

Minutes of the BMS monthly meeting.

Date 4.4.19

1 - Welcome by President Roger Bragger. Three guests welcomed; Chris Mellor-Hill, Len Evans and John Hickman.

2 - Apologies received. M. Atkinson, A. Bostock, C. Burns, J. Carver, M. Harrison, P. McDermott, R. Painter, D. Rees and P. Wilson

3 - Stats : Attendance 23 to include 3 guests, 12 meals, 9 drinks and 1 ONS.

4 - New Members. None

5 - Library requests/Research questions. None

6 - Functions and Visits. Reminder re: Cheadle OMRS meeting this weekend 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

7 - Committee points.

- x2 Committee vacancies – x2 volunteers Su Handford and Chris Newton voted in.

- **Suggestions for topics and offers to give a talk in the new Programme** – a list is being circulated tonight and **in May's meeting** so that your committee can compile the programme for August 2019- July 2020. Thank you.

- Miniconvention Sunday 21.7.19 – Any applications still welcomed/payments to go to John Scott [in my absence for May's meeting] Martin Harrison will be absent till July' meeting. At present 19 attendees are confirmed.

- Miniconvention Raffle prizes – Any offers of raffle prizes welcomed. Please could you let me know if you are able to offer a raffle prize. I have confirmed offers from J Scott, R Bragger, myself.

- Subscriptions due – Treasurer Mark Platt is happy to collect your annual subscriptions tonight and otherwise at your earliest convenience. Thank you in anticipation.

8 - Tonight's talk. 'Easter Rising 1916' by Dave Seeney. Roger Bragger welcomed tonight's speaker to give his talk.

9 - Next meeting date and details: Members' own on 2.5.19.

## 'Easter Rising 1916' by Dave Seeney:

Dave Seeney started by saying his talk would be in five sections, namely, the build-up to the Easter Rising, the Easter Rising 1916, military and civilian awards, killed and wounded statistics and research resources available.

### Build-up to the Easter Rising

The issue of Irish 'Home Rule' had been raised on several occasions since the early 1800's. There were several major events the 19<sup>th</sup> century, namely the Great [potato] Famine of 1845-1849 which led to an estimated one million deaths, significant 'New World' mass emigration from Ireland, the Fenian revolt in Canada of the 1860's [when weapons had been sent to Ireland] and various Irish Republican bombings in London in the later years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

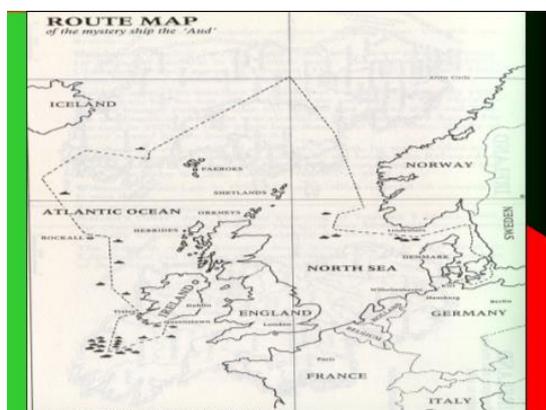
During the Boer War 1899-1902, the issue had been much quieter only to be followed by a resurgence in demand for 'Home Rule' in the run up to WWI.

A photo of Carson's Ulster Volunteers was shown – This was a militia grouping which had been armed with smuggled rifles – Similarly, the Republicans had smuggled in German or Russian weaponry.

An important sympathiser for the Irish Nationalist cause was Sir Roger Casement CMG [ his CMG = Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George awarded in 1905 for anti-slavery work in the Congo ]. Casement believed in a United Ireland.

Casement had spent time in Germany in 1914 and had spoken with the German Ambassador to start an Irish Brigade in the German Army from POWs. They were issued German uniforms but had British Army insignia and badges e.g. chevrons and Irish harp collar badges.

The Republicans had insufficient arms - An arrangement was made to transfer weapons to Ireland using a German naval vessel the 'Aud' which was disguised as a Norwegian vessel. The cargo consisted of 20,000 rifles, 10 machine guns and 1 million rounds ammunition. The 'Aud' travelled to Ireland via a circuitous route. However, British intelligence was aware of the shipment and when this became apparent, the 'Aud' was scuttled in Queenstown harbour, now known as 'Cobh' on the south coast of County Cork.



