



EAGRAN I

LUACH 3d.

We wish to emphasise that this paper is not the organ of any political party or society, but is confined solely to furthering the aims and objects of Na Fianna Eireann—The Irish National Boy Scouts. Na Fianna Eireann is a non-political, non-sectarian organisation, as is stated in our Constitution, which may be had on application to G.H.Q.

Sinne, An Ard Choiste.

EDITORIAL

During the last few years, Na Fianna Eireann has resurrected itself and completely re-organised. The overseas units have been re-organised and Sluaithe have been reformed in the principal cities and several of the principal towns at home. The units in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Melbourne and New York have inspired the boys of the Motherland to rally round the flag once more and devote themselves to the service of Ireland. The Department of Associate Membership has been re-organised also and its members have been instrumental in forming the new Sluaithe and financing the activities of the organisation. A full time Organiser has been placed at the disposal of all who wish to help the organisation to expand and return to its former position as the guiding light to the youth of Ireland.

Na Fianna must have the support of the older people if it is to maintain its progress and they must be aware of the immense importance of the proper training and education of the youth in their young impressionable, formative years. They must be aware of their duties and obligations to the youth especially in this modern age of alien, materialistic and atheistic corruption. It is their duty to transmit to the youth of this generation the glories and heroic sacrifices of the Ireland of the past so that the boys of Ireland may equip themselves in their boyhood to build the nation that has been the aspiration of countless generations—an Ireland Gaelic and Free. You can aid Na Fianna by billeting our Organiser and supplying him with contacts and advice, sending donations to G.H.Q. and generally supporting the organisation, thus enabling it to serve the youth of Ireland, so that they may serve Ireland in their turn.

"The Fianna ideal can save the future"—that last message from Liam Mellows shows how clearly he appreciated the necessity for a continuous and forward policy. The

vision of a free Ireland has ever been kept and hoped for by Na Fianna. One day their work may assist in bringing about a Sovereign Independent Irish Republic, as visualised by Colbert, Heuston, Mellows, Smith and their comrades. During all these years that have come and gone since 1909, the proud record of Na Fianna Eireann has remained inspiring and unsullied. Ar aghaidh le Fianna Eireann.

—AN T-EAGARTHOIR.

LILI NA CASCA

Easter 1916 has never been forgotten by the Irish people, nor can it ever be torn from their memory. Commemorations, Parades, Meetings and Concerts are held each Easter throughout the length and breadth of Ireland in memory of those who fell for Irish Freedom in 1916 and in all the years since then. However, Easter time would not be the same if the Easter Lily failed to appear. This year an intense effort was made by Dublin Castle Lackeys to crush the sale of the Easter Lily—Mr. Haughey's way of showing respect to the men of '16.

The Easter Lily first appeared in 1917 in the streets of Dublin. The Lily was chosen as the flower that would perpetuate the memory of Pearse and his comrades, who gave all for freedom. This decision was most appropriate as the Lily bore the colours of the Tri-Colour which had then been accepted by the people as being their National Flag.

We take this opportunity of congratulating all those Republicans who defended the Easter Lily from the vicious onslaught of the Twenty-Six County Police during Easter 1963. A very special word of praise is due to the three Fianna boys who showed so much courage in protecting their Lilies outside the G.P.O. Dublin, and who withstood a brutal attack from a Police Inspector who used his walking stick on the Scouts in a cowardly attempt to seize the Lilies. How tragically ironic that nearly half a century after Pearse raised the Tri-Colour over the G.P.O. a "Free State" Police Officer should assault a young boy outside the same building for the "heinous crime" of perpetuating his (Pearse's) memory. Alas! it would appear that the names R.I.C. and Garda Síochána are synonymous.

Saetge

"Naturally I am biased in favour of boys learning Irish. I would make them all learn Irish: and I would let the clever ones learn Latin as an honour and Greek as a treat. But the only thing that I would whip them for is not knowing Irish. I would whip them hard for that."

Cuirfeadh caint de'n tsort sin uafas agus fearg ar dhaoine airithe da n-abrodh polaiticeoir Eireannach i. Sir Winston Churchill aduirt i, i sceal a bheatha.



