

Na Fianna Éireann 1909 - 2009



Centenary Commemorative Booklet



Members of Na Fianna in the Assembly Field in Sallins, 1940s



Pádraig Pearse

*"We, the Fianna of Fionn never lied,
Falsehood was never attributed to us;
By courage and the strength of our hands.
We used to come out of every difficulty."*

PH PEARSE'S MANIFESTO

"We believe, as every Irish boy whose heart has not been corrupted by foreign influence must believe, that our country ought to be free. We do not see why Ireland should allow England to govern her, either through Englishmen, as at present, or through Irishmen under an appearance of self government.

"We believe that England has no business in this country at all — that Ireland, from the centre to the zenith, belongs to the Irish. Our forefathers believed this and fought for it; Hugh O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Moore and Owen Roe O'Neill; Tone and Emmet and Davis and Mitchel.

"What was true in their time is still true. Nothing that has happened or that will ever happen can alter the truth of it. Ireland belongs to the Irish.

"We believe, then, that it is the duty of Irishmen to struggle always. Never giving in or growing weary, until they have won back their country again..."

Réamh Fhocal

IT is with considerable pride that I can say "I was a Fian". Those few years when as a teenager I donned the uniform and paraded at Bodenstown, Edentubber, Bundoran and many other places around Ireland remain in my memory as true halcyon days.

We learned to drill, to march, to hold ourselves with dignity and quiet pride and we learned to love our country. In those years we got to rub shoulders with some of Ireland's great patriots. I shook hands with legends such as Dáithí Ó Conaill and Mike Flannery while in uniform and I could see the respect for my uniform in their eyes. That meant a lot to me who as a young man was only learning the true significance of who these people were. The occasion of my meeting Mike Flannery was the Eve of All Ireland Rally in 1989. It was also on this day that I got my first experience of public speaking - at the GPO in front of a large crowd. Our OC was to read a prepared statement but in a show of masterly leadership ability he skilfully delegated me to read it. It was a learning experience anyway like so much of my time as a Fian.

There is a true camaraderie among former members of Na Fianna Éireann. We will gladly regale any who would listen with tales of parading in driving rain or scorching heat, of flooded camps and 10 mile hikes and other less printable activities. There is something, I think, in all of us that wishes those days had continued for us just a little while longer. Still, however, when a parade of Na Fianna passes we smile broadly and automatically fall into step. When the order rings out "Fianna Aire" our spines straighten, our shoulders are back and our heels are together. It is at these times that we are reminded that you never truly leave Na Fianna so long as you remember what you learned during your membership.



Mike Flannery, Tipperary and USA, Patron of Republican Sinn Féin (1993-1994)



Introduction

NA Fianna Éireann (literally “Warriors of Ireland”) has had several subtitles in its 100 year history; Irish National Youth Movement, Irish Republican Youth Movement, Irish Republican Scouts etc. Its central ethos has never changed however. It has always had the object of educating the youth of Ireland in national ideas and re-establishing the independence of the nation. The goal of the organisation on its foundation in 1909 was “to re-establish the independence of Ireland by means of training the youth of Ireland to fight Ireland’s fight when they are older and the day comes”. Members are trained in scouting skills and parade drill and receive education regarding Republicanism and Irish history and heritage.

Membership was originally open to boys of all ages but at certain times in its history girls have been allowed to join too.

Organisation of Na Fianna Éireann

The basic unit of organisation of Na Fianna Éireann is known as a Slua. A slua normally consists of between 5 and 25 members. A slua may be made up of junior Fianna (under 15) or senior Fianna (over 15) or it may be made up of two sections; one junior and one senior. Junior and senior Fianna are not normally mixed as their functions and activities are somewhat different. Junior Fianna are involved purely in scouting, educational and cultural activities. Seniors on the other hand are also involved in political activities.

Every slua must have three officers – an O/C (Officer Commanding), Adjutant (Second in command) and a Quartermaster (in charge of finance, uniforms and supplies for the slua). The O/C is responsible to his superior officers and to the Árd Choiste (head quarters of Na Fianna) for the correct running of the slua.

The Árd Choiste of Na Fianna is elected every year at the Árd Fheis (national conference). Here delegates from each slua can discuss and decide on Fianna policy. The previous year can be discussed and plans can be made for the next year.

The Fianna Motto

THE Fianna motto harks back to ancient times to the Fianna of Fionn who fought using truth, honour and the might of their own arms against injustice.