Above: map of the route of the 'Aud'.

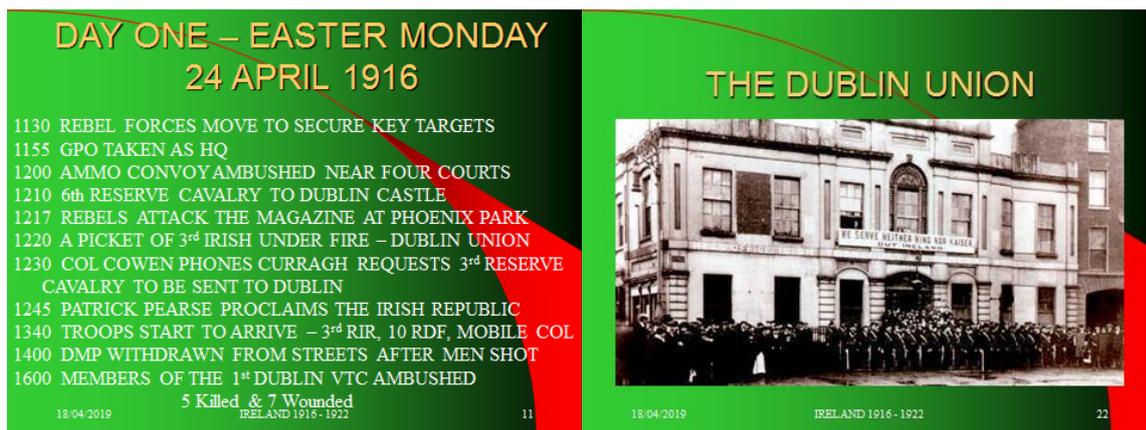
Sir Roger Casement was landed from U19 on 16.4.1916 along with Bailey and Monteith [ a picture of his medals were shown] The deck gun from U19 is to be found as a War Memorial in Bangor, County Down, Northern Ireland.



Above : Deck gun as a War Memorial

### The Easter Rising 1916

Dave Seeney listed key events which started to unfold with the seizing of the GPO [General Post Office] as the Republican HQ . [see slide]



Above left: Timeline of day 1 events – Easter Rising.

Above right: Picture of the ‘Dublin Union’ – note the banner stating ‘We serve neither King nor Kaiser but Ireland’.

Rebels attacked the magazine at Phoenix Park [but found they couldn’t break in as the Officer in Charge [‘OIC’] Lieutenant-Colonel Cowen had gone to the races with the keys..

Of note, the Dublin Metropolitan Police [DMP] were unarmed and the first troops start to arrive at 13.40hrs

First Dublin VTC [Volunteer Training Corps] were attacked with 5 being killed and 7 wounded.

Pictures of the GPO and another from inside the GPO were shown.

The Four Courts were captured with much destruction of documents.

Trinity College was defended by Cadets – It had sizeable stores of 300 rifles, ammunition and food. The Cadet in Charge had locked the gates/doors and posted sentries – the appearances of defensive preparedness made the Republicans think they were too late.

St Stephen's Green – was occupied and trenches dug.

The Countess Makiewicz was second in command. After the uprising, she'd been imprisoned. After WWI, she had been released only to be reimprisoned. During this spell of imprisonment, she'd stood as a Sinn Fein candidate, was elected only to not take her seat in Parliament – a situation seen in the modern era.



Above left: Images of the Countess Makiewicz

Above right: Dublin Castle.

At Dublin Castle, an unarmed policeman was shot and killed – The castle was then secured by its sentries.

Also mentioned was Roland's Mill [an ideal position for snipers], Jacob's biscuit factory and that barricades were set up in the South Dublin Union.

## Day 2



Various reserves arrived along with artillery – British artillery was incompletely effective as the gunners were unable to lift the pavings to reduce their weapons' recoil.

Communications issues – the naval telegraph had to be used to secure communications.

The British had gunboats which patrolled the River Liffey.

