



County Donegal and the 1916 Rising

Document No. 1

Group of Irish prisoners in Stafford Gaol, England, 1916.

Includes Joseph Sweeney, far left, back row, and Eunan McGinley

(Courtesy of Military Archives)

Exercises

1. From your reading of the education pack booklet chapter on *County Donegal and the 1916 Rising*, why were Joseph Sweeney and Eunan McGinley in Stafford Gaol?
2. Michael Collins is in this photograph. Can you spot him?
3. What did the Irish prisoners do while held in British jails in 1916?
4. When was Sweeney released? What did he do then?
5. Read more about Joseph Sweeney's activities during Easter Week and the War of Independence in his witness statement, see www.militaryarchives.ie.

SERVICE IN OGLAIGH NA h-EIREANN OR IN THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS OR IN THE IRISH CITIZEN ARMY OR IN FIANNA EIREANN OR IN THE HIBERNIAN RIFLES.

For each of the under-mentioned periods in which you claim to have rendered active service, state the name of the unit or units, name and address of the O/C., the names and addresses of three officers at present serving in the Army who can verify your service.

If you are unable to name officers at present serving you may state the names of Members of the Oireachtas, Officers and Men of the Garda Siochana, or of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, or of Peace Commissioners, or Permanent Civil Servants (Active or Retired) whose salary is or was not less than £200 on a scale rising to not less than £300, or Justices of District Courts.

The following circumstances shall not be deemed to constitute a breach in the continuity of service:—

- (a) Absence from duty following arrest, imprisonment, internment, or deportation under the Defence of the Realm Act, 1914, the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, 1920, or any regulations made thereunder;
(b) Absence from duty following arrest, imprisonment, or penal servitude in respect of sedition, treason or treason felony prior to 11th July, 1921;
(c) Absence from duty by reason of duties necessitating such absence undertaken at the instance of or on behalf of the Cabinet of Dail Eireann or on behalf of the Provisional Government from 21st January, 1919, to 1st July, 1922.

If you claim to have been absent from duty under these conditions, give particulars of the circumstances with respect to each such period of absence, and state its duration.

(1). FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1916, to 31ST MARCH, 1917.

(a) Unit or Units: K Coy 4th Batta Dublin Brigade
(b) O/C: Caspar Mac Piarais; Liam Blake

References:—

- NAME: A. M. O'Reilly ADDRESS: ADC 9, ...
NAME: Comdt. Peter Slattery ADDRESS: The Bungalows, K. Line, Lough Conn
NAME: Comdt. J. V. Joyce ADDRESS: 4, H. B. Dublin
NAME: Mr. Seamus Murphy ADDRESS: Town Commissioners, City Hall Dublin

(d) Did you render active service in the week commencing 23rd April, 1916?
Yes in 4 P.O.

(e) Unit or Units: as in (a)
(f) O/C: Caspar Mac Piarais
(g) References:—

- NAME: Comdt. P. Slattery ADDRESS: The Bungalows, K Line, Lough Conn
NAME: Comdt. P. King ADDRESS: Ballinabrook Dublin

(h) Particulars of any Military operations or engagements or services rendered during this period:—

Served during entire week in 4 P.O. - Moore Street Barr. engaged for most part during Reorganized Volunteers - Barrage during August & September 1916.

County Donegal and the 1916 Rising

Document No. 2

**Extract from Joseph Sweeney's Military Pension application form,
in which he recalls his involvement in the 1916 Rising in the GPO, Dublin**

(Courtesy of Military Archives)

Exercises

1. What unit was Joseph Sweeney in during Easter Week?
2. Who were his two O/Cs (Officers Commanding)?
3. What were his main activities during Easter Week and where was he based? To find out more, read his Military Pension application form (www.militaryarchives.ie) and the chapter *County Donegal and the 1916 Rising*.

but never said anything.

On the Saturday of Easter Week, 1916, I was arrested. There was a baby born in the house three days before, and my wife's mother was there. She was up when the police came at about five o'clock in the morning, and she called to me in the next room where I was sleeping with the boys. She said, "I see a lot of police knocking around". I did not want to upset my wife and I had warned her beforehand not to be alarmed if the police came for me, because I had got the tip from the guards on the railway that there were a few arrests in Derry on the Friday, including Joe O'Doherty and the rest. After my wife's mother had warned me about the police, there was a terrific knock at the front door. I remember it was a terribly wet morning. I went to the landing and called down, "You are too early for the train. I'll go down and open the waiting room for you". The D.I. shouted for me to go down at once and I replied, "Wait till I put on my pants". I was in my pyjamas. I had the door locked and they started to throw big boulders at the door. They were not able to open it, but they had all the panels smashed. I took the lock off and opened the door. The D.I. had a revolver drawn and he said, "I arrest you in connection with this Volunteer movement". There were seventeen of them in it. My wife had got out of bed by this time and was coming downstairs, calling on me to go with them, as she thought I was going to resist the police.