Glaine inár gcroí - Purity in our hearts

Neart inár ngéaga - Strength in our arms

Beart de réir ar mbriathar - Truth on our lips.

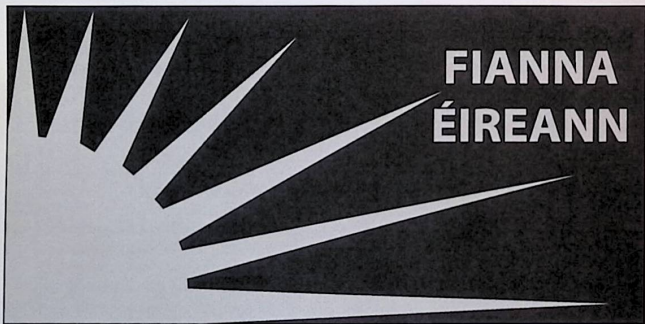
Purity in our hearts. A Fian's actions are motivated by honour and nobility of spirit. The Fian acts only out of love for his country and his fellow country men. There is no thought of self gain.

Strength in our arms. The Fian relies first and foremost on his own ability. The Fian trains in all manner of skills so that they may best serve Ireland.

Truth on our lips. A Fian is entirely trustworthy. Their word stands for the truth.

The Flag of Na Fianna

THE flag of Na Fianna is sky blue with a sunburst in the bottom left corner. This represents hope and the dawning of a new day. The flag sometimes has "Fianna Éireann" written on it but is more often seen without any inscription. It has its origins in the legends of Fionn and his Fianna where it is called the Gil Gréine (lit: "The White (brightness) of the Sun").



The Code of Honour

TO have any true understanding of Na Fianna Éireann one has to give some thought to the Code of Honour. The wording of the Code of Honour of Na Fianna Éireann has been updated slightly over the past century but its core elements remain unchanged. Members attempt to live by the code of honour not just while they are in uniform but when they are "off duty" also. Abiding by the code as a youth will see the Fian in good stead when they reach adulthood.



Members of Na Fianna at Bodenstown 2009

1. A Fian is patriotic

He/she learns all about his country, knows its history and language, its resources and industries, and his/her one aim in life is to serve it to the best of his/her ability. With that end in view, he/she makes it a rule to do at least ONE thing every day for his/her country's cause. He/she plays Gaelic games, sings the songs of his/her country and he/she supports and encourages the purchase of home manufactured goods.

2. A Fian is reliable

He/she is truthful. His/her honour can be trusted. His/her word can be relied upon. He/she does not exaggerate or spread false alarms. He/she controls his tongue, and wins the respect of his friends and superiors. "He let me down once": This is one of the most damning things that can be said of a person. It means that he/she will never be entirely trusted, never quite believed, never fully relied on again. Never let this be said of a Fian.

3. A Fian is diligent

He/she works conscientiously for his employer and his country, and by study and perseverance he/she gets to the top in his particular trade or profession. He/she is at the top because he remembers while doing his daily tasks, that it is not for himself alone that he/she works; that he/she is a Fian; that the good name of the Fianna is at stake; and that he/she is not going to let it down.

4. A Fian is kind

He/she is polite in his manners, conduct and language towards others. He/she knows that the kind word and the kind deed stamp him/her as a Fian, and he/she is ever ready to lend a hand to those who need it. He/she is a friend to dumb animals and will not harm or hurt them.

5. A Fian is obedient

He/she renders strict obedience to his/her superiors. He/she learns to obey before he/she commands; he/she learns to discipline and control himself/herself before he/she aspires to teach discipline to others.

6. A Fian is cheerful

He/she never sulks. He/she always has the cheery word and does his/her duty with a smile. His/her ever bright and smiling countenance radiates the sunshine of life wherever he/she goes.

7. A Fian is thrifty

He/she does not unnecessarily destroy what may be useful to others. He/she is as careful of other people's property as he/she is of his/her own. When training or camping he/she is careful of the farmer's crops and fences, and replaces the falling stone and repairs any other damage he/she may have caused. He/she does not gamble or spend his money foolishly.

8. A Fian is brave

He/she faces danger, knows no fear, and stands for right on all occasions.

9. A Fian is clean

He/she keeps his body and mind clean and pure. Every Fian learns to swim. He/she always turns up on parade with clean face and hands, clothes brushed and boots polished. A Fian does not associate with anti-social elements.