### Day 3

## DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL

0400 59<sup>th</sup> NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION – MOVE LIVERPOOL

0830 HELGA II STARTS BOMBARDMENT OF LIBERTY HALL SUPPORTED BY THE 18<sup>pd</sup> ARTILLERY – FOLLOWED BY A BAYONET CHARGE

1215 2/7<sup>th</sup> SHERWOOD FORESTERS ADVANCE TO MOUNT STREET BRIDGE (300+ CAS)

1230 FIRST REBELS SURRENDER AT MENDICITY INST

18/04/2019 IRELAND 1916 - 1922 26

## HELGA



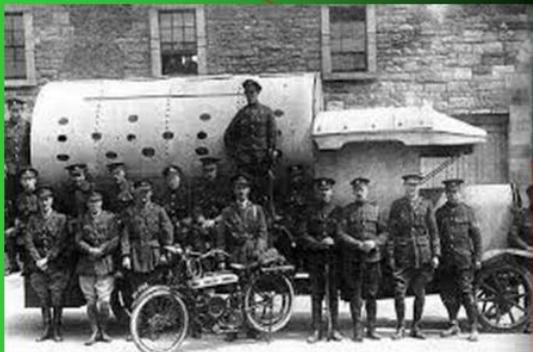
Gun Boat Helga

On the mainland, Reservists were moved to Liverpool.

At 12.15hrs, there were some 300 casualties in the Sherwood Forresters as a result of the repeated attacks led by Officers with drawn swords at Mount Street Bridge.

The first rebels surrendered at 12.30hrs. An improvised armoured troop carrier consisting of a Guinness boiler fitted with loopholes was in use..[Se image below left]

## TROOP CARRIER DUBLIN 1916





Above right; Burning barricades in Dublin.

## Day 4 and Day5

DAY 4 THURSDAY 27 APRIL CITY IN FLAMES	DAY 5 FRIDAY 28 APRIL NOOSE TIGHTENS
0900 - 2/5 & 2/6 BNs SHERWOOD FORRESTERS START STREET CLEARING IN NW OF DUBLIN	0001 - FIRES OUT OF CONTROL
1000 - BRITISH ARTILLERY STARTS SHELLING OF SACKVILLE ST - SOME SHELLS HIT THE IRISH TIMES	0200 - GEN SIR JOHN MAXWEL ARRIVES TO TAKE COMMAND
1200 - 2/5 & 2/6 SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGT PUSH FORWARD TO TRINITY COLLEGE	1000 - 2/4 LINCOLNS - CORDON AROUND De VALERAI
1300 - 2/7 & 2/8th SHEWOOD FORESTERS TO SOUTH DUBLIN UNION - HOUSE TO HOUSE FIGHTING	1005 - 2/5 & 2/6 SOUTH STAFFS FROM TRINITY COLLEGE ADVANCE ON THE FOUR COURTS
18/04/2019 IRELAND 1916-1922 29	1020 - 2/5 & 2/6 FORRESTERS & 3rd RIR CLOSE IN
	1030 - 3rd RIR OCCUPIES GREAT BRITAIN ST
	1900 - EVACUATION OF GPO DUE TO FIRE
	32

Barricades were set ablaze causing bad street fires – Fire Brigade and Police were withdrawn. There was looting and shops were set on fire. A fire started in the ‘Irish Times’ building after the British shelled it.

The South Staffs regiment pushed through to Trinity College by ‘mouseholing’ down a street of houses. General Sir John Maxwell becomes OIC.

As the cordon tightened around the rebels, some POWs were released in front of the lines resulting in friendly fire incidents.

DAY 6 SATURDAY 29 APRIL SURRENDER OF REBEL FORCES	
1100 - 3rd RIR + 100 MEN FROM 2/6th FORRESTERS PREP FOR ATTACK ON GPO	
1245 - PROVISIONAL IRISH GOVERNMENT MAKES CONTACT TO DISCUSS SURRENDER	
1430 - BRIG LOWE MEETS PATRICK PEARSE AT A BRITISH BARRICADE - UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER	
18/04/2019	MICHAEL MALLIN & THE COUNTESS

## Day 6.

Discussion of surrender terms and by 14.30hrs, unconditional surrender was offered at one of the British barricades.

Pictures of Michael Mallin and the Countess were shown [see above right]. The Countess surrendered to her cousin..

