I.R.A. activities, for me anyway. She told us beforehand of executions in the barracks and we used lie awake at 6 a.m. waiting to hear the shots of the firing squad.¹⁵ She used be there with relatives and sympathisers praying. Of course she had to be careful to whom she gave the news. Coming from West Cork herself (Macroom) she knew I was interested. It was she who told me about the Kilmichael Ambush.¹⁶

Free days were few and far between. We had class as usual on Saturday mornings, recreation after dinner and Confessions in the evening. We walked in a line on Sunday afternoons; along the banks of the Shannon one Sunday and out Ballinacurra the next with a senior in charge. I used to say that we were like the paupers or orphans out for a walk from the Bantry Workhouse with a woman in charge!

We got a half day on Church holidays and had to be back at 6 p.m. for tea and sometimes at 4.30 p.m. if there was a concert that night. On one occasion, St. Patrick's Day, a film on the life of Patrick was shown in a cinema down town.¹⁷ There was a show of hands by those who wanted to go and about twenty or thirty seats were booked by the College. Some of us thought we knew enough about St. Patrick at that stage and we went to a matinee of the film 'The Belle of New York' to find that some of those who opted for St. Patrick were there before us.¹⁸ I think about ten showed up for the booked seats.

Visiting hours were nil as far as I was concerned. I did not know of any other students having visitors either. I know that friends of mine, including my sister, called one night but I was not sent for. The first I knew of the visit was a note posted in Limerick that night. A clerical student from Mungret called before the Christmas holidays with a message for his parents in Bantry as he was not going home for Christmas. Even though it was recreation time and I saw him at the front door I was not called then either. He was ordained a few years later for the American Mission and died in Georgia the same day as my husband in 1971. His brothers were very prominent in the Volunteers and their home was raided by the Black and Tans on many occasions.¹⁹

I cannot say the 'Bantry Girls' had no visitors. Yes we had, His Lordship the Bishop of Limerick on three occasions. On the first occasion I was called out from a lecture by Sr. Veronica, a most unusual occurrence, to be told that His Lordship wanted to see me in the parlour - the other Bantry student was out in the schools.

On another occasion, after a concert to which the Bishop had been invited, I had lent my new shoes to a Limerick student who was singing on the stage. Mine were too big for her and hers too small for me so I took a back seat. Lo and behold, the Bishop as usual asked for the 'Bantry Girls' and I had to hobble to meet all the Sisters and Bishop in the middle of the hall. I hoped that no one noticed my discomfort except the students who knew.

We were not allowed to speak at breakfast. We were allowed to speak at lunch and at tea but had to keep silent again on our way to bed at 9 o'clock. I envied those with cubicles near windows, especially in summer, as I had a cubicle in a dark corner near a corridor.

Food was not bad even though there was still a rationing of some things - butter, sugar, meat. It was only a year or two after the end of the War and we were still under British rule. Then there was the Black and Tan

war with blown up bridges, blocked roads, arrests etc.²⁰ Trains were also disrupted, especially from Dublin to Cork. On one occasion, before Christmas 1920, we had to travel, on our way to Cork, to Limerick Junction at 8 a.m. in an open charabanc on a frosty winter's morning. We arrived at Limerick Junction to see the Cork train moving off. We had to wait, cold and hungry, until 7 p.m. for the next Cork train. We eventually reached Cork to see the city smouldering just days after it was set on fire by the Black and Tans.²¹

We were in trouble here again as there was no hope of getting the 58 miles to Bantry next day. A very dear friend of mine who was 'on the run' (Ted O Sullivan later to become my husband) borrowed a side-car from friends at Upton about 15 miles from Cork. He had ridden on horseback from Bantry and was held up by the Black and Tans on his way to Cork in the side-car. He said he was a jarvey from Cork and gave a false name, needless to say.

I stayed at Lynchs' again and while there somebody came in with the 'Evening Echo' in which there was an announcement that there would be a special as far as Dunmanway for Canon Magner's funeral next day. Canon Magner was shot dead a few days previously while walking along the road. A young boy on a bicycle who was passing at the time was shot also and his body thrown over a fence.²²

When we arrived by train in Dunmanway we were told at the station that the train was going on later to Drimoleague, 10 miles farther on and 10 miles nearer home. We waited in Drimoleague some hours later hoping that someone we knew would give us a lift on the way back from the funeral, but all the cars to Bantry were full. We had almost lost hope at that stage when I saw a Bantry lorry delivering goods to the shops.

I fortunately knew the driver of the lorry and asked him for a lift. He took the two of us and our luggage the rest of the journey. I left my luggage with a friend in town and walked the mile and a half to Ardnageeha at about 11 p.m. My parents were surprised to see me, needless to say, arriving at that hour of the night. It transpired that my friend on horseback arrived home before me after delivering the side-car back to Upton on the way.

When passing through Dunmanway lately my daughter, Sr. Sinead and I visited Canon Magner's grave. She took snaps of the monument showing the lettering quite clearly. Since I am on the subject of Canon Magner's murder I must relate an incident which happened years later. A friend of mine was travelling on the Glengarriff bus from Cork. A priest sat beside her carrying a wreath. He asked her to tell him when they came near Dunmanway as he wanted to place a wreath on Canon Magner's grave. He told my friend that his father, when he was a Black and Tan in Ireland had shot Canon Magner. He had afterwards become a Catholic and on his deathbed he had asked his son, a priest, to go to Dunmanway and place a wreath on the Canon's grave. His conscience had apparently troubled him since the murder and that was his way of making amends.²³

On another occasion, on our way back to Mary I. from Bantry we were told that there was a curfew in Limerick from 6 p.m. As the train we were to travel in wouldn't arrive in Limerick until after 6 p.m. we sent a telegram to the College asking for advice. We waited all evening at the G.P.O. for a reply, which never arrived. Since it had not arrived by 5 p.m., train time, we had to stay in Cork again that night and we heard next morning that there would be a special at 9 a.m. When we arrived at the railway station we found that it was a military train taking soldiers to Limerick. One of the railway porters said we were very foolish girls to travel on that train. We were so desperate at that stage we would have tried anything. We were not allowed to sit together in the same carriage - six girls and six soldiers in two carriages. The soldiers tried to be friendly but we were so patriotic we wouldn't speak to them. All went well until we had passed Croom station, when the train backed about a mile to the station. All the soldiers jumped out with fixed bayonets and searched the

surrounding area. When they returned our curiosity got the better of us and we asked what had happened and we were told that the so and so Sinn Feiners had taken the mails off the train.²⁴

What a narrow escape we had! When we arrived at the College we got abuse for not coming the day before. The students from Kerry etc. who had chanced coming the previous day were met at the station by a British officer with a white flag and conveyed to the College. How were we to know that!

Back to Mary Immaculate again! Our uniform was black with a white collar which was laundered once a week. Our sheets were laundered once a month. House shoes were worn in the house and elastic sided boots which we wore going out to the schools for teaching practice to Henry St. and the Mount laden with charts and other aids to teaching. I found it hard to get the elastic sided boots in Bantry as they were worn only by old women. On the day of the final exam for teaching the children came to the College from the Mount usually. Needless to say they were very well behaved and most attentive and helpful.

Heating in the College was very poor. The central heating was just warm. Can you imagine Holy Angels classroom²⁵ on a cold wintery day? We had to wear warm underclothing but our hands were always red and cold. We tried to heat them on the radiators or pipes. I can't imagine present day students with their scanty clothing surviving under those conditions. They have no chilblains like we had.

I came in for my share of sarcasm from our science teacher Sr. Brendan.²⁶ We had done science in the Bantry Convent school and we were allowed to attend a Teachers' course given by one of the science inspectors from the Department because we had been called to Training College. As it happened he was one of the inspectors at the final science exam. Well I had the advantage, or dis advantage, of at least knowing the names of the different apparatus. I was often made stand because I answered out of turn when Sr. Brendan wanted the answers from those who hadn't done science already. She said we had a 'smattering' of science so we had to begin all over again and pretend we knew nothing. I often thought of Sr. Brendan and how patient she was when I taught Irish to city children some of whom came from Irish speaking homes. In spite of everything we became great friends and she had great pleasure in calling me aside to tell me that I was one of the two students who got the correct results of the experiment at our final exam in spite of the fact that I had had an accident halfway through the experiment and had to start all over again.

Woolworths opened in Limerick during our final year and Sr. Brendan sent me to get a bargain they had in copybooks on opening day.²⁷ I don't know why she did not send one of the Limerick City girls! Needless to say the shop was crowded and some of the young assistants were not experienced enough to cope with the crowds. Anyway, when I got back to the College with my 'bargain' Sister found that there were some missing so back I had to go again with the receipt and fortunately I got the missing copies. I was frequently sent to the Bank too.

As needlework was my favourite subject I must have done well at the first year exam so I was exempt from doing the second year. That did not mean I had nothing to do. I had to attend class as usual and sit for the exam at the end of the year. It did not matter whether I got it or not as I was exempt. Sr. Agatha²⁸ taught needlework and I was sent on messages by her also.

Sr. Frances,²⁹ who supervised our meals in the refectory also taught cookery and laundry. I happened to find my cookery notes written at that time (64 years ago). We had gas cookers in the cookery kitchen. It was a change for us Bantry girls and other west Cork students whose only means of cooking were a three legged pot over an open turf fire and cakes etc. baked in a bastable in which chickens, geese or turkeys were also roasted.

Even though we were taught Domestic Economy in Bantry Convent school it took us some time to learn the different temperatures for the different dishes and the different utensils for each.

Every Christmas and Easter we had a cookery test. Sr. Frances had a list of recipes we had done. I picked poached egg. I was pleased to pick such an easy one as I thought. I got ready a shallow lined saucepan of boiling water just sufficient to cover egg. I added a little salt. I cut a neat piece of bread about ½ inch thick (no sliced bread then) and toasted it under the grill and the water boiled over it. While the toast was cooking I broke the egg carefully into a cup. When the water boiled I slid the egg gently into the pan and put the lid on and cooked it for two minutes. As soon as the white coagulated I lifted the egg with a fish slice. Before I could place it on the buttered toast the student next to me stooped under the table for something, hit my elbow with her head and my carefully cooked egg landed on the floor. Before Sister saw what happened I put the fish slice under it and landed it on the toast. Fortunately it stayed in one piece. I got it into shape as well as I could with my ingers (a crime), garnished it with parsley and joined the queue in front of Sister's rostrum for inspection. Her comment was 'Not bad but a bit battered looking'. If only she knew! We often wondered who got that egg for her tea.

Irish was an optional subject in my time. School ended at 3 p.m. in the Bantry Convent school but we had to stay in for Irish until 3.30 p.m. We used attend Irish classes in the town a few nights a week. I sat for the Irish exam in the final at Mary Immaculate. There was a heatwave that summer - 1921. My desk was inside a window with the sun blazing down on me. I got a splitting headache and the supervisor drew the blind. However I got violently sick and had to leave the room before the end of the exam. I got the bilingual years later at an Irish course in Ballingearry.³⁰ As we were going home next day we pack all our things the evening before - books, clothes, sheets etc. into our trunks. The light things went as our hand luggage next day.