10. A Fian is humble

His/her aim is not to gain promotion so as to have authority over other Fianna, but to work to make himself/herself a better Fian and a better citizen of Ireland. Fine epaulettes and uniforms are not everything. In the Fianna there is no room for vainglory or self-importance. In the Fianna all Fian are equal: there is neither distinction of class or creed. Na Fianna seek equality.

11. A Fian is temperate

He/she eats, drinks and behaves in moderation at all times. Moderation is his/her motto.

12. A Fian is punctual

He/she is always on time. He/she makes it a point, whether on parade or at work, on business or pleasure, to be a couple of minutes before the appointed time. It is by strict observance of punctuality that it soon becomes a life long habit.



Na Fianna marching in Occupied Ireland in the early 1980s

A brief history of Na Fianna Éireann

THE prime movers in the foundation of Na Fianna were Bulmer Hobson, a Quaker from Co Down and Constance Markievicz, a member of the landed gentry from Sligo and of the Gore-Booth family. It is hard to imagine how two people of such different background could come together and share the same vision of fostering in the youth of Ireland a love of their country and disciplining them in the means for achieving national freedom. Bulmer Hobson had a key roles in the founding of the Dungannon clubs and later Sinn Féin. Markievicz was also an active member of Sinn Féin and was involved with the women's groups Inghidhne na hÉireann and later Cumann na mBán.

In 1902 while still a teenager, Bulmer Hobson formed a boy's organisation in Belfast called Na Fianna Éireann. The organisation was purely a sporting and cultural one; there was no element of scouting involved. It was according to Hobson



Bulmer Hobson



Constance Markievicz in Fianna uniform

“to serve as a junior hurling league, to promote the study of the Irish language and to make the boys sound nationally”. Although hundreds of boys were involved when Hobson moved to Dublin a couple of years later this incarnation of Na Fianna fizzled out.

It was when Markievicz spotted an article in the newspaper regarding a major rally of the Baden Powell Boy Scouts in Dublin that she became determined to organise an Irish scouting movement that would attract nationally minded boys.

She spoke to Andrew O'Neill, a schoolteacher, who helped her enlist some of his pupils in her new scouting body. This was named The Red Branch Knights after the band of warriors in the Ulster Cycle legends. This group managed to organise one camp but it was not a great success as the countess had no real scouting skills and no experience of leading a group of boys.

In August 1909 Markievicz and Hobson met up and exchanged reports on their different experiences. They agreed to combine their efforts and set about building a boys organisation again. They hired a hall at 34 Lower Camden Street Dublin, at the Countess's expense, and advertised a meeting in An Claidheamh Soluis for August 16. Around 100 boys turned up for this meeting and Na Fianna Éireann, named at the suggestion of Bulmer Hobson, was duly formed. Hobson was elected President and Markievicz Vice-President by boys in attendance in a popular vote.

Scouting classes were held in the Lower Camden Street hall and later Na Fianna were given the use of the ITGWU building. Officers of Na Fianna in Dublin benefited from advanced Irish classes taught by none other than Pádraig Pearse himself. Na Fianna at this time were organised into Sluaighte. By 1910 there were sluaighte in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Clonmel, Derry and Belfast. By 1911 there were also sluaighte in Dundalk, Newry and Waterford; it was a truly national organisation. Training continued apace with the growth.

By 1913 Na Fianna had grown to such an extent that Liam Mellows was required to give up his day job and become full time organiser for the organisation. Con Colbert was the drill instructor for Dublin. Members were instructed in drill, signalling, map reading and night time manoeuvres. There was also some element of weapons instruction involved, sometimes overseen by the Countess herself.

In 1913 Na Fianna played a role in the "Great Lock-Out" as it is known. Fian Patsy O'Connor was attending an injured protestor and administering first aid when he was assaulted by a member of the Dublin Metropolitan Police. He was struck about the head with a baton and was critically injured; dying two years later in 1915. Also in 1913 Na Fianna formed close links with the newly-formed Irish Volunteers. In 1914 when Erskine Childers brought badly-needed rifles into Howth aboard the *Asgard* Bulmer Hobson was charged by the IRB with organising their safe collection and dispersal. Consequently Na Fianna played a vital part in the gun-running under the command of Seán Heuston.

During Easter Week 1916 Na Fianna Éireann again played an exemplary role. Fianna boys attacked the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park destroying British arms and equipment. Others took part in the fighting around North King Street and in the Mendicity Institute under Heuston.