Outcomes for the leaders: Eamon De Valerai was imprisoned for his part. He was an American citizen and would later become Premier. Eighteen others were tried at the Old Bailey, found guilty of high treason and executed. Sir Roger Casement was hanged at Pentonville prison. Other Republicans were imprisoned in British jails.

## Military and Civilian awards



### Honours and Awards Military

- 1 x CB – Hon Brig – Gen J A Bryne
- 1 x CMG – Maj & T/Lt Col Cecil Fane
- 9 x DSO
- 10 x MC
- 17 x DCM
- 7 x MM (Two awards to Women)
- 34 x MID



### Honours & awards RIC & DMP

- 8 x King's Police Medals
- 23 x Constabulary Medals for Ireland
- 47 x Certificates of War Stock – RIC
- 47 x Certificates of War Stock – DMP
- 22 x Irish Police Fund Certificates of Merit
- 4 x £140 War Stock Bonds (Discharged RIC)
- 17 x £10/£15 War Stock Bonds (Wounded RIC)
- 175 x War Stock Bonds – Irish Police Committee

## Some other awards

In Dublin, the Bronze medal of the British Fire Prevention Commission was awarded to Captain Purcell of the Fire Brigade.

At Trinity College, Dublin, awards were made to Officers, Cadets, overseas colonial troops and civilians who'd defended the building, in the form of 12 swords [each engraved with the recipient's name] and 138 cups each engraved with 'Defence of Trinity College Dublin Sinn Fein Rebellion 1916'.

Various St John's awards were made for rescuing the wounded in the form of the Order St John's life saving medals in silver and bronze. There was also a St John's gallantry badge as well. As well as receiving an Order of St John life saving medal in silver, one doctor, Dr Ella Webb would receive an MBE award in 1918 for her bravery and contribution in treating the wounded during the Uprising of 1916.

## Casualty statistics:

	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
Officers	17	46		63
ORs	86	311	9	406
RIC/DMP	14	23		37
CIV/ICA ?	180/60	614		794
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1300</b>

(250 Bodies Interred at Glasnevin Cemetery ??)  
 (15 Rebels Executed + Sir Roger Casement)  
 (3,149 Men & 77 Women Arrested)  
 (1,852 Men & 5 Women interred in UK Prisons)

Civilian casualties were high.

Any British army casualties would have received a WWI 'death plaque'.

### Irish medals:

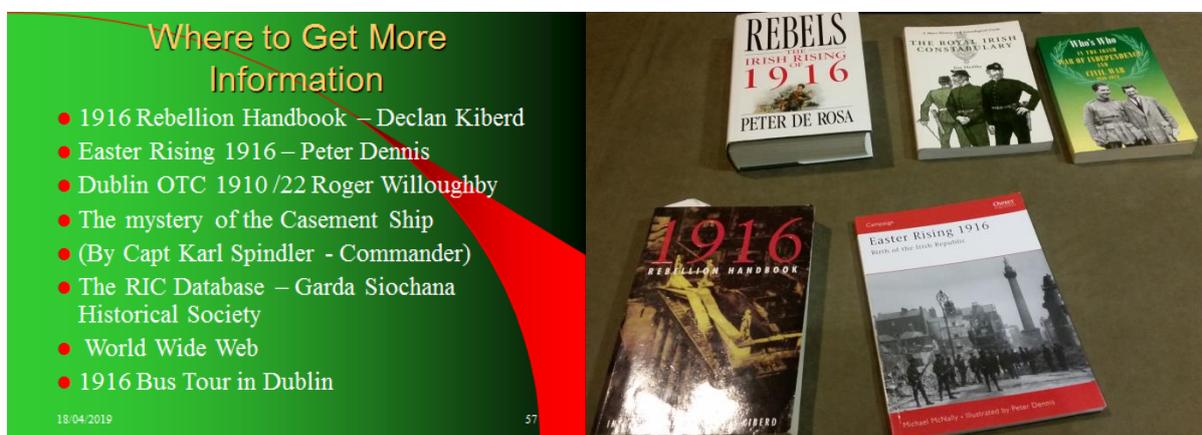


Please note for the 1916 medal – 2711 awards – if KIA, would have had details roughly engraved on the medal.