There was one large bathroom on the ground floor near the refectory. We were not allowed to have a bath unless we wore bathing suits. Coming from a seaside town it never dawned on me to take bathing togs to Limerick where there was no strand!

One of the students' tasks was to shut the bathroom windows after supper each night which she did religiously. One wild and rainy night Sister Frances was passing the bathroom and noticed the rain blowing in, so she closed all the windows. Bridie Cassidy from Mayo, whose job it was to close the windows, got the pole and opened all the windows. Sr. Frances, when passing later noticed the windows open, called Bridie and said 'Miss Cassidy, did you close the windows tonight?'. 'Yes'. 'Are you sure?'. 'Yes'. Sister led her to the bathroom and to her consternation Bridie saw all the windows open. She knew she had to do something to the windows!

Now to a lighter and more romantic side of my narrative! Glandore in west Cork was, at that time, noted for the cultivation of violets which were also exported in special gift boxes. There was a Volunteer training camp in Glandore in the Spring of 1920. The O/C of the camp (Ted O Sullivan) sent me a gift box of violets which caused quite a stir among the students. However, Sister in charge of Nature Study heard about the violets and asked me if I wouldn't mind giving them for her lesson on Spring flowers. So my precious violets were dissected, drawn etc.³¹ I was left with one solitary petal which had pride of place in my Nature Study book from then on. So the violets gave not only pleasure but knowledge as well.

Before I close I must pay tribute to the wonderful interest taken by all the staff in the welfare of the students and which has been appreciated by the many graduates down through the years. In fact Mary Immaculate had the reputation of having the best results of all the teaching colleges and students trained there had no difficulty in getting teaching appointments.

Notes

- 1 In 1896 Bishop Edward O'Dwyer of Limerick had sent a letter to the Commissioners for National Education applying for a licence for a training college for female Catholic National School teachers, as there were more vacancies for female teachers than trained women. He entrusted the running of the college to the Sisters of Mercy and construction began in 1898. It opened its doors in 1901 to its first students known as King's Scholars.
- 2 The US Naval Air Station at Whiddy Bay was built by Americans on the eastern section of the island to watch for German submarine activity and shipping in 1918. It was demolished in 1919.
- 3 Queen's and later King's scholarships were established in 1885 and available to promising primary students who passed the entrance exam for the primary teaching training colleges. 'Called to training' was the phrase commonly used until the late twentieth century for students who commenced a programme to qualify as primary school teachers in Ireland.
- 4 Denis Hallinan (1849-1923), born Coolcappagh, Co. Limerick, educated at the Irish college in Rome, and ordained in 1874. Curate in the parishes of Newcastle West and St Michael's Limerick, Administrator of St Michael's and parish priest of St Mary's, Limerick and of Newcastle West. Nominated as Bishop of Limerick on 10 March 1918. Hallinan bequeathed elegant mahogany bookcases to the college library.
- 5 Jack Lynch (1917-1999), represented Cork in Dáil Éireann 1948-81, leader of Fianna Fáil, 1966-79, Taoiseach 1966-73 and 1977-79.
- 6 Sr Vincent Molumby (1901-1973), born Golden, Cashel, Co. Tipperary entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1918 and made her first profession on 7 May 1924. She joined the teaching staff of the college in 1928 and taught Irish and History until her retirement in 1965. A member of Cumann na mBan and committed to the Irish language, she wrote a biography of An tAthair Peadar Ó Laoghaire under the pen-name Maolmhuire.
- 7 It is likely that the convent mentioned here is Westbourne Convent of Mercy on Ashbourne Avenue, as that was where Sr Vincent died.
- 8 Sr Loreto (Ellen) O'Connor (1919-2011), from Tarbert/Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1940 and graduated from MIC as a primary school teacher in 1943. She later completed a BA in Irish and History, a H.Dip. in Ed., and an MA in Education at University College Cork and was appointed to the staff of MIC in 1949. As president 1959-79, she oversaw the beginning of co-education in 1969 and the inauguration of the three-year BEd Programme in 1975. After retirement she worked as chaplain in Limerick Regional Hospital (1985-1994).
- 9 Sr Benignus (Dorothy) Scantlebury (1897-1982), from Queenstown (Cóbh), Co. Cork, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1916 and made her first profession on 5 July 1919.
- 10 Sr Paul (Mary) Quinlan (1859-1923), from St. Michael's parish in Limerick, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1881 and made her first profession on 27 September 1883. She spent a year at Notre Dame Training College, Mount Pleasant in Liverpool prior to being appointed principal of MIC when it opened to students in 1901. She taught elocution and drama.
- 11 Sr Veronica (Mary) Cullinan (1874-1960), from Ennis, Co. Clare, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1894 and made her first profession on 4 January 1898. She spent a year at Notre Dame Training College, Mount Pleasant in Liverpool prior to being appointed vice-principal of MIC in 1901. She organized the timetables and college curriculum and taught English literature and grammar. Appointed Principal in 1923, she oversaw many building improvements such as a new Domestic Science kitchen, a quadrangle to provide outdoor exercise between classes, and a pavilion which overlooked the games field, as well as a music room annex in the 1920s.
- 12 George Clancy (1881-1921), born Grange, Co. Limerick, graduated from the Royal University in Dublin in 1904 and returned to Limerick in 1908 to teach Irish in the schools and for the Gaelic League. Taught Irish to the students in MIC, 1914-20. Member of the founding committee of the Volunteers in Limerick in 1913, vice

- commandant of the Limerick battalion of Irish Volunteers, 1914. Arrested after the Rising he was released and continued political and nationalist activity. In 1918 he became seriously ill during the flu pandemic and was forced to give up teaching. Elected to the city council as alderman in 1920, and mayor of Limerick in 1921. Murdered by three Auxiliaries on the morning of 7 March 1921 at his home in Castleview Gardens in front of his wife Máire (Ní Chillín), who was wounded in the attack.
- 13 Michael O'Callaghan (1879-1921), born Limerick city, completed a course at the Leather Sellers College in London, qualified as an industrial chemist, and became managing director of his family's business, the City Tannery, at Lower Gerald Griffin Street. Member of the first Sinn Féin club in Limerick in 1905, also of the Gaelic League. Member of the executive committee of the Irish Volunteers 1914-16, elected to the city council for the Irishtown ward, 1911, elected Mayor of Limerick on 30 January 1920. Murdered at his home at St Margaret's, North Strand by two RIC Auxiliaries on the morning of 7 March 1921 in front of his wife Kate (Murphy). O'Callaghan was one of three Limerick men murdered in their homes that night, along with Mayor George Clancy and Volunteer Joseph O'Donoghue, from Westmeath but living and working in Limerick. Their killings were known as the 'Curfew Murders' as they occurred during curfew hours.
- 14 Three Murphy sisters from Macroom in Co. Cork were appointed to the staff of MIC in succession. Mary (O'Donovan) was principal lecturer in education, 1905-12. Kate, who had attended Cambridge Training College (now Hughes Hall) succeeded her in this post but resigned upon her marriage to Michael O'Callaghan (see note 13). Kate O'Callaghan was later elected unopposed to Dáil Éireann as Sinn Féin candidate for Limerick City-Limerick East in 1921. Re-elected as a republican candidate for Limerick City in 1922, she was a member of the anti-Treaty council of state formed by Éamon DeValera. Defeated as a republican candidate in 1923, she retired from politics. Elizabeth became lecturer in education in 1916, a post she held until 1949. From 1922 on she used the Irish form of her name, Éilís Ní Mhurchú.
- 15 Only one execution of an IRA member took place at New Barracks during the War of Independence (which was close to the College), the execution of Thomas Keane on 4 June 1921.
- 16 On 28 November 1920, two lorries of men from 'C' Company of the Auxiliaries were ambushed on a road between Macroom and Kilmichael by the IRA's West Cork Flying Column under Tom Barry. Sixteen Auxiliaries were killed, one survived seriously wounded, and another who escaped was later captured and executed by the local IRA. Three IRA volunteers were also killed during the ambush.
- 17 'In the Days of St. Patrick' ran in the Athenaeum Hall from 15 March 1920.
- 18 Two film versions (1919 and 1952) were made of the Broadway musical 'The Belle of New York'. The 1919 version was a silent film starring Marion Davies, Etienne Girardot and L. Rogers Lytton and directed by Julius Steger. The plot centred on a young woman Violet (Davies) who went to New York and joined the 'follies' where she was known as The Belle of New York.
- 19 In early 1920, the British government began a recruitment campaign in Britain to fill gaps caused by large numbers of resignations from the Royal Irish Constabulary. Owing to shortages of uniforms the new recruits wore a mix of army khaki and RIC bottle green, prompting a comparison with a famous pack of Limerick fox hounds, known as Black and Tans. The uniform shortage was soon rectified, and new recruits were hired on the same terms and conditions as the 'old RIC', but the nickname stuck. A separate Auxiliary Division of ex-British army officers was also established as a mobile strike force, and was often fearsome, though contemporaries regularly mixed the two forces up and 'Black and Tans' or 'Tans' could be used to refer to any Crown forces.
- 20 The First World War, or Great War, began in August 1914 and ended with an armistice on 11 November 1918. What is most commonly known now as the War of Independence (1919-1921) was often referred to as the 'Tan War' by veterans and contemporaries afterwards, even though the Royal Irish Constabulary recruits nicknamed the 'Black and Tans' only began to arrive in significant numbers in mid-1920.
- 21 On the night of 11 December 1920 the IRA ambushed a mobile patrol of Auxiliaries at Dillon's Cross, Cork. Twelve Auxiliaries were injured in the ambush and one later died of his wounds. In response, Auxiliaries set fire to a portion of the city. Over seventy business premises were either damaged or destroyed, as well as City Hall and the Carnegie Library. £3,000,000 worth of damage was done, around 2,000 people were left jobless and others became homeless.
- 22 Canon Thomas Magner and Timothy Crowley were shot dead on 15 December 1920 in Dunmanway by Auxiliary Vernon Hart, who was later committed to an asylum before being released and moving to South Africa (with thanks to Seán William Gannon for the information on Hart).
- 23 Vernon Hart, who shot Magner and Crowley, appears to have only had one son who was not a priest (with thanks to Seán William Gannon for this information).
- 24 'Sinn Féiners' had been commonly used as a blanket term for advanced nationalists before the 1916 Easter Rising, and was still regularly used to describe republicans – both members of Sinn Féin and the IRA – by British authorities and Crown forces during the War of Independence.
- 25 Holy Angels classroom became known as Seomra na nAingeal after 1922 when all college business with the Department of Education was transacted in Irish. It is on the first floor of the Foundation building at MIC and was used as a classroom until 1997, when it was converted to offices for Student Services.
- 26 Sr Brendan Leonard (1870-1933), from Milford, Co. Cork, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1896, and made her first profession on 12 January 1899. She taught science and domestic science.
- 27 F.W. Woolworth & Co. opened in 1921 at 37-39 O'Connell St., the former premises of P. McCarthy & Sons home furnishings. It closed in 1984.
- 28 Sr Agatha Murphy (1879-1943) from ArdPatrick, Co. Limerick, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1899, and made her first profession on 12 November 1901.
- 29 Sr Frances (Catherine) McGrath (1880-1961), from St. Mary's, Haddington Road, Dublin, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1896, and made her first profession on 29 January 1907. The author of the diary of the 'Siege of Limerick' that follows, Sr Frances was editor of the college annual and registrar of the Modest Dress and Department Crusade in the 1920s. She was known to students as 'Franco'.
- 30 From 1922, Irish was promoted as the language of instruction in primary schools in the new Irish Free State, but there was a shortage of teachers competent to teach it. Following the first report of the Department of Education for the school year 1924-25, summer courses in Irish were made available for practising primary school teachers. Teachers were obliged to attend these courses as their efficacy in the classroom became linked to proficiency in the Irish language.
- 31 This is likely Sr Brendan (see Note 26 above).