Seán Heuston

Na Fianna also had a contingent in Stephen's Green where they added to the forces of the Irish Citizen Army, Cumann na mBan and the Irish Volunteers under the command of Michael Mallin. Countess Markievicz was his second in command resplendent in her personalised uniform of riding breeches, green tunic and hat complete with a feather. Fianna members guarded the gate of the Green and patrolled the perimeter. Douglas Hyde recalled in his diary that when he went to investigate the activities in the Green he was challenged by an armed Fian who was accompanied by a girl.

Fianna members also had the dangerous job of running dispatches between the various parts of the city under Republican control. Tommy Keenan was twelve years old when he was running food and supplies into the garrison in the College of Surgeons. He was later sent home to reassure his parents that he was alright only to be locked in his room. He promptly escaped out a window and reported back for duty at the College.

In all five Fianna boys were to die during Easter Week. Perhaps most poignant of all was the death of Seán Healy, a dispatch runner, who was shot in Phibsboro. His dying words were "God bless the Volunteers". Con Colbert and Seán Heuston were executed on May 8, 1916. Liam Mellows led the Rising in the west of Ireland but was forced to go on the run in the face of vastly superior numbers.

Following the Rising Na Fianna were briefly in a state of disarray but before the month of May was out they were meeting again in Dublin. In December 1916 Countess Markievicz was appointed to the honorary position of Ard-Fhéinne even though at the time she was still



Liam Mellows speaking at Bodenstown , June 1922

imprisoned. This position was later held by Éamonn de Valera from 1917 until 1918 when Markievicz again took on the role.

When the First Dáil of the Irish Republic was established in 1919 Na Fianna pledged their allegiance to it at their Ard Dheis of that year.

During the Tan War Na Fianna operated in close alliance with the IRA. Each Fianna officer was instructed by GHQ to "assist when required, the Army of Ireland in operations." They carried out scouting operations and auxiliary work for flying columns as well as raids for weapons and equipment.

When the Treaty came and the start of the Second Defence of the Republic, which is commonly now known as the Civil War, Na Fianna Éireann voted unanimously at their Ard-Fheis to support the Republic and the leadership of the Volunteers in the Four Courts. Again Na Fianna were involved in combat missions against anti-Republican forces in much the same capacity as they were in the Tan War. For example in July 1922 Na Fianna burned Frederick Street Barracks in Limerick during intense fighting there between Free State and Republican forces.

In June 1922 Liam Mellows made his last public speech at the Wolfe Tone commemoration in Bodenstown. This is where he made his famous speech the "Fianna ideal can save the future". He was shot by the Free State forces in December 1922.

Following the order to "dump arms" (ie to put them in storage for future use) and the end of the Second Defence of the Republic Na Fianna continued to pursue their Republican objective. Na Fianna continued to organise and assist the Army of the Republic. The Fianna Magazine "Fianna: the Voice of Young Ireland" was sold throughout Ireland; one contributor was a young



Members of Na Fianna at a commemoration in Dublin in 2005

Brendan Behan who was a member of Na Fianna in the 1930s. In 1933 Frank Ryan was appointed Chief Scout. His tenure was brief but so effective that when he sailed for Spain many young men who had been in Na Fianna and learned their trade there sailed with him. The incorrigible Behan volunteered to go too but was considered too young at only 14.

The 1930s and '40s saw increased pressure put on Na Fianna by Stormont and Leinster House. Boys were jailed in the Six Counties for Fianna activities like putting up posters. In 1940 de Valera banned the

Bodenstown commemoration but it went ahead anyway. Na Fianna would march from Dublin and camp overnight before the parade the following afternoon.

These were turbulent times for the Republican Movement with hunger strikes in the jails and executions of Volunteers. Many members of the Republican Movement by this time would have been second or greater generation Republicans, which is to say their parents and families would have been involved since 1916 and the subsequent Tan War. The Volunteers were often former Fianna and received much of their training and education there. In 1944 a young Fian, Seán Doyle of Belfast, was accidentally shot and killed during a training exercise with members of his *slua*.



Easter Sunday, Cork 1922

Na Fianna were relatively quiet for the next few years, much like the rest of the Movement, though they continued to organise, to drill and to parade. The golden jubilee was celebrated in 1959 with a series of events across the country including the staging of a play by Na Fianna's own amateur dramatic society. They were again that year at Bodenstown where Ruairí Ó Brádaigh gave the oration and a Fianna bugler played the "Last Post".