Some Republicans subsequently enlisted in the British army and would have received their WWI medal entitlements.

### Resources.

Dave Seeney listed his reference materials:



Our next member gave a detailed narration of an unfortunate incident during the Easter Uprising 1916.

The medals were to husband and wife Richard Worsley-Warwick [British Red Cross WWI trio] and his wife Frances Gertrude Worsley -Warwick [OBE and BWM] The infamous incident concerns Richard's brother Basil Henry Worsley Warwick of King Edward's Horse.



Above left : Trio to Richard Worsley-Warwick [BRC] and above right: OBE [Most Excellent Order of the British Empire] and British War medal [BWM] to his wife Frances Gertrude.

The incident occurred at the Guinness brewery near the South Dublin Union workhouse. On Friday, 28.4.1916, a Sergeant Flood and nine men of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers were ordered to occupy the Malt house area of the Guinness brewery. The situation was tense as a Sinn Fein attack was anticipated. Captain Mcnamara's superior, Colonel Williams, had issued orders not to open the brewery windows and not to return fire of snipers unless attempts were made to enter the buildings. At this point, Captain Mcnamara was taken ill at his post and was replaced by Second Lieutenant Algernon Lucas of King Edward's Horse [whom Sgt Flood hadn't met].

An altercation followed when Lucas, stating he was in charge, gives an order to open the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor brewery windows – Sgt Flood suspects that Lucas is a member of Sinn Fein [but in disguise]. A nightwatchman [with lamp] Mr Rice arrives and Flood thinks that Lucas and Rice are trying to signal to the enemy – Flood arrests and executes both of them thinking they are spies and fearing for the lives of his men.

Thirty minutes later, Richard Worsley Warwick's brother Second Lieutenant Basil Henry Worsley-Warwick arrives with another nightwatchman a Mr Docherty to investigate the matter of Mr Rice not returning from his patrol – Sgt Flood and the other Dublin fusiliers issue a challenge and in the subsequent confrontation, Worsley-Warwick and the other nightwatchman Docherty are both killed by rifle fire from the fusiliers. Thus, there were four casualties none of whom were known to have sympathised with the rebel cause.

General Sir John Maxwell issued this statement to the Secretary of War [26.5.1916] in response to the increasing public outrage of civilian deaths during the Easter Rising and what seemed to be a failure to investigate:

‘Allegations on the behaviour of the troops brought to my notice are being most carefully enquired into. I am glad to say they are few in number, and these are not borne out by direct evidence. I wish to emphasise that the responsibility for the loss of life, however it occurred, the destruction of property and other losses, rests entirely with those who engineered this revolt. And, who, at a time when the Empire is engaged in a gigantic struggle, invited the assistance and cooperation of the Germans.’

Worsley-Warwick and Lucas were buried in Dublin Castle grounds but were exhumed in 1963 and moved to Grangegorman Military Cemetery.

Sgt Flood faced a General Court Martial at Richmond barracks for the murders of Lucas and Rice. He was acquitted – He was never tried for the Worsley-Warwick case this outcome being determined by the earlier outcome of the General Court Martial.

Subsequently, Sgt Flood was KIA [killed in action] on the Doiran front in Macedonia 9.5.1917 aged 33 years. He’d been a career soldier having enlisted at age 14yrs in 1899, was awarded a LSGC medal [Long Service and Good Conduct]. His records have no mention of the Court Martial. He is commemorated on the Doiran memorial.

Another member presented a Constabulary Medal [Ireland] which was new to the market. This was a posthumous award to a Police Officer who was killed in the course of his duties whilst trying to apprehend IRA men in 1921. As such events can still evoke marked sensitivities even almost 100 years later, I am not giving any recipient details.



Above: Constabulary Medal [Ireland] - Obverse.

There was a good deal of discussion after each of the presentations which had been keenly followed.

President Roger Bragger closed the meeting at 21.36hrs and gave especial thanks to our main speaker Dave Seeney and all contributors. We look forward to part II!

Typed C Davies.

BMS secretary.

17-18.4.19

My thanks to Dave Seeney for access to and allowing me to reproduce parts of his powerpoint display.