PÁDRAIG MAC PIARAIS

"A FIANNA BOY IS BRAVE"

Acts of bravery, like acts of cowardice, come in many forms. Cases of extreme bravery seldom occur within our ranks, therefore we link acts of bravery with sacrifices which we are often called on to make. In the life of Liam Mellows, you will find great inspiration. He is a model of all Fianna boys. All his life he served the Fianna he loved; he worked himself to the point of exhaustion on many occasions. As a frail young lad he travelled Ireland organising Sluaithe. He went out of his way to attend meetings when others shirked their duties. His life was one of constant sacrifices. Cowardice, personal ambition, and laziness were unknown of Liam Mellows. Let us therefore look at ourselves. Are we doing our duties willingly? Are we shirking the work and leaving it to others? Ireland has been badly served in the past by "The Once Per Week" workers. You should work for Fianna all the time. It is a good form of bravery.

NA FIANNA ÉIREANN

Na Fianna Éireann was founded in 1909 by Countess Markievicz. Its aims and objects are to train the youth of Ireland mentally and physically, by inculcating self-reliance, by teaching scouting and Irish history and by promoting the Irish language so that they may reflect the best spiritual and manly characteristics of their race. The youth of Ireland to-day are in dire need of an organisation such as Na Fianna. Nationalism in all its many forms is being slowly buried by the influx of "Modern Foreign Culture". Our youth need safeguarding, and leading away from these harmful pastimes—hence the need for a National Boy Scouts. Every boy over eight years of age should join Na Fianna who are striving to build up a brotherhood of young Irishmen, who, like their ancestors the Fianna of old are strong of limb and fleet of foot, chivalrous, keen of intellect, cultured. "No Fian ever told a lie—No Fian ever turned his back on a foe."

"O boys of Na Fianna advance o'er the Nation,
Let every home greet you with joy and delight,
May God give you courage to love Him and Ireland,

And when the day dawns give you courage to fight."

Means :

By training the youth of Ireland on the following lines :

(a) Educational —

Programme to include Citizenship, Irish Language, Irish History, First Aid, Signalling, Music and Drama.

(b) Physical —

Scouting, Scout Drill, Physical Culture, Gaelic Games and Athletics.

Thus Na Fianna is above all an educational organisation—an organisation that teaches and trains Irish boys to devote themselves to the service of Ireland. The things that a boy learns in Na Fianna are very numerous. Its work covers a very wide field, but every thing that a boy is taught tends towards the one great objective for which Na Fianna was founded. In every part of the world it is the first duty and greatest pride of the people of all nations to preserve their National Independence, strength and unity. In Ireland generation after generation of Irishmen have striven and made sacrifices to win Irish Independence, and it is fitting that Irish boys should be trained to take their place in the national struggle for freedom.

The Declaration :

The boys who join Na Fianna work in a Sluagh until they pass the preliminary test before they are allowed to make the declaration which all must make prior to being admitted to full membership of the organisation. The declaration is a solemn promise and every boy who makes it must be prepared to devote all his energy to carrying it into practice. It is as follows :—

"I pledge my allegiance to God and the Irish Republic and I promise to do all in my power to protect her from all enemies, whether foreign or domestic. I also promise to obey my superior officers and to practice the Code of Honour."

This promise demands service to Ireland and loyalty to Na Fianna. These are the duties of a member of Na Fianna. This promise is not to be made lightly. It should never

be made unless it is meant to be carried out to the last detail. The success of Na Fianna depends upon the earnestness and hard work of its members and we want no boy to join who does not intend to live up to both the letter and the spirit of the declaration.

What Membership Means :

To be a member of Na Fianna means that you have devoted yourself to the service of Ireland. It means that you will become trained in mind and body to render that service. It means that the service of Ireland will be your first object in life and that you will strive with all your mind, strength, and energy to carry out the promise you made when you became a member. In order to do this a great deal has to be learned. But first it is necessary to say that every member must set before him a very high ideal. The members are pledged to work for a free Irish Republic and their first task must be to train themselves to be fit citizens of a free nation. A member must never do anything that would bring discredit upon Ireland or upon Na Fianna. He must make himself strong in mind as well as in body. He must learn all about Ireland. He must know her history, learn her language and work to further her interests. He should study and think for himself and be self-reliant and strong.

The Government of Na Fianna :

Na Fianna is governed by the boys themselves. That is the secret of its successes. It is an essential part of the training of its members that they should learn how to conduct their own organisation. Their membership thus prepares them to serve Ireland when they are older.