Easter 1954

When sectarian attacks flared up in Belfast in the late 1960s Na Fianna were often on the barricades in defence of Nationalist people. During the siege of the Short Strand Na Fianna ran ammunition and supplies to the IRA members under the command of Billy McKee, replicating their role in the Rising over fifty years earlier. On August 15, 1969 Fian Gerard McAuley was shot through the heart and killed while defending Clonard from loyalist attacks. He received a Fianna guard of honour at his funeral in complete dress uniform with kilts, capes and hats.

Throughout the 1970s and into the 80s Na Fianna continued to operate alongside the Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army. Unfortunately due to the longer duration of the intense fighting this resulted in more Fianna being killed on active service during this period than in the previous 60 years. Not all of those who died did so while on "active duty"; Fian James Francis McCaughey was killed by a UVF bomb on St. Patrick's Day 1976 in Tyrone aged just 13. Fian John Dempsey was the last to be killed, shot during the hunger strike period of 1981.



The funeral of Fian Gerard McAuley

From its heights post hunger strike Na Fianna was gradually run down by a counter-revolutionary element within the Republican Movement and began to come under more central control from Sinn Féin. In retrospect it can be seen that Na Fianna were regarded as an ultra Republican organisation who were unlikely to "play ball" with a clique within the Sinn Féin leadership that sought to centralise control in the Sinn Féin party, where they could exert more influence, rather than other Republican groups.

During this period of the early-mid eighties Na Fianna in the Six Counties, where they were an illegal body, were stood down. Members north of the border were encouraged to join a pre-nascent Sinn Féin youth where supporters of the clique could keep an eye on them and influence their education and political direction.



Glasnevin Cemetery 1975

Sluaighte varied in capacity; some had over a dozen members and engaged in the full gamut of scouting activities while others could manage only to appear at Easter parades.

National camps made up of all the sluaighte did not take place during this period. It was up to each individual slua to organise their own activities or to organise co-ordination with another. There was a high reliance put on Na Fianna attending commemorations by the rest of the Republican Movement. This led to a shift in emphasis away from scouting activities and consequently there was a deal of confusion over the role of Na Fianna.



Bodenstown 1988

In the 26 Counties Na Fianna were not outlawed and it remained a public body but was only strong in areas like Dundalk, Cork, Tralee and to a lesser extent Dublin, where there was a Republican mentor available to advise and guide the slua. Due to funding difficulties there was not much co-ordination between the various sluaighte. This is exemplified by the Fian John Dempsey Slua from Dundalk parading at a commemoration in Drogheda only to find that there was a local slua in existence that had somehow slipped off the radar.

Ard-Fheiseanna continued to be held annually during this period and due to the small numbers of delegates involved the premises at 44 Parnell Square in Dublin were adequate. These annual meetings were usually quiet affairs, all the delegates usually being in agreement.

In 1985, the first contentious Ard-Fheis in years, the most controversial topic for discussion was the change of the Fianna uniform from



Na Fianna at the grave of Seán Sabhat

the traditional bottle green tunic to a cavalry cut green/grey shirt. Complaints came from a delegate from Munster who pointed out that all of the shirts that had been ordered were of medium size and some Fianna, the delegate included, were of large size.

Despite all the ups and downs of the previous few years Na Fianna celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Easter Rising by parading together as one unit, as is their custom, at the Republican Movement's main celebration outside the GPO that year. Sluaghite from all over the country marched together and they were congratulated on the smartness of their appearance and the precision of their drill.

In 1986 when the Provisional leadership made their constitutional move they prepared well. Many members of the Árd Choiste of Na Fianna were in support of this move away from Republicanism. The water was tested and all sluaghite were visited early that year by someone from GHQ staff. Consequently there was no Ard-Fheis that year to put the matter before the membership. Uniforms and equipment were seized by Provisional loyalists and Republicans were sidelined.



Marching to Bodenstown in the 1940s

It took some months for Na Fianna to reorganise itself after the shock of the defections. Units did stay intact to a varying degree. Unlike when under Provisional influence membership once more became open to people from the six counties. This allowed for a wider geographical spread of Na Fianna, Dundalk linking up with members from Newry and South Armagh for instance.



Edentubber 1970

The 1988 Easter Statement from the GHQ staff of Na Fianna Éireann addressed the issue of those who followed the provisional line. The statement said that they had “altered Na Fianna constitution without consulting the rank and file members of the organisation, to allow them to support participants in usurping institutions. By so doing, they have automatically expelled themselves from Na Fianna Éireann.”



*1988 Easter Statement
from Na Fianna read by
Fergal Moore*

Na Fianna paraded as usual at Bodinstown and thanks to assistance from supporters in the Republican Movement it was able to organise a camp in the Dublin Mountains during the Summer of 1989.