Teaching Practice Reports, 1915–1924

Tuairiscí Chleachtadh Múinteoireachta, 1915-1924

Fig.5

Teaching Practice Reports, 1915-1924

AnneMarie Brosnan

At the turn of the twentieth century, formal teacher training in Ireland consisted of a two year programme which combined academic learning with supervised teaching practice. Mary Immaculate College was one of seven teacher training institutions in the country. The Central Training College in Dublin was the only non-denominational, state-run institution. The Church of Ireland ran the co-educational Church of Ireland College in Dublin and the remaining five single-sex institutions were run by the Catholic Church. The three provincial colleges, Limerick, Waterford, and Belfast, sought the same state privileges regarding funding and income as the Dublin colleges. Due to Bishop O'Dwyer's tenacity, this was finally granted by the Commissioners of Education in 1911.

Up until the late 1890s, the focus of the training colleges was to equip students with a mastery of the subjects that they would be required to teach in the classroom. This changed in 1900 when the Revised Programme of Primary Instruction was implemented in Irish national schools. Based upon the recommendations of the Commission on Manual and Practical Instruction and in line with educational developments worldwide, the Revised Programme introduced a wide range of subjects into the national school curriculum as well as a more child-centred approach to learning. This naturally impacted upon the programme delivered at the teacher training institutes and students were required to learn how to teach a range of new subjects, including elementary science, cookery, geometry, and physical drill. In addition, courses on the 'theory of method', the 'practice of teaching', and the 'science and art of education' were also introduced.

From the twentieth century onwards, supervised teaching practice played a fundamental role in the preparation of primary school teachers, then known as national school teachers. At Mary Immaculate College, students undertook three placements during each year of the programme. In the main, the students were assessed on their knowledge of the subject matter, their ability to deliver the content, and their classroom management skills. However, manner, dress, and deportment were also subject to assessment. While male student-teachers were expected to exhibit qualities associated with manliness, female student-teachers were praised for being 'refined and lady like.'

With the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922, greater emphasis was placed on the teaching and learning of Irish. Based upon the recommendations of the Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO) at the first National Programme Conference in 1922, Irish was to be taught to all pupils for one hour per day while infants were to be instructed entirely through Irish. This was problematic for several teachers who were not competent to teach Irish, having been educated through English within the national school system. As such, summer courses in Irish were offered to those already working in the classrooms and preparatory colleges were established to attract competent Irish speakers into the teaching profession. From 1922 onwards, Irish was made a compulsory subject for entry into a teacher training college and most of the lectures were delivered through Irish. Student-teachers at Mary Immaculate College were required to teach Irish on their placements and, as noted in the Teaching Practice reports between 1922 and 1924, while some of these students picked up the language relatively quickly, others struggled to develop their fluency.

Teacher preparation in Ireland continued to evolve over the next several decades, eventually culminating in the four-year degree programme that it is today. However, in spite of the numerous curricular and structural changes which have taken place, teaching practice, or school placement as it is now known, still plays a fundamental role in the preparation of Irish primary school teachers.

Tuairiscí Chleachtadh Múinteoireachta 1915-1924

AnneMarie Brosnan

Ag tús an fhichiú haois, cúrsa dhá bhliana a bhí i gclár oiliúna na múinteoirí do na bunscoileanna in Éirinn – clár a nasc an léann acadúil le cleachtadh múinteoireachta stiúrtha. Bhí Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál ar cheann de na seacht gcoláistí oiliúna sa tír. An t-aon institiúid neamh-shainchreideamhach faoi riar an stáit a bhí ann ná an Choláiste Oiliúna Lárnach i mBaile Átha Cliath. Reachtáil Eaglais na hÉireann coláiste comhoideachais, Coláiste Éaglais na hÉireann i mBaile Átha Cliath, agus bhí cúig coláiste faoi riar na hEaglaise Caitlicí agus coláistí aonghnéis a bhí iontu. Bhunaigh trí coláiste - Luimneach, Port Láirge, agus Béal Feirste - feachtas chun maoiniú agus ioncam a fháil ón stát ar an mbonn céanna le coláistí Bhaile Átha Cliath. Ghéill Coimisinéirí an Oideachais don éileamh seo sa bhliain 1911, a bhfuochas sin do dhiongbháilteacht an Easpaig Ó Duibhir.

An chuspóir a bhí ag na coláistí oiliúna anuas go dtí deireadh na 1890-aidí ná sáreolas a chur ar fáil do na mic léinn ar na hábhair a bheadh á múineadh acu sna seomraí ranga. D'athraigh an polasaí seo sa bhliain 1900 nuair a cuireadh Clár Leasaithe an Bhun-Teagaisc i bhfeidhm i scoileanna náisiúnta na hÉireann. Bunaithe ar na moltaí a d'eascair ó Choimisiún an Teagaisc Phraiticiúil agus Láimhe, agus ag teacht le forbairtí oideachasúla ar fud an domhain, leathnaíodh ar raon na n-ábhar i gcuiraclam na scoileanna náisiúnta, agus úsáideadh modhanna múinte a bhí níos leanbhlaímaí ná mar a bhíodh roimhe sin. Bhí tionchar suntasach ag na hathraithe seo ar an gclár oiliúna sna coláistí oiliúna agus bhí ar na mic léinn foghlaim conas raon nua ábhar a mhúineadh - an eolaíocht bhunúsach, cócaireacht, céimseata, agus corp-oideachas ina measc. Cuireadh cúrsaí ar 'theoiric an mhodha', 'chleachtadh múinteoireachta', agus 'eolaíocht agus ealaín an oideachais' ar bun freisin.

Gné lámach d'oiliúnt na múinteoirí bunscoile, ar glaodh múinteoirí náisiúnta orthu, a bhí sa chleachtadh múinteoireachta o thús an fhichiú haois ar aghaidh. Ghlac na mic léinn i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál páirt i dtírí socrúcháin múinteoireachta gach bliain le linn a gclár oiliúna. Rinneadh iad a mheas ar fhairsingeacht a gcuid eolais ar an ábhar a bhí á múineadh acu, ar a gcumas múinteoireachta, agus ar a scileana bainistíochta ranga don chuid ba mhó. Ach freisin, deindeadh meastóireacht ar an mbealach a bhí leo, ar a gcualaith éadaigh, agus conas mar a d'iompair said iad féin. Moladh na mic-léinn bainneann as a bheith múinte, banúil, séimh áit ar moladh na mic-léinn fireann as a bheith fearúil agus cróga.

Nuair a bunaíodh Saorstát Éireann sa bhliain 1922, leagadh níos mó béime ar mhúineadh agus ar fhoghlaim na Gaeilge. Mhol Cumann Múinteoirí Éireann (INTO) ag a gComhdháil Náisiúnta ar an gClár Staidéar sa bhliain 1922 go múinfí an Ghaeilge do gach páiste scoile ar feadh uair an chloig in aghaidh an lae agus go múinfí na naíonáin go hiomlán tré mheán na Gaeilge. Chruthaigh sé seo fadhbanna do na múinteoirí nach raibh ar a gcumas an Ghaeilge a mhúineadh toisc gur hoileadh iad tré mheán an Bhéarla laistigh de chóras na scoileanna náisiúnta. Mar sin, cuireadh cúrsaí samhraidh sa Ghaeilge ar fáil do mhúinteoirí a bhí ag obair sna seomraí ranga cheana féin agus bunaíodh coláistí ullmhúcháin chun mic léinn arbh chainteoirí líofa Gaeilge iad a mhealladh isteach i ngairm na múinteoireachta. On mbliain 1922 ar aghaidh, ábhar éigeantach a bhí sa Ghaeilge chun dul isteach sna coláistí oiliúna agus deindeadh an chuid ba mhó den teagasc sna léachtaí tré mhéan na Gaeilge. Ba dhual do na mic léinn an Ghaeilge a mhúineadh agus iad ar shocrúcháin mhúinteoireachta agus mar a léiríonn na Tuairiscí ar Chleachtadh Múinteoireachta idir 1922 agus 1924, cé gur éirigh le cuid de na mic léinn an teanga a thabhairt leo sách sciobtha, bhí cuid eile ag streachailt agus iad ag iarraidh a gcuid líofachta a fhorbairt.

Lean oiliúnt na múinteoirí in Éirinn ag fás is ag forbairt sna blianta ina dhiaidh sin agus sa lá atá inniu ann tá cursa céime ceithre bliana ar fáil d'ábhair múinteoirí. Ach mar sin féin, in ainneoin na n-athruithe curaclaim agus structúrtha eile ar cuireadh i gcrích ó shin, leantar leis an gcleachtadh múinteoireachta nó 'socrúcháin sna scoileanna' mar a thugtar inniu air mar ghné a bhfuil buntabacht léi ar chlár oiliúna na mbunmhúinteoirí in Éirinn.

First Term 15
to
Christmas '16

Name of Student Kelly Annie
School Henry Street, Limerick – 2 yrs as Monitress 1 yr. Ballingarry P. S Limerick.

Subjects. Diet, Geog., Drill, Reading, Composition, needlework, Arith.
Drawing at Henry St & Mt. St. Vincent Schs. (Infnts. – v)

Criticism. Miss A. Kelly's notes are clearly arranged and well set down. With infants she seems to succeed in stimulating interest and attention; she issues distinct commands and produces fairly good results. In one lesson, however, she did not attend sufficiently to production and to the recognition of new words, but she spent too much time teaching expression. Her Arithmetic lessons were fair; classes orderly and attentive; manner firm; questions rather wordy, but delivered in a clean and emphatic manner; mental tests were to the point; correction well handled. Although at times the teacher's voice is too loud, she is always bright and energetic. Her work in Drawing was fair except that she did not do very much in the time. A fair teacher.

Second term
to Easter

Schools: - Henry Street and Mt. St. Vincent.

Subjects: - Theory, Singing, Writing, Grammar, Kindergarten

Classes: - Infnts – VI.

Criticism

Miss A. Kelly often errs in telling rather than teaching points, this was most marked in a grammar lesson which she gave; this lesson was not thorough as the children's answers in revision were vague and inaccurate. Her manner might have been brighter with higher classes. Illustration used during lessons were fairly good, features intended to stand out were not made prominent enough. In a singing lesson, the teacher's pattern was correct, but here, her actions were not graceful neither were her questions comprehensive. Teacher repeated questions and statement unnecessarily. She was, at all times, very patient with children's mistakes. Discipline good. This teacher is promising.