Fianna Éireann (Irish National Boy Scouts) consists of An Ard-Fheis (Congress), An Ard-Choiste (Central Council), Coiste Ceanntair (District Councils) and Sluaite (Troops).

An Ard-Fheis is the supreme governing and legislative body of Na Fianna. It consists of the members of an Ard-Choiste and of delegates selected by the District Councils and Sluaite. An Ard-Fheis meets once a year and elects an Ard-Choiste.

An Ard-Choiste is the supreme governing body of Na Fianna when An Ard-Fheis is not sitting. It is responsible for the general direction of the organisation.

District Councils are formed in districts where there are not less than four Sluaite. They administer the affairs of their districts subject to the instructions of An Ard-Choiste. They supervise all the Sluaite in their districts also. Sluaite are in many respects the most important groups in the whole organisation. It is in the Sluaite that the basic work of Na Fianna is done, and upon the work done there depends the success or failure of the whole organisation. Every Sluagh is affiliated to An Ard-Choiste which gives it all the assistance possible. Nevertheless each Sluagh must stand on its own feet and the officers and members of a Sluagh are responsible for its success.

How to form a Sluagh :

Anyone wishing to start a Sluagh should first communicate with the Adjutant-General. He will supply the necessary information and directions. The next step is to call a meeting of any boys who are interested in

joining. It must be remembered that every Sluagh should be conducted by the boys who are members. It will never be a success if older people do everything for them. They should manage their own affairs and do their own thinking. Accept help from anybody who is able and willing to give it, but a Sluagh of Na Fianna should be a little self-governing community—a boys' Republic—where every member shares in the work and the responsibility of making it a success and has a voice in its management. It is very important to get good instructors and if none of the members are able to teach the subjects required for the tests outside help must be got. There are few places in Ireland where some competent person can not be found to teach most of the subjects required. Teachers of Irish and History can always be found locally and the other subjects can be learned partly from the official Fianna Handbook and partly with local help. The Adjutant-General will always be ready to help by answering questions and advising on any problems and by recommending useful books that might be purchased for a small sum.

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There are several Boy Scout Organisations in Ireland. Fianna Éireann is the only group who are upholding the National Ideals. Scouting in a truly national atmosphere is to be found in Fianna. There is no place for slackness or "hangers-on"; we believe in getting things done though we are up against many obstacles. Fianna is open to all Irish boys of 8 years and upwards. Join Na Fianna Éireann in :

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"Ní h-í an Éire seo an Éire 'do bí in alló ann, ac Éire luét Déarla agus anntro Gall, Éire gan éiríocht 's í in annó pann, Éire gan fíneál 's í searb leo rann."

Cá bfuil anois an spíro agus an spionnáo a bí ionann roimte blian ó sin. Pairíor go bfuil pírinne an tsean-rann veimínte arís is gur sacsa nua an tír seo—gró gurab ainm ví Éire. Cá bfuil anois an stát gaolac ar a noimí tairírean tráe—Éire na n-failegeoirí, agus na faile i réim inntí! Féac! nac Éire luét Déarla í, pé smaet as Gallab?

Cá bfuil anois na h-óg-fir láire, a bí lán de tóiríocht, na buacailí a bí ullam cun an póto do seasam—sea, agus a seas go calma é—cá bfuilro. Tá curto díob ina lúí pá ére—beannaet dé le n-a n-amaeas; tá curto eile tar éis teiceat ón otír; tá curto pós fágea ac iao gan tócas ina scroí, gan rún saoirse ina n-aigne. Tá deasca san, tá Éire gan éiríocht, tá sí lag anpann.

Cá bfuil na slóite a bíro as brú i n-ár otimíeall, tráe, v'fonna a ngrá do teangain na tíre do teasbáint? Táro tuirseac. Caillead spíro na náisiúntaeas ar Éireann, agus caillead léi spíro na teangan. A tórat san gur searb leo failege inntí; nac mian leo péin a élos, agus ná canaro aon glór ac glórta faile Déarla.