Perhaps due to the fact that the Provisionals still had an army in the field it was very difficult to encourage membership during those years of the late '80s and early '90s.

Towards the end of the century and into the early 21st membership again began to increase dramatically. Na Fianna Éireann now released its own magazine once more called *Young Republican* and launched a website.

Na Fianna today continues to organise for the benefit of the All-Ireland Republic. It raises funds for the prisoners and highlights their cause on the streets through leaflets and demonstrations and on the internet. Na Fianna assists the Republican Movement in whatever way it can and whenever it is called upon to do so.

Na Fianna is still dedicated to the education the youth of Ireland in the Republican history of our country. Fianna from Limerick recently attended an educative tour of Kilmainham Jail, where the leaders of the 1916 Rising were imprisoned and executed, organised by members of the Republican Movement in their home city.

The importance of having someone to mentor the slua can easily be seen in Limerick where Na Fianna have paraded every year in honour of Seán South who was killed on New Year's Day

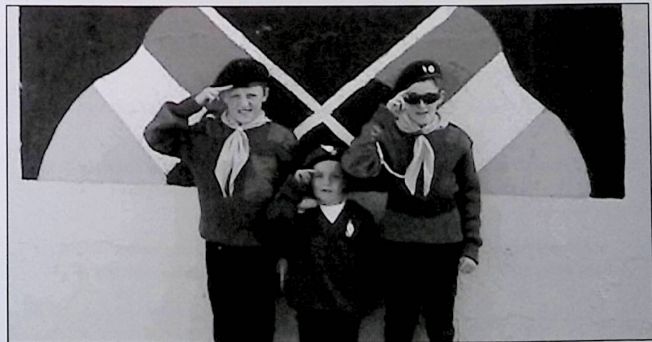


Members of Na Fianna on a visit to Kilmainham Gaol

1957. In areas where there was no mentor operating and the slua was left to its own devices membership and by extension activity waxed and waned with little consistency.

This year, their centenary year of 2009, junior and senior Fianna from Limerick and Dublin sluaighte paraded proudly behind the Gil Gréine to the graveside of the father of Irish Republicanism, Theobald Wolfe Tone, in Bodenstown. The sight of the well turned out and well drilled next generation of Irish Republicans was a great morale boost for the Movement and was commented upon by many.

Na Fianna as an organisation is one hundred years old, but so long as they remain true to the spirits of Mellows and Heuston of Colbert and Healy, McAuley and Dempsey then they will remain young, energetic and vibrant. The Fianna ideal can and will save the future.



The Roll of Honour

*Compiled by Na Fianna Éireann from publications by
the National Graves Association*

Patsy O'Connor, July 1915

Died as a result of injuries received during a baton charge by the Dublin Metropolitan Police in August 1913, while giving first-aid to an injured worker during the Great Lock-Out.

Seán Healy, April 24, 1916

14 years old. Dublin. Shot while carrying despatches, Phibsboro', Dublin.
Buried family grave, Glasnevin, Dublin.

James Kelly, April 25, 1916

Died of wounds, Mater Hospital, Dublin. Buried churchyard of same.

James Fox, April 25, 1916

74 Thomas St, Dublin. Native of Co Meath. Killed in action St Stephen's Green.
Buried Knockmark Cemetery, Co Meath.

Seán B Howard, April 27, 1916

26 Temple Cottages, Broadstone, Dublin. Died of wounds in Richmond Hospital, Dublin.
Buried family grave, St Patrick's, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

Fred Ryan, April 27, 1916

4 High St, Dublin. Killed in action, Harcourt St, Dublin.
Buried 1916 Plot, St Paul's, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

Seán Heuston, May 8, 1916

Executed. Buried Arbour Hill, Dublin.

Con Colbert, May 8, 1916

Monalena, Athea, Co Limerick. Executed. Buried Arbour Hill, Dublin.

Patrick Hanley, December 17, 1920

Cork city. Shot by RIC in his home. Buried Republican Plot, St Finbarr's Cemetery, Cork.

Percy Hannifan, January 1922

Tralee, Co Kerry. Died in Cork Hospital of wounds received in action with Black and Tans in Tralee. Buried Cemetery, Tralee.

Alfred Colley, August 16, 1922

113 Parnell St, Dublin. Murdered in Yellow Lane, Whitehall, Drumcondra, Dublin.
Buried Glasnevin, Dublin

Seán Cole, August 16, 1922

Buckingham St, Dublin. Murdered in Yellow Lane, Whitehall, Drumcondra, Dublin.
Buried Glasnevin, Dublin

Seán Doyle, April 19, 1944

Belfast. Accidentally shot while training. Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast, Co Antrim.