Third term

Revision :-- Speaks well and looks well. Information imparted rather incorrect and slipshod at times. Still intelligence was frequently shown in difficult circumstances. Very fair teacher

CRITICISM LESSONS

Drawing	I	59%
Science	IV	60%

Final Year.
Sept '17 – July '18

Name of Student Kelly Annie
Schools Henry Street and Mount St. Vincent.

First Term to
Christmas

Subjects: - Composition, Explanation, Reading, Recitation, Grammar, Kindergarten, History, Geography, Drill, Needlework.

Criticism. – Miss Kelly has a good deal of power in keeping children working well. She is painstaking to a fault; sometimes she dallies too long with the dull children, so much so that the brighter members of the class become restless. Vague questions were noticeable in Explanation, History and Geography lessons. In corrections too their teacher was sometimes rather futile, the children were no wiser after them as they were vague, indefinite and ineffective. In the above mentioned lessons the teacher was rather wanting in fluency and ease of expression. Discipline, all through, very good. Her voice is not very pleasant.

Second Term to
Easter

Subjects: - (This student did not return after Christmas.) R.I.P.

Criticism: -

CRITICISM LESSONS

Sept. '18 – July '19
First Term.

Name of Student McQuinn Hanna
School Castleisland, Presentation Convent N. S 3 yrs. Monitress (Infts. – I.).

Subjects: - Composition, Reading, Recitation, Drawing, Arithmetic, Science, Nature Study, Obj. Less.

Schools: - Henry Street and Mount St. Vincent.

Criticism. Miss McQuinn is more intelligent than the average and undoubtedly possesses teaching ability but she requires polish as to manner and voice. She is rough and ready in her methods of presenting facts to her classes and sometimes does not succeed in enlisting their sympathy; so well-prepared lessons do not get the success they merit. She does not seem to understand the workings of the child mind well as yet. She helped too much at times, while again she delayed too long before helping children through their difficulties. Discipline fair.

Second Term

Subjects: - Needlework, Grammar, Kindergarten, Singing, Theory, Writing, History, Geography, Drill.

Schools: - Henry Street and Mount St. Vincent.

Criticism Miss McQuinn has a very attractive teaching manner, her opening statements and questions instantly establish a feeling of good-fellowship between teacher and taught; her very fertile and poetic imagination and her unusual store of acquired knowledge help her wonderfully in the verbal illustrations of her lessons. With apparent effort she usually succeeds in getting most neat and quick work from her classes. Her best work was done with the older classes, there was a certain sternness seen in her manner with Infants. Miss McQuinn was unusually unsuccessful in the Singing lessons which she gave. The average of this Teacher's work is certainly high.

Infnts – VII Third Term

Kindergarten, Grammar, Geography, Drill

Miss McQuinn has a variable capacity for teaching – some subjects very good, others weak. An outstanding fault in all her work is a tendency to talk too much and an inability to make up her mind as to the worth of correction to be adopted.

CRITICISM LESSONS

Kindergarten	I	68%
Singing	II	70%

Final Year.
Sept. '19 – July '20
First Term

Name of Student McQuinn Hanna
School Henry Street and Mount St. Vincent (Infts – VII)

Subjects: - History, Geography, Drill, Needlework, Arithmetic, Grammar, Drawing, Kindergarten.

Miss McQuinn's teaching is nothing, if not natural. She understands, she comes down to their level without 'speaking down' to them. She has a keen appreciation for logical arrangement and sequence and she logically follows out the points of her lessons. She has an excellent grip of her subjects and she knows well the principles which underlie the efficient teaching of them; sometimes it is a pleasure to watch her teaching; when she honestly does her best to educate her classes. She is literary and widely-read. Her treatment of most subjects is original and effective. Her accent becomes at times too pronouncedly provincial. This teacher is most promising. She spares no pains in making her lessons a success.

Second Term to Easter.

Subjects: - Composition, Reading, Recitation, Explanation, Singing and Theory, Science, Nature Study, etc.

Miss McQuinn's preparation in very good. She is earnest and intelligent. She understands the subjects well, she readily sees children's difficulties and easily overcomes them. At times she talks too much and her language is sometimes wanting in precision. In her English teaching she sometimes got long-winded and was not as clear as she could have been. Discipline very good. Miss McQuinn has a habit of frowning and pausing in an uncertain way in during her lessons; this arises from nervousness. A most promising teacher.

Third Term

Subjects: - Revision.

Miss McQuinn is a very good teacher – indeed excellent, in some subjects. She hesitates as if uncertain, at times, but she really is looking for the best way to treat a particular point. This teacher's discipline is excellent.

CRITICISM LESSONS

Sciences	VI	74%
Reading	VI	79%

MARY IMMACULATE TRAINING COLLEGE,

PRACTICE OF TEACHING.

1st. YEAR. Sept '19 - July '20

Name Of Student,
School.

Daly, Catherine
Convent of Mercy, Bantry, Co. Cork,
Monitress, 3 years.
Stds . I , V , VII

First Term To
Xmas.

Subjects : - Science, Nature Study, Object Lessons, Singing and Theory, Arithmetic, Grammar, Kindergarten, Hist., Geog.

Classes: - Infts. - V

Miss Daly is one of the most earnest and hard-working girls in the college. It is a pleasure to work with her, she corresponds so readily with any efforts to correct her. Her manner is naturally a bit stiff and unsympathetic but she makes almost superhuman attempts to be jovial and pleasant with the children. She finds a difficulty in adapting her language to suit to various standards. Her earnestness makes her work too rapidly and hence, emphasis and impressiveness are sacrificed. Her teaching of Singing was poor. As seen from this estimate Miss Daly's work leaves much to be desired but she will improve.

Second Term to
Easter

Subjects : - Composition, Reading, Recitation, Explanation, Needlework, Drawing.

Miss Daly's preparation was good; her manner was sympathetic and encouraging with the children; she does not take sufficient care over details. She told too much as a rule; she did not, in a Needlework lesson, make sufficient use of the diagrams which she introduced - to justify their introduction. She is not insistent enough on the attention of all the members of her class before beginning her lessons. Her methods in teaching Needlework were by no means above criticism - too mechanical and monotonous. Discipline rather good.

Third Term.

Singing, Theory, Writing, Science, Nature, Object Less.

Miss Daly is not a powerful teacher yet - too self-conscious. She experiences a difficulty in grasping the whole of her subjects, hence she does not impart matter well - As she is very earnest, she will improve.

CRITICISM LESSONS.

History	VI	42%
Singing	I	46%

MARY IMMACULATE TRAINING COLLEGE,

PRACTICE OF TEACHING.

2nd. YEAR. 1920 - 1921

First Term To
Xmas.

Arithmetic, Drawing, Grammar, Kindergarten, Needlework, History, Geog., Drill.
All Classes.
Henry Street and Mount St. Vincent

Criticism

Miss Daly is earnest and hard-working but rather constrained and unnatural in her manner. Her lessons do not strike one as being spontaneous. She is not very authoritative in manner; more firmness and energy would improve her work. She is not interesting enough. She is slow at seeing children's difficulties. She demonstrates fairly well, discipline fairly well.
Miss Daly is mediocre.

Second Term to
Easter

Composition, Reading, Recitation, Explanation, Singing, Science, Nature Study, Object Lessons.

Miss Daly is intelligent and earnest. Her manner is bright and animated. Her questions were sometimes very badly-framed and some of her explanations confusing and lame. At times she was not thorough enough and there were many evidences of mechanical treatment. She talks too much and tells what she could get children to find out for themselves. As a rule, she gives too much help - she finds telling the line of least difficulty.
She could preserve better order in her classes. In handling apparatus she is by no means deft enough.

Third Term.

All subjects

Miss Daly does mediocre work, rather pointless and unpolished. She gives one the idea that she is limited and too self-conscious; in explaining and correction she is by no means ready enough.

CRITICISM LESSONS.

Kindergarten	Infts	40%
Science	III	42%

PRACTICE OF TEACHING.

FIRST YEAR.

'22 - '23

Name of Student, Duignan, Elizabeth**School,** Josephian Girls' School, Mountjoy Street, Dublin.

Monitress ---- 3 Years ---- I pII

First Term.

English : - Reading, Recit., Expl., Comp., Hist., Arith., Kindg., Drill.

Miss Duignan is easily the most cultured, literary and artistic student in the set. She is highly intelligent, her reading has been very extensive, she is very refined and lady like; her musical talent is of a very high order. She understands children and she treats them in a most capable way - she is an excellent disciplinarian. Her manner is more suited to older children ; she is not playful enough or conversational enough for those of the Kindergarten age ; She speaks very well - clearly and emphatically. A most promising student.

Litriocht, Stair, Geograiphe, Áireamh, Cindergarten.

Múineadh na Gaoluinne:

Badh an shuimeamhail 'sead é bheith ag féachaint ar an cailín dúchrachtach so ag múineadh na Gaoluinne. Dearfá go raibh sean-eolas aici ar an dteangan, ach níl! Níl si ach ag tosnúgadh. Cuirean sí a croíthe 'san obair agus d'éirigheann an sgéal go maith lef. Bhí a pictiúirí an-mhaith agus do dhein sí úsáid maith as an gclár-dubh cé nach raibh a scríobhnóireacht go deas. Tá an-mhisneach aici agus sár i bhfad beidh sí go maith.

[The teaching of Irish: - Literature, History, Geography, Arithmetic, Kindergarten. It's very interesting to watch this diligent girl teaching Irish. You would think that she was an old hand at teaching the language but she is not! She is only beginning. She puts her heart into the work and she succeeds well. Her pictures were excellent and she made good use of the blackboard even though her penmanship was poor. She has a great whip about her and before long she will be good.]

Second Term.

Subjects: - Grammar, Needlework, Drawing, Singing, Writing, Theory, Science, Nature Study, Object Lessons, Geography, Composition

Miss Duignan displayed great power in the composition of Notes of Lessons ; she produced excellent results without assistance. Children seem to like her clear, well-modulated voice and her Dublin accent. In mechanical lessons, she could have been livelier. She taught Grammar very well. Miss Duignan is undoubtedly very promising.

Third Term.

Subjects: - Gaoluinne, English, Drill, Grammar, Hist., Geog., Arith.,

Miss Duignan is one of the most promising in the set on account of her ability and the splendid grasp of the school subjects. Her manner is a little stiff and staid.

Average Mark

74%

CRITICISM LESSONS

Singing	VII	41%
Eng Comp	VI	56%

PRACTICE OF TEACHING.

SECOND YEAR.

'23 - '24

Name of Student, Duignan, Elizabeth**School,** George Street and Mount St. Vincent All classes.

First Term.

English (History, Reading, Recitation, Explanation) Arithmetic. Gaoluinn, Litriocht, Áireamh, Cindergarten, Stáir, Geograph, Drill)

[Irish, Literature, Arithmetic, Kindergarten, History, Geography, Drill]

Miss Duignan prepares her work excellently ; she is intelligent and well-read. Her voice is low, pleasant in quality- but there is not enough of variety in her way of speaking. Her manner is very kind and firm but too placid sometimes ; with little children, she is not playful enough. As a teacher of literary subjects she is very good indeed; she has a splendid grip of the theory of Methods. A most promising teacher

Leis na páistibh is óige, is truagh nach bhfuil a thuilleadh Gaoluinne aici, mar bíonn sí i gcruadh gcás go minic ag iarraidh snaidhm do réidhteacht agus gan an chainnt aici. Níl sí lag ar aon chuma; go deimhin is mór a radh é an iarracht tugann sí. Tá foidhne aici com (sic) maith le h-intealacht agus meabhair agus déarfainn go mbeidh an buadh aici ar an dteangain sár i bhfad.