Sin agab Éire an lae inntí—Éire éirígece brónac. Sin agab í cun í a leigeas nó cun í a cur pá ére. Tar éis na n-aois, an mar sin atá agaim? Nac bfuil de tórat ar an saotar uilig ac an tórat san, an náisiún i mbéal a báis? Píinn péin atá a tóan am amac eao é an preagra a tadarpar ar an gceist sin. Orainn péin atá an loet, orainn péin atá an náire náisiúnta is uapásaf ar doiman má teipeann an obair anois, má caillead an sean náisiún seo.

Bfuil ógra in éirinn inntí gur mó aca Éire ná socúlaet an beata seo. Bfuil tórn beag péin ann i meac na n-óg-fear agus na n-ógban a fadparó mar rún aca péin an náisiún seo a cur pé réim arís i meac náisiún an doiman mar tír neam-spleac? Má tá tórn beag péin ann bímis sasta, mar ní baol do náisiúntaeas bás v'fáil.

Canann an óige vian amhrán ac amhrán atá píór, amhrán an tócas, amhrán an éinín. Go tusa dia go bfuil in éirinn óganais a canparó an t-amhrán san arís le n-ár linn.

—FIAN.



Alfie Colley

Alfie Colley was Dublin Brigade O.C. of Na Fianna Eireann in 1922. While organising in the North Strand area of Dublin he was arrested by "Free State" military, also arrested with him was his companion Sean Cole. For several days they were missing, until their bullet ridden bodies were found at "The Thatch" Whitehall, on August 26th 1922.

THE WORK OF NA FIANNA ÉIREANN

Fianna Eireann was founded to give Irish boys the training given to the boys in other scout organisations but with this difference—that its every activity must be based on Gaelic ideals and traditions. It is only thus that we can train our boys to take their place among those whose object is the complete independence of their country and the upholding of an Irish civilisation which shall be "not merely free but Gaelic as well."

All Nationalists should realise the importance of this if they understand that the British Boy Scout Organisation has in the past strained every nerve—and are still trying to-day—to ensnare the lads of Ireland. The English Boy Scout Organisation is well financed. It calls itself non-political and tempts boys to join with all the sports and amusements that its organisers can devise, so as to train them to be English in every thought, loyal to an Empire and not to Ireland, accepting British ideas and British civilisation and culture, and gradually becoming loyal little West Britons. The English Boy Scout Organisation has for its heroes men like Wellington or the men who fought in the World Wars, but to us such men are foreigners who fought for the aggrandizement of an alien and hostile country. The men whom Na Fianna would teach its lads to honour are Irishmen who fought and worked for Ireland and gave their lives for the cause of her freedom. Heroes such as the Fianna lads of 1916 and later years, whose simple nobility of character endeared them to their comrades and whose unselfish work built up their organisation in the past and who finally made the supreme sacrifice for their land are those whom Irish lads of all generations must follow and emulate.

The members of Na Fianna Eireann learn:—

- (1) to put Ireland before self.
- (2) to place duty and honour before expediency.
- (3) to develop their characters along the noble lines laid down by the Fianna of old.

A boy trained in this manner will approach every question or difficulty that he meets in life from an absolutely Irish standpoint. He will instinctively devote his life to helping his country in her hour of need. He will not be turned aside from the path of duty by adroit politicians or be used by them to

further the interests of the British Empire. He will strive to develop an Irish culture, play Irish games and speak the Irish language.

If the next generation is to be held for Ireland Fianna Sluaite must be formed in every district. While each local group must aim at being a self-contained unit working out its own scheme of activities, the initial steps call for encouragement and support from parents and others. Fianna Headquarters will keep a guiding hand on the new groups and give them a general outline of the activities they are to follow. An understanding of Irish history will mean much and a course of reading along the right lines is absolutely necessary if the ideals of Na Fianna are to be properly understood. A sure way to create a brave spirit is to put the minds of eager youth in touch with great, brave strivings of other days. Ideals that are not quickened in youth rarely flame brightly in more matured minds. Many of us can remember our national awakening and can trace it to some apparently trivial incident—a song, a book, a fireside tale, some stray saying, perhaps, that captured our young imagination. It will be always so, as knowledge of the heroism of the men who went before us is bound to create an answering heroism in our lads. The knowledge that inspires most is the knowledge of the greatest efforts even when these efforts end in apparent failure. It is deplorable that knowledge of revolutionary periods in Irish history has often been hidden from our people by a screen of misrepresentations or stunted by being only half told. The bitterness of defeat darkens the effort for those who made it, but another generation sees its beauty. Too often that generation is shut out from a full knowledge of the struggle since those who could have supplied it took no glory in its telling.