Gerard McAuley, August 15, 1969

Colinward St, Belfast. Shot dead in Waterville St while on active service.
Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

Michael Sloan, January 11, 1972

Belfast. Died as a result of accidental shooting while on active service.
Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

Éamonn McCormick, January 16, 1972

Ballymurphy, Belfast. Shot by British Army while on active service.
Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

Gerry Donaghy, January 30, 1972

Derry City. Murdered by British Forces in Derry City on Bloody Sunday.
Buried Derry City Cemetery.

David McCauley, February 19, 1972

Ardoyne, Belfast. Died as a result of accidental shooting while on active service.
Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

Seán O'Riordan, March 23, 1972

13-years-old. Oranmore St, Belfast. Shot by British Army in Cawnpore St.
Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

Michael Magee, May 13, 1972

15 years old. Ballymurphy, Belfast. Died as a result of accidental shooting.
Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast

Joseph Campbell, June 11, 1972

Ardoyne, Belfast. Shot by British Forces while on active service.
Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

John Dougall, July 9, 1972

Springhill Ave, Belfast. Shot by British Forces at Ballymurphy Rd.
Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

Tobias Molloy, July 16, 1972

12 -years-old. Strabane, Co Tyrone. Killed by rubber-bullet fired by British Forces.
Buried Doneyloup, Clady, Strabane.

Joseph McComiskey, September 20, 1972

Ardoyne, Belfast. Shot by British Army. Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

Seán Hughes, December 4, 1972

Belfast. Shot by British Army while on active service. Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

Bernard Fox, December 4, 1972

16-years-old. Ardoyne, Belfast. Shot by British Army while on active service.

Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

Patrick McCabe, March 27, 1973

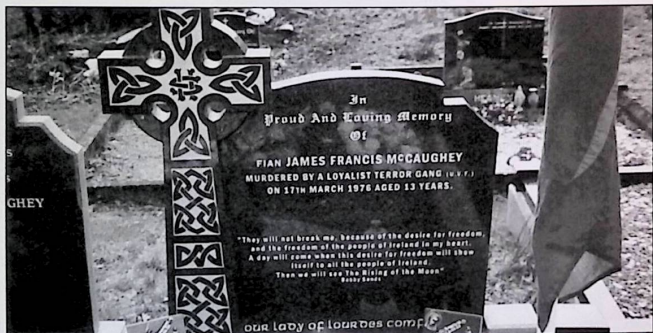
15-years-old. Duneden Park, Belfast. Shot by British Forces at Etna Drive, Ardoyne.

Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

Robert Allsop, March 23, 1975

15-years-old. New Lodge, Belfast. Killed in accidental shooting during training.

Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast



The grave of Fian James Francis McCaughey, murdered by loyalists on the 17th of March 1976

Patrick Bernard, March 17, 1976

Murdered by loyalists on the 17th of March 1976

Paul McWilliams, August 9, 1977

(Jason) Whiterock area, Belfast. Murdered by British Army.

John Dempsey, July 8, 1981

Turf Lodge, Belfast. Shot while on active service. Buried Milltown Cemetery, Belfast.

Marching Song of the Fianna

Verse One

Hark! to the tramp of the young guard of Éireann,
Firm each footstep, erect each head.
Soldiers of Freedom, unyielding and eager
To follow the teaching of our hero dead.

Chorus

On for freedom Fianna Éireann;
Set we our faces to the dawning day.
The day in our own land, when strength and daring,
Shall end for evermore the Saxon sway.

Verse Two

Strong be our hands, like the Fianna Éireann;
Who won for her glory in the days that are gone.
Clean be our thinking and fruitful our teaching;
That we may deserve her when the fight is won.

Verse Three

Soldiers and champions of Éire, our mother,
Fear we no Sassanach, his schemes or steel,
Foes of no foemen, but comrades and brothers
And all who are striving for our Éire's weal.



Na Fianna marching through Dublin in 2005

The Flag of Na Fianna

By yonder green hill flies the flag of Na Fianna,
In silence the scouts seem to go to and fro,
Night shades are creeping, soon they'll all be sleeping,
In the tents nearby where the camp fires glow.

Royal Meath is awaking from yon silent slumber,
The youth of today will inspire the siege,
Hark to their trouble – oh what a triumph,
As they march o'er the mountains in columns of green.