[With the younger children, it is a pity she hasn't more Irish as she is often in a bind trying to solve a problem when she doesn't have fluency in the language. She is not at all weak; in fact she makes a great effort. She is also patient, intelligent, and able, and I think that she will succeed with the language soon.]

Second Term.

Singing and Theory, Geography, Drawing, Needlework, English Grammar and Composition, Science, Nature Study etc.

Miss Duignan's teaching of Singing was particularly good, she has an excellent grip of the subjects and she teaches it with enthusiasm and refinement. It is evident in her treatment of all the above subjects that she is an exceptionally capable intelligent girl; naturally, as she is a novice, there were mistakes in her work but the average value of her teaching was remarkably high for one so young. Miss Duignan will be an asset to any National School in the country.

Third Term.

Revision

Few students in this set have the mind, culture, the knowledge, the taste, and the moral influence, of this student. She is musical, literary and withal practical. All agree that her work in detail and in general was excellent. Her improvement in Irish was remarkable.

An Marc**Meadhonaic**

83%

CRITICISM LESSONS-

1. Algebra VII 75%
2. Science VI 80%



Diary of the 'Siege of Limerick', July 1922,
by Sr Frances McGrath

Dialann 'Léigear Luimnigh', Iúil 1922,
leis an tSr Frances Nic Craith

Diary of the ‘Siege of Limerick’, July 1922, by Sr Frances McGrath¹

Marian Fogarty

The Irish Civil War, 1922-1923, was a conflict waged between two opposing groups of nationalists, the force of the new Irish Free State who supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the Republican opposition for whom the Treaty represented a betrayal of the Irish Republic.

As the Civil War began, the IRA held the military advantage over the Free State Army, having superior numbers outside Dublin with a total fighting strength throughout Ireland of approximately 12,900 volunteers and armed with 6,780 rifles. In addition, the Republicans had almost complete control of Munster and most of the west coast, where each IRA unit was deeply connected with the local area and its people, benefiting from all the military advantages this entailed. By contrast, the pro-Treaty provisional government’s National Army consisted of 8,000 men confined largely to the Dublin area and the midlands, but it held the advantage in terms of weaponry and British support.

On 13 April 1922, the anti-Treaty IRA commandeered some buildings in Dublin including the Four Courts. This was a direct challenge to the authority of the provisional Government, but Michael Collins and the Free State leaders ignored it. The outbreak of war came about with the assassination of Sir Henry Wilson in London by the IRA. The British Government informed Michael Collins that they could no longer tolerate the occupation of the Four Courts by the anti-Treaty IRA. This led Collins to order an attack on the Four Courts by the National Army on 28 June 1922; the first shots in the Civil War.

On 29 June, Liam Lynch established anti-Treaty IRA headquarters in New Barracks, Limerick. At the start of July, Lynch, Liam Deasy (1st Southern Division), and Sean Moylan (North Cork Brigade) commanded 700 men in the city. They faced 400 National Army troops, drawn from the 1st Western and 4th Southern Divisions under Michael Brennan and Donnchadh O’Hannigan respectively. Limerick City was regarded as a key military position as its position spanning the Shannon meant it linked Munster and the west coast.

Fighting in Limerick broke out on 7 July, but was temporarily halted when Liam Lynch agreed a truce with Brennan. Both sides busied themselves building barricades on the street. On 11 July, while building a barricade on Nelson Street, a Free State soldier was fatally wounded by a sniper’s bullet and fighting broke out throughout the city.

The battle got underway in earnest when National Army reinforcements arrived from Dublin. On 15 July, they made assaults on both the Strand and Castle Barracks, resulting in six dead and more wounded. In urban fighting, however, artillery was the decisive weapon, knocking down walls that bullets could not breach and reducing otherwise impregnable strongholds to heaps of rubble. The National Army had this weapon and the Republicans did not, a fact that essentially decided the conventional phase of the Irish Civil War.

On 17 July, Eoin O’Duffy (by now a National Army general) arrived in Limerick with 150 reinforcements, three armoured cars, and a field gun. The walls of Strand Barracks were breached. Republican attempts to come to the aid of Strand Barracks by advancing down O’Connell Street were caught in a crossfire of National Army machine guns, killing at least five of them and wounding many more. A final assault was led by a small squad of twelve National Army soldiers with grenades. Two of the attackers were cut down by Thompson machine guns and the attack stalled, but it convinced the Republican commander that it was time to surrender the Barracks. After the surrender of Strand Barracks, the Republican position in Limerick collapsed very quickly. Liam Lynch had already left the city, moving his headquarters south to Clonmel. Castle Barracks were evacuated after coming under artillery fire and subsequently set alight by the Republicans, who retreated to the south. O’Duffy’s troops, amidst clouds of black smoke from burning buildings, were left in possession of the City.

Dialann ‘Léigear Luimnigh’, Iúil 1922, leis an tSr Frances Nic Craith¹

Marian Fogarty

Coimhlint idir dhá ghrúpa de náisiúnóirí a chuaigh in éadan a chéile a bhí i gCogadh na gCarad in Éirinn 1922-1923. Thacaigh grúpa amháin, arm an tSaorstáit nua, leis an gConradh Angla-Éireannach. Bhí an grúpa eile, na Poblachtánaigh, go mór i gcoinne an Chonartha toisc gur fealladh a bhí ann ar Phoblacht na hÉireann, dar leo.

Nuair a thosaigh an cogadh, bhí buntáiste míleata ag an IRA ar Arm an tSaorstáit mar go raibh níos mó saighdiúirí acu lasmuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus líon iomlán de 12,900 óglach ar fud na hÉireann agus iad armtha le 6,780 raidhfíil. Ina theannta sin, bhí smacht beagnach iomlán ag na Poblachtánaigh ar Chúige Mumhan agus ar an gcuid ba mhó de chósta an iarthair, áit ar bhain said leas míleata as na dlúth-nascanna a bhí ag gach aonad den IRA le muintir na háite agus as an gcur amach a bhí acu ar an gceantar. A mhálairt ar fad a bhí cás Arm Náisiúnta an rialtais shealadaigh a raibh 8,000 saighdiúirí acu srianta cuid mhaith do cheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath agus lár na tíre, cé go raibh buntáiste acu ó thaobh lón cogaidh de agus freisin, tacaíocht ón mBreatain.

Ar an 13ú Aibreán, 1922, ghlac an IRA a bhí i gcoinne an Chonartha seilbh ar roinnt foirgneamh i mBaile Átha Cliath, na Ceithre Chúirt san áireamh. Dushlán díreach a bhí anseo d’údarás an Rialtais shealadaigh ach rinne Mícheál Ó Coileáin agus ceannairí eile an tSaorstáit neamhshuim de. Ach rinne an IRA feallmharú ar an Ridire Henry Wilson i Londain agus ba é an t-eachtra seo ba chúis le briseadh amach an chogaidh. Chuir Rialtas na Breataine in iúl do Mícheál Ó Coileáin nach bhféadfaidís cur suas níos mó le ceannas an IRA a bhí i gcoinne an Chonartha ar na Ceithre Chúirt. D’ordaigh Ó Coileáin don Arm Náisiúnta na Ceithre Chúirt a ionsaí dá bharr agus ionsaíodh é ar an 28ú Meitheamh, 1922 – na céad urchair a scaoileadh i gCogadh na gCarad.

Ar an 29ú Meitheamh, bhunaigh Liam Ó Loinsigh ceanncheathrú an IRA a bhí i gcoinne an Chonartha, sa Bheairic Nua i Luimneach. Ag tús mhí Iúil bhí Ó Loinsigh, Liam Déiseach (1ú Rannán an Deiscirt) agus Seán Ó Maoláin (Briogáid Chorcaigh Thuaidh) i gceannas ar 700 fear sa chathair. Ina gcoinne, bhí 400 saighdiúirí ón Arm Náisiúnta a tarraingíodh ó 1ú Rannán an Iarthair faoi cheannas Mícheál Ó Braonáin agus ó 4ú Rannán an Deiscirt faoi cheannas Dhonnchadha Ó hAnnagáin. Breathnaíodh ar chathair Luimnigh mar shuíomh straitéiseach míleata toisc go bhfuil an chathair lonnaithe ar abhainn na Sionainne agus í ag nascadh Cúige Mumhan le cósta an iarthair dá bharr.

Bhris troid amach i Luimneach ar an 7ú Iúil ach cuireadh cosc leis go sealadach nuair a d’fhógair Liam Ó Loinsigh sos cogaidh le Ó Braonáin. Bhí an dá thaobh ansin gafa le tógáil baracáidí sna sráideanna. Agus baracáid á thógáil ar 11ú Iúil ar Shráid Nelson, scaoil naoscaire le saighdiúirí an tSaorstáit agus maraíodh an saighdiúir. Bhris troid amach ar fud na cathrach.

Géaraíodh ar an gcath go mór nuair a tháinig trúpaí treisithe don Arm Náisiúnta ó Bhaile Átha Cliath. Ar an 15ú Iúil, d’ionsaigh na trúpaí Beairicí na Trá agus an Chaisleáin, rud a d’fhág 6 marbh agus tuilleadh gortaithe. Ba é an t-airtléire throm a rinne difríocht shuntasach sa chomhrac uirbeach toisc go raibh sé in ann ballaí a leagan nach raibh na hurchair in ann bearna a dhéanamh iontu, agus smionagair a dhéanamh de dhúnta a bhíodh do-ghafa. Ní raibh fáil ag na Poblachtánaigh ar an ngléas cogaidh seo a raibh greim ag an Arm Náisiúnta air, rud a chuir deireadh nach mór leis an gcéim seo - an ghnáth-chomhrac - de Chogadh na gCarad.

Ar an 17ú Iúil, shroich Eoin Ó Dufaigh (a bhí ina ghinearál san Arm Náisiúnta faoi seo) Luimneach maraon le 150 trúpaí treisithe, thrí charr armútha agus gunna mór machaire. Rinneadh bearna i mballaí Bheairic na Trá. Rinne na Poblachtánaigh iarrachtaí teacht i gcabhair ar Bheairic na Trá tré ghluaiseacht chun tosaigh síos Sráid Uí Chonaill ach gabhadh i lár an achrainn iad ag meaisínghunnaí an Airm Náisiúnta. Maraíodh ar a laghad cúigear díobh agus gortaíodh go leor eile. Rinne scuaid beag de dhá shaighdiúir déag on Arm Náisiúnta agus iad armtha le gránáidí, ionsaí deireannach. Maraíodh beirt le meaisínghunna Thompson agus cuireadh cosc leis an ionsaí ach chuir sí ina

The Republican stand in Limerick was a foretaste of how they would fare in the war's conventional phase. They had failed to co-ordinate their forces while they had advantage in numbers, and when faced with larger forces supported by artillery and armour had rapidly abandoned their positions.