During all the earlier commotion my wife was aware that there was a bayonet and a .22 rifle hidden in a wooden chest at the foot of the bed, and she took the bayonet and put it down her nightdress. I told her not to touch the .22, as they knew I had it and had seen me out shooting with

it, and it might stop them from wrecking the house. I was held downstairs. When the Sergeant from Falcarragh went into my wife's room, he got the .22 rifle. There was another wooden chest in the room where my wife kept the baby's clothes, and he asked her was there anything in it. She said to him, "You can search". He just saw baby clothes. When he was half-way down, his face was getting flushed up, and he stopped. At the bottom of the chest were 500 rounds of revolver ammunition, which belonged to McMulty of Cresslough. My wife did not know about this. Underneath the bed where I had slept were a .45 revolver, 300 rounds of ammunition for the revolver, and 350 rounds of .303 ammunition. All this time the police were actually leaning up against a partition behind which I had placed the Lee Enfield.

When Fr. Murray, the Curate, heard about this raid, he called to the house. My wife's mother told him about this box under the bed where I had slept, and he told her to have it opened on the quiet and the revolver and ammunition made up into three or four parcels. She carried out his instructions and the railway porter took charge of the parcels. When the priest came back again in his car some time afterwards, the R.I.C. were still there, so he asked the porter were there any parcels for the Parochial House, and the porter said, "Yes". Father Murray took the parcels away - right under their nose. My wife knew where the rifle was, but was not able to shift it. She sent for a few lads to come and shift the rifle, but they would not look near it. When she felt stronger again, she took the rifle herself and threw it in the river. (Before throwing the barrel in the river, she burnt the butt in the range fire.)

When I was being arrested, I objected to the policemen

County Donegal and the 1916 Rising

Document No. 3

Extract from Daniel Kelly's Witness Statement, in which he recalls his involvement in the 1916 Rising.

(Courtesy of Bureau of Military History, Military Archives)

Exercises

1. From your reading of the education pack booklet chapter on *County Donegal and the 1916 Rising*, why do you think Daniel Kelly was arrested in Easter Week?
2. What was the 'Volunteer movement'?
3. Why did Kelly decide not to hide the rifle when the police arrived?
4. What was hidden in the wooden chest? Did the sergeant from Falcarragh find anything in it?
5. Read more about Daniel Kelly's activities in the War of Independence in his witness statement, see www.militaryarchives.ie



County Donegal and the 1916 Rising

Document No. 4

Photograph of Constable McGee who was killed on Easter Monday 1916 and a photograph of Constable McGee's grave

(Donegal County Museum/Caroline Carr)

Exercises

1. Where was Constable Charles McGee from? Where is he buried?
2. Charles McGee was a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary. What do you think his main duties involved?
3. From your reading of the education pack booklet chapter on *County Donegal and the 1916 Rising*, describe what happened to Constable McGee on Easter Monday.



County Donegal and the 1916 Rising

Document No. 5

Photograph of Irish Volunteers on Easter Sunday morning, 23 April 1916, in the quadrangle of St. Enda's school. Included in the back row (second from left) Conor McGinley; kneeling are Eunan McGinley and Joseph Sweeney (third and fourth from left)

(Photo taken by John Kilgallon. Photograph courtesy of South Dublin Libraries/Éanna de Burca)

Exercises

1. From a study of this photograph, dated 23rd April 1916, and from your reading of the education pack booklet chapter on *County Donegal and the 1916 Rising*, what do you think these men are doing?
2. Why were they in St Enda's?
3. Who owned the school?
4. Where was Joseph Sweeney in Easter Week?

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC.
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN : In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE,

SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,

P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT,

JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

County Donegal and the 1916 Rising

Document No. 6

Proclamation of the Irish Republic

(Oifig Thionscadal Cuimhneacháin 2016 / Ireland 2016 Project Office)

Exercises

1. Who signed the Proclamation?
2. When and from where was the Proclamation read?
3. What does the Proclamation state that the Republic guarantees?
4. What happened to the signatories of the Proclamation after the Rising was over?