"The Fianna ideal can save the future." The young lads of Ireland must be gathered into its ranks. Study circles must be formed in every area and the true facts of all our great revolutionary movements must be laid bare. The lives of all the men who did great work for Ireland must be read and discussed. It is a mighty task but it can be done. Energy, enthusiasm and self-sacrifice are needed. The people of Ireland must help. It is their duty to support all those who are striving to preserve the Gaelic tradition in the minds of the rising generation.

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THE NATIONAL FLAG

The Easter Insurrection of 1916 has left many symbols to remind us of that glorious fight. The Tri-Colour comes to mind immediately. Since the Republic was proclaimed on that Easter day, the Tri-Colour has become the recognised Flag of Ireland—the Tri-Colour of Green, White and Orange is a symbol of unity and freedom, and it has come to stay.

The Tri-Colour which owes its origin to the French Tri-Colour, symbolises the peaceful co-existence of the Catholic Religion with the minority Religions. The Tri-Colour was designed to serve as a flag representing a Sovereign, Independent, Irish Republic.

The many traitors who at one time gave allegiance to the Irish Republic, and then abandoned it, have the audacity to raise the Tri-Colour over their 26 County "Puppet" Free State. This hypocritical degrading of the Tri-Colour must stop—we of Na Fianna now say—

"TAKE IT DOWN FROM THE MAST IRISH TRAITORS".

Take it down from the mast Irish traitors
The flag we Republicans claim
It can never belong to "Free Staters"
They've brought on it nothing but shame
And leave it to those who are willing
To uphold it in war or in peace
The men who intend to defend it
Until England's tyranny's ceased.

They have taken our brave Liam and Rory
They have murdered young Richard and Joe
Their hands with our blood are still gory
Fulfilling the work of the foe
But we'll stand with Enright and Larkin
With Daly and Sullivan bold
We'll break down the English Connection
And bring back the nation they sold.

Chorus :—

Take it down from the mast Irish Traitors
The Flag we Republicans claim
It can never belong to "Free Staters"
They've brought on it nothing but shame.



Seán Cole
na Fianna Éireann
Murdered August, 1922

CAN I HELP ?

The Dept. of Associate Membership was re-organised in 1962 and its membership has progressively increased ever since. They have provided contacts and billets for our Organiser on numerous occasions. They have also been actively engaged in helping to finance the activities of the organisation. Monies secured through this Department are used to finance the Organiser. Consequently, the progress of the organisation is dependent to a large extent on the support of these members. When there are sufficient members in an area they are formed into a branch, which runs functions to boost the organisation's finances. Many more members are needed urgently and even if they cannot participate actively, they can help in many other ways. Associate Membership is open to all, irrespective of age or sex, who are prepared to observe the constitution and rules of the organisation. Each member pays a fee of 10/- per year, which entitles him or her to a badge, membership card and the special quarterly bulletin—"Fianna". You may become an Associate Member by completing the following form :—

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**SAINT PATRICK
and
THE FIANNA SCOUT**

By John Brophy (14)

(An imaginary conversation between St. Patrick as a shepherd boy and Leabhan, one of the boy scouts of the Fianna)

Leabhan :

Come, holy youth, and join our band,
For you are pure and brave and kind,
And like us you well understand
The ways of beasts and sun and wind.

Patrick :

Like you, lad of high courtesy,
I'd like to lead a band of men,
And fill with deeds of chivalry
The land from mountain height to glen

Leabhan :

How often have I watched you keep
Long vigils in mysterious prayer,
Seen you defend your lambs and sheep,
And dare as much as we might dare.

Patrick :

He whom I worship gives me strength,
And Faith as firm as yonder rock,
And I have dreamt sometimes at length,
To tend another kind of flock.

Leabhan :

I plead with you most noble slave
Be one of our bright company,
We need the gentle and the brave,
And all who love to wander free.

Patrick :

Kind youth, I hear His clearer call
Who died a slave's death on a hill,
The Gentlest and Bravest of all :
Him will I follow — as you will

(Father Matthew Record 1961)

ROSC

Ceannais Rosc Sác mí Iris
Conrad na Saeilge

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