Sr Frances McGrath's diary of the so-called 'Siege of Limerick' as experienced from Mary Immaculate College was published in 1938 in *Lady of Mercy, St. Mary's Limerick, 1838-1939*. This book, published by the *Limerick Leader*, recorded the progress made by the Sisters of Mercy since Mother M. Catherine McAuley founded St. Mary's Convent in 1838. It gave an account of all the Branch houses of the Sisters of Mercy in Limerick.

The diary gives us an idea of what those present in the college (and also the citizens of Limerick more generally) endured during this time of warfare. The fear and apprehension of being shot or injured is clearly shown. Ordinary people seeking shelter were turned away from Mary Immaculate College, and went to Mungret College for safety instead. As it turned out, the former was caught in crossfire and one nun injured by a stray bullet. These could have been fired from New Barracks, or from Russell Mills, which the IRA held, or from the dockland area where fighting also occurred.

luí ar an gceannasaí Poblachtánach go raibh sé in am an Bheairic a thabhairt suas. Taréis Beairic na Trá a thabhairt suas, thit suíomh na bPoblachtánach i Luimneach as a chéile go tapaidh. Bhí Liam Ó Loinsigh taréis an chathair a thréigint cheana féin agus a cheanncheathrú a bhogadh ó dheas go Cluain Meala. Taréis don Arm scaoileadh le Beairic an Chaisleáin le hairtléire throm, bhog na Poblachtánaigh amach as agus chuir siad trí thine é agus iad ag cúlú ó dheas. Fágadh trúpaí Uí Dhufaigh i seilbh na cathrach agus í plúchta le deatach dubh ó na foirgnimh go léir a bhí loiscthe.

Blaiseadh beag a bhí in eachtra Luimnigh den chaoi a n-éireadh leis na Poblachtánaigh i gcéim ghnáth-chomhraice an chogaidh fré chéile. Cé go raibh buntáiste acu ó thaobh líon saighdiúirí de, níor éirigh leo a gcuid fórsaí a chomheagrú, agus nuair a thug said aghaidh ar fhórsaí treisithe a raibh airtléire agus gléasanna cogaidh armúrtha acu, thréig said a gcuid suíomhanna go tapaidh.

Foilsíodh dialann 'Léigear Luimnigh' mar a thugtar air, feicthe ó Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál, leis an Siúir Frances Nic Craith don chéad uair sa leabhar *Bantiarna na Trócaire, Clochar Naomh Mhuire, Luimneach 1838-1939*. Deineadh cur síos sa leabhar ar an dul chun cinn a bhí déanta ag Siúracha na Trócaire ó bhunaigh an Mháthair M. Cáit Nic Amhlaoibh Clochar Naomh Mhuire sa bhliain 1838. Thug sé cuntas ar chraobhacha uile Siúracha na Trócaire i Luimneach.

Tugann an dialann léargas dúinn ar an méid a d'fhulaing siad siúd a bhí lonnaithe sa choláiste (agus freisin, saoránaigh Luimnigh fré chéile), le linn aimsir na cogaíochta. Léirítear go soiléir an eagla agus an fhaitíos ar bhí dhaoine go scaoilfí leo nó go ngortófaí iad. Cuireadh ó dhoras daoine a bhí ag lorg tearmainn agus bhí orthu aghaidh a thabhairt ar Choláiste Mhungairit dá bharr. Bhí Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál i lár an achrainn mar a tharla sé, agus gortaíodh bean rialta amháin nuair a bhuaíl píléar fánach í. Seans gur scaoileadh an píléar ón mBeairic Nua, nó ó Mhuileann Uí Ruiséil a bhí faoi cheannas an IRA, nó fiú ó cheantar na ndúgaí, áit a raibh comhrac ar siúl chomh maith.

¹ See note 29 in Catherine Daly's memoir of Mary Immaculate College, 1919–1921 above.

¹ Féach nóta 29 i gcuimhní cinn Catherine Daly de Colaiste Muire gan Smál, 1919–1921 thuas.

“THE 21 DAYS SIEGE OF LIMERICK”

1st to 21st JULY, 1922.

Friday, June 30th.

The students write the paper set for the conclusion of their four weeks' Irish Course.¹ The usual packing on the eve of departure begins after dinner. Suddenly the news goes round that, owing to the disturbance all over the country, there is danger of the trains ceasing to run, and all who can travel that evening are advised to do so.

Result—immense excitement—in an hour or two only forty of the hundred students are still in the college. The scene of bustle, etc., indescribable.

Saturday, July 1st.

Those of the remaining students bound for the West, succeed in getting a train. About half a dozen for other districts are unable to get away.

Sunday, July 2nd.

Students reduced to four: two for Dublin and two for the midlands very disconcerted at inability to get away, as the nuns for the “Irish Course” are to occupy the college next day.

Monday, July 3rd.

The four students set out for their destination on a small barge, with a prospect of three days' travel on same, their trunks to act as seating accommodation—“Necessity has no law.”

The Sisters for the “Irish Course” begin to pour in about noon. Non-arrival of those from Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale, the means of travelling being unavailable.

Tuesday, July 4th.

Owing to stoppage of trains, the official appointments of Professors are not forthcoming. The morning class of each grade is conducted by a Sister, so that no time is lost. In the afternoon the professors, who applied to the Board for appointment, decide to begin teaching on their own responsibility.

The missing country Sisters arrive.

July 5th to 10th.

The study of Irish proceeds with great zeal, the Sisters being so absorbed in it give little thought to outside events, though now and then a few shots are heard.

July 11th.

Great excitement aroused by a visit of two Aldermen who state that, in view of impending events, the college may be required as a refuge for the citizens, and that the nuns must be ready to vacate it at eight hours' warning. Between 10 and 11 o'clock, p.m., knocking is heard at the outside gate. Several “citizens” who have brought beds, etc., with them, apply for admission. Circumstances do not allow of this, so they go to Mungret College.

July 12th.

Classes conducted as usual. The professor of the elementary grade appears rather nervous. She recommends the Sisters to move back their desks, so as not to be in a line with the windows, as hostilities are expected to begin that evening. The Sisters, half-laughingly, comply. Suddenly, a shot rings out, and a bullet crashes through one of the plate glass windows. All jump to their feet. The professor rushes from the platform; some of the

class prostrate on the floor, and finally all find themselves in a “shell-shocked” condition on the corridor. When recovered from the shock, their zeal for the language causes them to resume operations in a safer zone on the lower flat. Dinner and recreation as usual, and then Office. Just as the “Benedictus” is being recited, a sharp report is heard; a bullet whistles through the air and a voice cries out “I'm struck”; one of our Sisters is the victim. She falls on her knees, believing herself dying (as blood is flowing freely) and commends herself to the Lord.²

Some of the Sisters gather round her, and one (at risk of her life) flies to the lodge, to send a messenger for priest and doctor, and determines to go herself with a companion if no messenger is found. As the lodge keeper opens the gate, a priest, with another gentleman, happens to be passing. He sends the latter for the doctor, and comes himself to the patient, who is by this time in the sacristy. Soon after, a Redemptorist Father is also on the scene, and a doctor, with some members of the “Red Cross Department” arrives.³ These do all that is needed for the poor sufferer. Willing hands prepare a bed in an adjoining room. Later, the Sisters are much relieved to hear that her state is not so serious as was feared at first. Meanwhile, they take refuge round the walls of the chapel, not knowing when another shot may come to claim a fresh victim, and the alarm is all the greater since they know not how the bullet entered the chapel, as no window is broken. The doctor puts an end to this painful uncertainty by tracing the course of the bullet through the oak door on the corridor outside the chapel, in which the aperture made by its passage is to be seen. When the supper bell rings, what a joyful surprise to find that the lowest corridor (a safe spot) has been transformed into a refectory! The remainder of the evening is spent in arranging “dug-outs” for the night, as each is left to select her own. Anxious faces peer into dormitories, looking for safe corners, which are decided on and again disregarded, as some loop-hole for a bullet is noticed; mattresses are borne hither and thither—the windows being barricaded by some of them, and those used for sleeping purposes are removed from the beds to the floor. The idea that “unity is strength” prevails, as one cell has its floor lined with nine mattresses, so that careful navigation is needed for each intending sleeper to reach hers; and when the hour of repose comes, the would-be slumberers lie down in day attire, ready for pending emergencies.

July 13th.

Too unnerved to engage in study; the day is spent in barricading; forms are placed round chapel walls and the benches vacated. About mid-day a bullet shoots through the roof of the kitchen. The victim of yesterday is removed to St. John's Hospital in a motor; relics and Sacred Heart badges are hung up on all sides.

July 14th.

Fresh alarm at finding a bullet has penetrated a music-room during the night; the day is spent as yesterday; constant alarm from shots.

July 15th.

The “Siege of Limerick” continues. Chaplain unable to come for Mass, owing to the heavy firing. Great anxiety all day. Rev. Dr. Clune, Killaloe Diocese,⁴ calls towards evening and offers to conduct an Irish Class till the ordinary professor can resume. Same ceremony as regards “dug-outs.” Windows all over the college left unhasped fearing a “mine explosion.”

July 15th to 20th.

Siege continues; almost every day marked by entrance of a bullet, sometimes two. Nervous strain very high, and scarcely any sleep possible. All the same, the Irish Course valiantly continues, two of the three professors being able to attend, and Rev. Dr. Clune takes the senior class for an hour each evening. On the 16th a Free State officer calls to advise the Sisters not to sleep at north side of the college. Fresh consternation and some removals to new

“dug-outs.” Strange apparitions at bed-time, restless spirits wandering about with pillow round head by way of protection from stray bullets!!

July 20th.

Alarming rumours of arrival of “big guns.” Great operations expected to take place during the night; at 1 a.m. the sky is lit up with flames; some of the Sisters rise and say the “Rosary” aloud, others hear the prayers and conclude a Sister has been shot; others imagine the college on fire and that men are coming up stairs. Meanwhile, in the upper flats, figures glide about peering out of windows at the awful flames which seem to light the sky. At length a great tramping is heard, which turns out to be the marching of the Republicans, who are obliged to vacate their headquarters, the New Barracks.⁵

July 21st.

The New Barracks, a smoking ruin, plainly visible from upper dormitories. A little later news of the awful night’s work comes in. The Republicans all over the city, when shelled by the “big guns,” had fled from the barracks setting them on fire before leaving; bringing the “twenty-one days’ siege” to an end.