Scouts of Na Fianna advance o'er the nation,
May every home greet you with joy and delight,
May God give you strength for to love him and Ireland,
And when the day comes give you courage to fight.

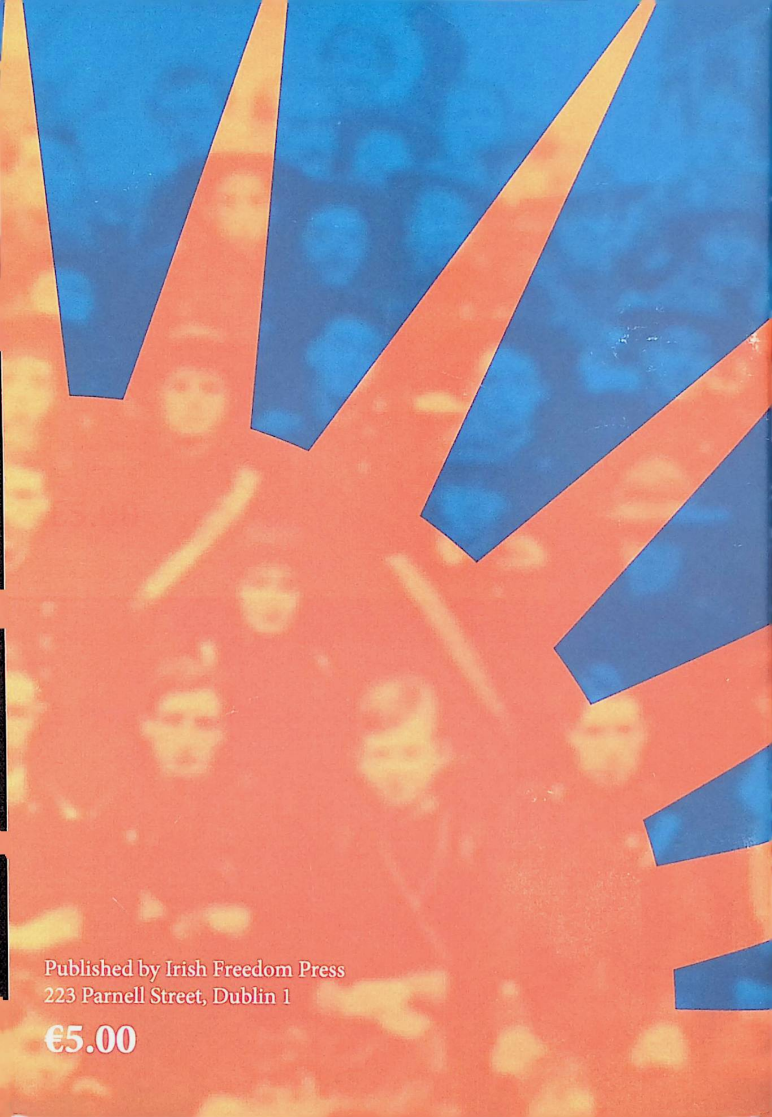


Pearse Slua, Na Fianna Eireann, Béal Feirste. X marks Fian Gerard McAuley

Associate Members of Na Fianna Éireann

The Department of Associate Membership was formed as far back as 1922 to consolidate the position of the organisation, which in those days numbered over 20,000 members. The department outlined five principal ways in which associate members could play a role in the Fianna.

1. **Moral Support.** These members will form an invisible bulwark against the vile propaganda of some of the other scouting organisations, the Free State and British authorities and other anti-Irish and anti-national people.
2. **Inspiration.** The associate members will inspire the boys of Na Fianna to greater efforts and transmit to others the desire to serve Ireland before self, by their example and encouragement.
3. **Financial Support.** They will run functions to support the projects of the Organisation and help the Ard Choiste to initiate further constructive action with the funds made available. Each associate should endeavour to do something to augment the general fund of the Organisation if at all possible. Little progress can be made without finance.
4. **Publicity.** They should publicise the fact that an organisation such as Na Fianna exists. An excellent means of achieving this is through distributing the Fianna paper. Each associate should become an agent.
5. **Help to organise.** This may be done by supplying our organisers with billets and contacts, also general information concerning your area before he/she commences work in it. Reports concerning anything of interest should be forwarded as soon as the information is available. They may be able to influence the boys in other organisations with which they are associated to join Na Fianna e.g. the G.A.A. and Conradh na Gaeilge.



Published by Irish Freedom Press
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

€5.00