The dreaded explosion of the mines is averted by a brave priest who, at risk of his life, cuts the fuse before the fire has time to reach the mines.⁶

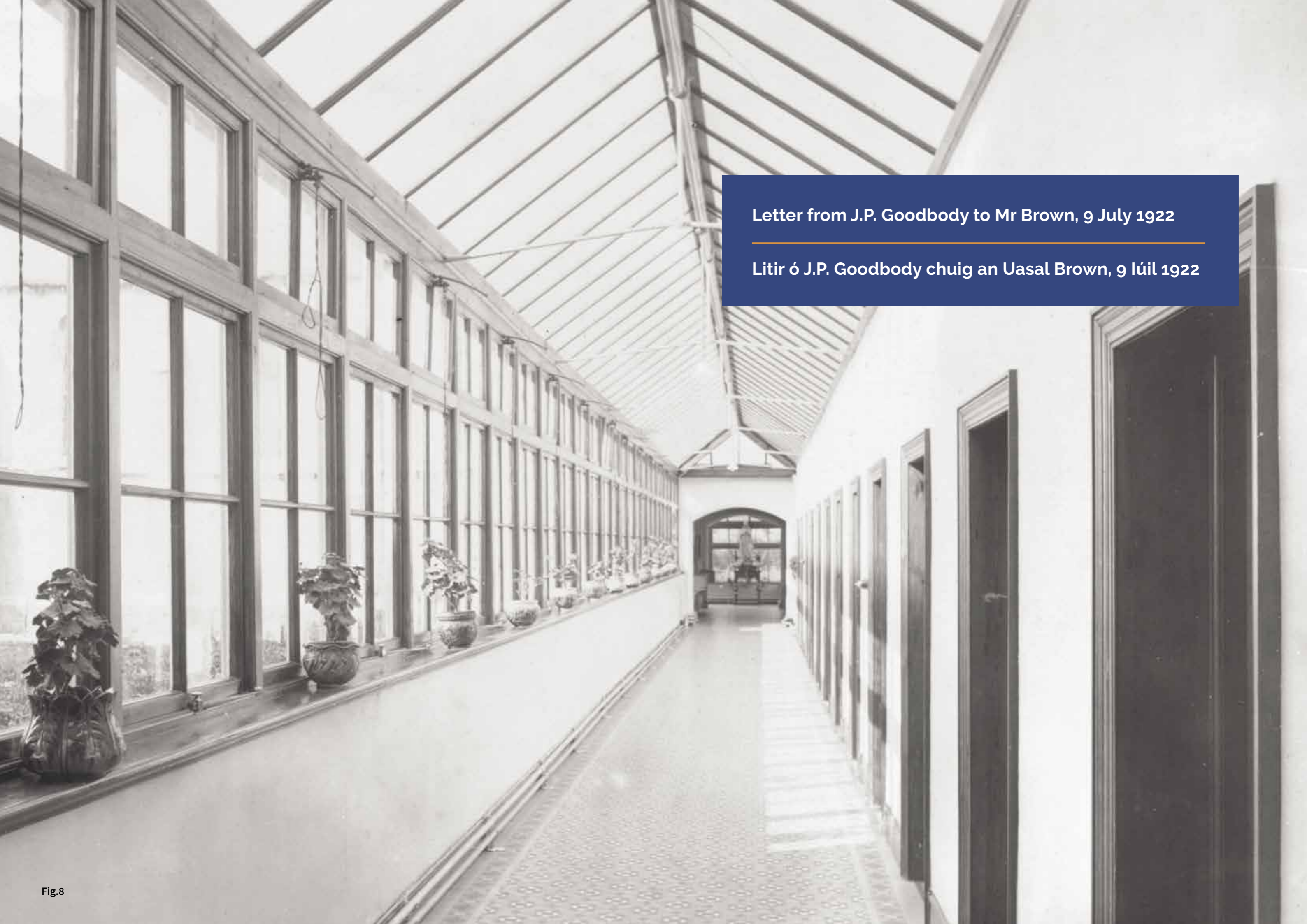
Fervent thanksgiving in every heart to Our Blessed Lady of Limerick,⁷ whose picture had been brought into the “choir” at the beginning of the disturbances, and in whose honour daily prayers for the safety of the city were recited.

Notes

- 1 This was the first of successive Irish courses for religious held in Mary Immaculate College in the summer months. The Irish course and examination was set out by the Education Board, predecessor of An Roinn Oideachais.
- 2 Sr Margaret Mary Mitchell of the Mount Convent was the sister injured by the bullet.
- 3 This is likely a reference to members from the Red Cross Field Hospital located near Strand Barracks. The Redemptorists (known collectively as ‘the Fathers’) are located further down South Circular Road, a short distance from the college.
- 4 Dr George Clune (Seoirse MacCluain) (1894-1949) was an Irish Language scholar. He was from Scariff, Co. Clare. He was ordained in 1917 and taught Irish in St. Flannan’s College, Ennis. He also spent time in different parishes in the Diocese of Killaloe. Dr Clune wrote many Irish books, the most significant was *Canúint an Chláir* (1939).
- 5 New Barracks was on Edward Street and could be seen from the upper floor of the College.
- 6 Anti-Treaty forces mined barricades in the city with explosives. It is not clear where the mines referred to here were located, or the identity of the priest who diffused them.
- 7 ‘Our Lady of Limerick’ is a statue that had been gifted to the city in the 1640s and, having been buried for safe keeping in 1651 during the ‘second’ siege of Limerick, has been in the care of the Dominican Order since it was unearthed the 18th century.



Fig.7



Letter from J.P. Goodbody to Mr Brown, 9 July 1922

Litir ó J.P. Goodbody chuig an Uasal Brown, 9 Iúil 1922

Letter from J.P. Goodbody to Mr Brown, 9 July 1922

Paul O'Brien

James Perry Goodbody (22 March 1877–21 March 1952) was an Irish businessman and politician. He lived at Summerville House, Long Avenue, Limerick, the house having been home to successive generations of Quaker families engaged in the flour milling industry.

The Goodbodys controlled significant interests in the sector. Their principal mill, M. J. and L. Goodbody, was in Clara, Co. Offaly. From 1894 the family also operated the largest flour-milling business in Ireland, the Limerick-based Bannatyne & Sons, until it was taken over by the British conglomerate Ranks in 1930. Several other business interests included a tobacco factory and the directorships of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company. The family held considerable landed property in Athenry, Co. Galway.

From 1922 to 1928, James Perry Goodbody was an independent member of Seanad Éireann, having been nominated by the President of the Executive Council, W.T. Cosgrave. Goodbody was one of thirty nominees to the new Seanad, and one of three Quakers nominated by Cosgrave. Goodbody did not contest the 1928 Seanad election. After his death in 1952, Summerville House was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy. An account of the sale of the house notes that:

It was sold for £10,000. The sale agreement noted that ‘Mrs. [Jane] Goodbody will require two or three months [to vacate], but Mr. Philip Goodbody will give his dates soon. The possession of two cottages on the Summerville property will be required, these being occupied by workmen as follows - Front Lodge, Summerville, J. Ward, and one house in the Courtbrack land occupied by J. Fitzgibbon; the other houses being let to tenants, five in all.’

From 1953 it provided accommodation for various groups of students, including students attending the Mount St. Vincent secondary school and student sisters attending Mary Immaculate College, and also class and office facilities. In 1996 the house was vacated by the Sisters of Mercy and became part of the campus of Mary Immaculate College.

In *Passing on the torch*, a history of MIC published on its centenary in 1998, Sr Loreto O'Connor describes the relationship between the college and their neighbours:

The Goodbodys, living on the other side of the boundary wall from the College playing field, became part of the College lore. Through the years, students, being students, frequently succumbed to the temptation of looking over the wall, viewing the flower and fruit gardens and, on a lucky day, enjoying a glimpse of the elegant ladies strolling along the paths. Heads disappeared so promptly at any sign of being seen from the other side that no protest was reported. However, protests on other grounds did reach the principal's desk. Although the College and Goodbodys were near neighbours, the only communication between them were notes of complaint, delivered at frequent intervals, to the College principal, reporting disturbances caused by the loud cheering of students at games.

The typed, five-page letter documents a journey undertaken by Goodbody in July 1922 as he travelled from Athenry to Limerick via Galway city. It was circulated among family and friends, a copy ending up in the possession of the Glynn family of Kilrush, Co. Clare, large flour millers and business acquaintances of the Goodbody family.

Litr ó J.P. Goodbody chuig an Uasal Brown, 9 Iúil 1922

Paul O'Brien

Fear gnó agus polaiteoir Éireannach ab ea James Perry Goodbody (22 Márta 1877- 21 Márta 1952). Bhí cónaí air i dTeach an Ghrianáin, An Ascaill Fhada, Luimneach, teach a raibh gaol fada aige le glúnta de theaghlaigh a bhain le Cumann na gCarad agus a bhíodh ag plé le tionscail na muilteoireachta plúir.

Lucht leasa clúiteacha a bhí i muintir Goodbody in earnáil na muilteoireachta. Bhí an príomh-mhuileann a bhí acu, M. J. and L. Goodbody, lonnaithe sa Chlárach, Co. Uíbh Fhailí. Ón mbliain 1894 ar aghaidh, bhí muintir Goodbody i bhfeighil an ghnó ba mhó muilteoireachta plúir in Éirinn, Bannatyne & Sons i Luimneach, agus leanadar leis go dtí gur ghlac an t-ilchumhacht Briotanach Ranks ceannas an ghnó uathu sa bhliain 1930. Bhí leas ghnó acu i monarcha tabac agus bhí Comhlacht an Iaranróid Mhóir Theas agus Thiar faoina stiúthóireacht. Bhí maoin mhór talún acu i mBaile Átha an Rí, Co. Na Gaillimhe.

Idir 1922 agus 1928, bhí James Perry Goodbody ina bhall neamhspleách de Sheanad Éireann taréis dó a bheith ainmnithe chun an tSeanad ag Uachtarán an Chomhairle Feidhmiúcháin, Liam T. Mac Oscair. Bhí Goodbody ar dhuine de thríocha a hainmníodh chun an tSeanad nua agus ar dhuine de thríúr bhall de Chumann na gCarad a d'ainmnigh Mac Oscair. Níor chuir Goodbody isteach ar an gcomórtas don tSeanad i dtoghchán na bliana 1928. Taréis a bháis sa bhliain 1952, cheannaigh Siúiracha na Trócaire Teach an Ghrianáin. Deirtear i gcuntas a scríobhadh faoi dhíolachán an tí:

Díoladh é ar £10,000. Luadh sa chonradh díolacháin ‘go mbeidh dhá nó trí mhí ag teastáil ón mBean [Jane] Goodbody chun fáil réidh [le himeachta], ach go mbeidh an t-Uasal Philip Goodbody ag socrú ar a chuid dátaí imeachta go luath. Tá gá le seilbh a choinneáil ar dhá theachín ar thailte an Ghrianáin toisc go bhfuil beirt fhear oibre ina gcónaí iontu – J. Mac an Bhaire sa Teach Geata Tosaigh, an Grianán, agus J. Mac Giobúin i dteach ar thailte Chúirt Breac; tá na tithe eile ar cíos ag tionóntaí, cúig cinn ar fad.’

Ón mbliain 1953 ar aghaidh, cuireadh lóistín ar fáil sa teach do ghrúpaí éagsúla mac léinn, iad siúd a bhí ag freastal ar an meánscoil i gCnocán Naomh Uinseann chomh maith le mic léinn. Choléiste Mhuire gan Smál a bhí ann mar shiúiracha. Bhí áiseanna oifigí agus ranganna ann freisin. Sa bhliain 1996, bhog Siúiracha na Trócaire amach as an teach agus rinneadh rannóg do champas Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál é.

Sa leabhar *Passing on the Torch*, stair Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál a foilsíodh le linn a ceiliúrtha céad bliain sa bhliain 1998, déanann an tSr Loreto Ní Chonchúir cur síos ar an ngaol a bhí idir lucht an choláiste agus a chuid comharsan:

Ba chuid de sheanchas an Choláiste iad muintir Goodbody a raibh cónaí orthu ar an taobh eile den bhalla teorann a bhí in aice le páirc imeartha an Choláiste. I rith na mblianta fada, bhíodh sé de nós ag na mic léinn, -agus sin agat mic léinn – bheith ag féachaint thar an mballa agus iad meallta ag bláthanna agus torthaí a bhíodh ag fás sna gáirdíní. Corruair, dá mbeadh an t-ádh leo, bhíodh sracfhéachaint le fáil ar na mná galánta agus iad ag spaisteoireacht ar na cosáin, rud ar baineadh an-taitneamh as. D'íslíodh an lucht féachana a gcinn chomh pras sin dá bhfeicfí iad nár deineadh aon ghearán riamh futhu. Mar sin féin, deineadh casaoidí ar chúiseanna eile agus cuireadh faoi bhráid an príomhoide iad. Cé gur chomarsana béal dorais iad muintir Goodbody agus muintir an Choláiste, an t-aon chumarsáid a bhí eatarthu ná nótaí gearán mar gheall ar ghártha molta na mac léinn ag cluichí, torann a chuir as go mór don teaghlach. Cuireadh na nótaí úd go minic chuig príomhoide an Choláiste.

Déanann an litir chlósscríofa, cúig leathanach ar fhaid, cur síos ar thuras a rinne Goodbody i mí Iúil 1922 agus é ag taisteal ó Bhaile Átha an Rí go Luimneach trí chathair na Gaillimhe. Scaipeadh é i measc a chlainne agus a cháirde agus aimsíodh cóip de i seilbh mhuintir Uí Ghloinn as Cill Rois, Co. an Chláir, lucht ghnó agus muilleorí clúiteacha plúir a raibh aithne mhaith ag muintir Goodbody orthu.

Limerick, 9th July, 1922.

Dear Mr. Brown,

Things here have been too hectic during the last week to allow me to write you, but I shall start a letter now, though I don't know how I shall send it, an occasional letter has been running to Rosslare and I have sent letters to be posted in England on chance of their reaching Dublin. My wife¹ is, so far as I know, at the Salt Hill Hotel, but I have heard nothing of her since I left her early on Saturday 1st July. We have had no outside news except an occasional Cork Examiner, and rumours, but I believe the Dublin fighting is over after enormous damage to Sackville Street, I only hope you and my other Dublin friends are alright.

I got through without difficulty on Saturday 1st July via Athenry, after a ten hours journey, part of it in a motor, since then this line has been broken by the blowing up of a bridge north of Ennis. When I got here I found that three of the Barracks were being gradually filled up with Republicans from West Limerick, Kerry and Cork while the Free Staters in a great minority held the centre of the Town.² Sunday the 2nd was quite quiet and both sides started commandeering motor cars and various supplies. (The Republicans tried to get my car but they failed as it refused to leave my yard!!) The Free Staters took three of our motor lorries on Saturday and the Republicans took one, all of which were used later to make barricades three of them are still undamaged but one (a very old one luckily) is smashed.

On Monday things began to get hectic both sides reinforcing and fortifying their positions, commandeering supplies, etc., this latter was done in a business like way by the Free Staters who gave official receipts, but the Republicans simply stole anything they wanted at pistols point, this went on up to Friday increasingly and there was a constant procession of the Republican lorries and cars to their barracks laden with anything from chocolates to furniture, they must have stolen £50,000 worth of goods of all sorts during the week.

On Tuesday the Republicans gave an ultimatum to the Free Staters that unless they vacated their positions by mid-day they would be attacked, but during the morning a Conference was held and an effort made by the Clergy to effect a settlement, this Conference continued meeting till Friday evening and prevented any serious outbreak.³ On Tuesday evening a big contingent of Republicans arrived from Cork on lorries and cars commandeered there (None of Furlongs as they have only "steamers" which are too slow).⁴

The same conditions obtained on Wednesday, but the air got more and more electric and people started leaving the fortified areas for the Country, hundreds clearing out. On Wednesday an irresponsible small boy fired a revolver at a lorry of Free Staters and then the row began. For about two hours there was very heavy rifle and machine gun fire between the Free Staters and one of the Barracks held by the Republicans, but it died down and little damage was done.⁵

On Thursday morning a poster signed by the Mayor appeared, warning people not to loiter in the streets, this put the wind up the town properly, everyone shut up shop and retired home and hardly any one was to be seen except lorry loads of Republicans plundering shops. I got hold of some of our men and told them I would keep the Mills going as long as I could get wheat to them and that it was up to them to do what they could to safeguard the premises for the sake of their jobs, also that, if they were badly damaged it was probably that with the present bad trade and the state of the Country it was probable that it would be a long time before they were reopened again (this I meant as a little preparation for the wages matter later on). They played up well and though the air got more and more electric and ours was the only business functioning in the town and no one to be seen in the streets, the wheat continued to come to the Mill and we continued to carry on till four o'clock when a crowd of Republicans came to the Mill door ordered the men out and we had to shut down, about the same time Russell's men gave notice that they were afraid to change the shift at 10 p.m. so we shut that Mill down too.⁶ I interviewed the "Military Governor" of the Mill and he agreed to allow us to leave four men in who knew the

fire appliances and to keep steam on the boilers. The Mill men were furious at being turned out, but said they would not stop in the Mill with the Republicans even if allowed to do so, we then had to get all our horses about 60, to the docks and rig temporary stables for them and I was afraid of fire in Roche Street, their drivers acted top hole and refused to leave them till we had them all fixed up and fed though many of them had to pass through the danger zone to get home and every ones nerves were jumpy, However, the evening passed off quietly till about 11 p.m. when considerable firing began which lasted for a couple of hours and then died down.

On Friday morning the same tense feeling prevailed but on that evening it was announced that an agreement had been come to, that there would be no fighting, but that the Republicans were to be out of Limerick inside eight days. The Barricades on both sides were drawn aside to permit traffic and on Saturday morning things had resumed a more or less peaceful aspect. The Republicans did not leave the Mill till 4 p.m. Saturday, there is no damage done there so far as I can see, but the place is in a filthy mess, we start up at 6 a.m. tomorrow.

Harry Going was here for an hour between trains on Thursday morning to arrange for Grain supplies, he said everything was quiet there then, and that he was completely out of flour as people were coming to the Mill for it in shoals. The same is happening here and we had quite a big delivery last week even though the Railway would accept no traffic, even for the few Stations that are open, without a written guarantee that the sender would be responsible, this we will not give, and if people want flour they can come and get it with cash in their hands. One of our Canal boats was looted on Thursday while crossing Lough Derg, Major Lefroy⁷ in command, a motor boat put out, chased her and put a prize crew on board and took several tons of flour out of her. The Republicans here have also looted a few tons of stuff, but not much. The Free Staters have been very straight over their supplies, and in some places have taken a good deal of flour from us, have signed receipts for it, and have undertaken its distribution, I fancy the Country is pretty hungry generally, where rail communication is out off as numbers of carts are coming in from very long distances for supplies, the difficulty is that they only take flour and we are getting choked with Offals. We now only give stuff against cash, except of course in selected cases. There have been many amusing incidents during the past few days, but for which the time would have been too harassing for anything.

The looting by the Republicans here has been something awful, and the result is that there is very little in the shops (Grocers particularly) and naturally till they are gone, the shop-keepers will not replenish their stocks nor will Country people bring in their produce. The republicans are now requisitioning live stock and killing their meat in the barracks, but it is rumoured that many of the beasts are slaughtered, and the meat sold by private individuals, this also happened with various articles pinched from the carrying companies, I saw two four-ton lorries taking a miscellaneous collection of goods from an incoming general cargo steamer to the barracks yesterday. I also saw the Viceroy's Crossley limousine (stole at Punchestown and masquerading as a Red Cross car)⁸ going to the Republican barracks stuffed full of cabbages looted from a market garden!

Labour here is furious, their chief point being that Cork, which is functioning as usual, has sent up a crowd of scallywags to ruin Limerick, some of our men offered yesterday morning to get together a crowd of "Hard nails" and throw the Republicans out of the Mill, of course too dangerous a proposition to be assented to.

I know little of the position of our outside stores except that those on the upper Shannon have been occupied by the Free Staters; in other places they must be dealt with by the storemen or district agents as I cannot get in touch. The Lower Shannon places are, I think, nearly all held by Republicans. However, I suppose that eventually the Irish Government must foot the bill.

Road and rail bridges have been blown up generally by both sides, and it will be a long time before transit facilities in this district can be normal. In spite of the present peace I doubt if the trouble is over here yet.

I know nothing of Clara as of course I can't get in touch with them, and wonder what is happening in that district. I only hope they are alright.

I am sending this to you as you are more likely to get it than Clara, but I want you to send it on to my Father⁹ the first chance you get, you will probably get in touch with him before I do, and I know he must be anxious about us here. I am afraid it is a disjointed letter but it has been written at odd times during the day. The past few days have been too harassing to allow one to sit down to write a long letter.

I have heard indirectly from Gerald,¹⁰ who I fancy is trying to get here by long sea from Liverpool, he was away on holidays when the trouble started.

I wonder if you have heard anything of my Wife, I told her to apply to you for advice if in difficulties as I knew you would put her right. I am sorry now that she did not come home with me but I didn't like to chance it at the time as I was afraid I might get stuck somewhere on the way, possibly in the middle of a row. Anyhow, I am sure she is alright at Salt Hill Hotel.

Yours truly,
J.P. Goodbody.

Notes

- 1 Jane Frances Goodbody (1881-1966).
- 2 'Republicans' here refers to the IRA units who opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty, signed in London in December 1921 and passed by the Dáil in January 1922. 'Free Staters' are members of the National Army, formed in early 1922 by the pro-Treaty provisional government.
- 3 On 7 July 1922, pro-Treaty commanders Michael Brennan and Donnchadh O'Hannigan agreed a truce with anti-Treaty IRA leader Liam Lynch, then based in New Barracks. A priest had acted as an intermediary in ongoing discussions. The truce ended on 11 July when pro-Treaty forces attacked anti-Treaty positions.
- 4 This is a reference to Furlong's Flour Mills, Kennedy Quay, Cork.
- 5 The four Limerick barracks, Castle, Ordnance, Strand, and New Barracks were held by anti-Treaty republicans until 20 July 1922.
- 6 Russell Mills was based on the Dock Road, and stretched back as far as Henry Street. John Norris Russell & Co. was one of the largest milling concerns in the south of the country.
- 7 Major Henry Maunsell Lefroy (1861-1935), born in Tipperary, was a retired British army officer.
- 8 Edmund Bernard FitzAlan-Howard, 1st Viscount FitzAlan of Derwent KG KP GCVO DSO PC (1855-1947) was lord lieutenant (or viceroy) from 27 April 1921 to 6 December 1922. Exactly a year after his appointment, FitzAlan's car was stolen by anti-Treaty IRA as he watched the races at Punchestown.
- 9 James Perry Goodbody Snr. (1853-1923).
- 10 Gerald Ernest Goodbody (1874-1941).

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Leabharliosta agus Liosta Léaráidí



Fig.9

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