

LIMITED EDITION NO:

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**1923 - 1998**

**75th Anniversary**

**Ballyseedy Massacre**

**Commemoration Booklet**



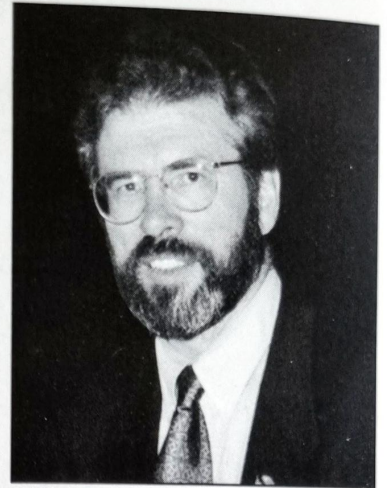
**In proud and loving memory of  
those who gave their lives for Irish  
Freedom.**

Luach £3.00

A Chairde,

In the last number of years we have seen a renewed focus on the events of the Civil War as the remaining survivors re-live these events for a new generation of Irish men and women.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Ballyseedy Massacre we remember with pride the courage and dedication of Kerry republicans throughout this long struggle. However, the importance of commemorations such as this is not only in remembering the sacrifices of the past, but also in ensuring that the ideal for which these men died becomes a reality.



Irish republicans have now entered a new phase of struggle with our strategy for peace. Through Sinn Féin's central role in the peace process we have turned a spotlight on the true nature of Britain's role in Ireland and on Britain's support for Unionist intransigence and bigotry.

Sinn Féin want a free and united Ireland. Republicans of today oppose a partitioned Ireland just as the republicans who died at Ballyseedy opposed it. Partition has failed - 75 years on from Ballyseedy the vision of republicans remains vibrant and viable. The foundations for a new Ireland have been laid throughout Ireland from Kerry to Derry and Wexford to Antrim, built on the commitment and dedication of republicans.

I am proud to have been asked to contribute to this special commemorative booklet on the Ballyseedy massacre and would ask you to support it fully.

Go raibh maith agat

Gerry Adams

### **CAPTAIN GEORGE Ó SHEA, Oglagh na h-Éireann.**

Captain George Ó Shea of Shanavalla, Kilflynn, was selected as captain of the Kilflynn Company of the Irish Republican Army at the age of 20. He saw active service in both the War of Independence and Civil War where he was to make the ultimate sacrifice in the fight for Irish freedom. He suffered serious illness during the War of Independence during which he contracted pneumonia twice. Captured along with his comrades and brutally tortured by Free State forces at Ballymullen Barracks, he paid the ultimate price for his bravery when he was blown to pieces at Ballyseedy. He was only 25 years of age when brutally murdered. George is buried in the Republican plot in Kilflynn graveyard along with his former comrades Tim Tuomey and Aero Lyons.



### **TIMOTHY TUOMEY, Kilflynn.**

Timothy Tuomey of Kilflynn, of 2nd Batt, Kerry No. 1 Brigade IRA, captured by Free State Troops in a dugout along with John Shanahan and Stephen Fuller on the 21st February, 1923. Taken to Ballymullen Barracks to be interrogated under torture. They were given some kind of trial in the Workhouse, Tralee on March 3rd, but were not told of sentence. They were kept for three days more. Shanahan had collapsed before the 6th March; his illness saved him when his comrades were taken to be murdered by mine explosion at Ballyseedy Cross on 6/3/1923. Tim Tuomey is buried in Kilflynn in the same grave as his comrades George O'Shea and Aero Lyons, who was killed at Clashmeacon Caves.



### **MICHAEL O'CONNELL, Fahaduv, Castleisland.**

Michael O'Connell, native of Fahaduv, Castleisland, was only twenty-two years of age. Since 1918 had been a Volunteer in 7th Batt., Kerry No.1 Brigade. Captured in February.



### **JAMES WALSH, Lisodigue, Tralee.**

James Walsh of Lisodigue, Tralee, 9th Batt, Kerry No.1 Brigade I.R.A. James Walsh was well known to be in danger, being a leader, and a man with influence among the people, when captured at Derrymore near Tralee; taken to Ballymullen Barracks for interrogation. Following ill treatment, all the prisoners were scarred, bruised and suffering; James Walsh had a broken wrist. Buried in Republican Plot, Rath Cemetery, Tralee.



**PATRICK BUCKLEY, Scartaglin.**

Patrick Buckley of Scartaglin, resigned from R.I.C. to join I.R.A. Before being taken to Ballymullen, an officer accused him of having "deserted" from the R.I.C. and of giving over a R.I.C. barracks to Michael Brennan in Clare before the Truce. Married with five children. His friends believed he was safe in jail - he had done so much for Ireland against the Black and Tans. Buried in Castleisland.



**JOHN O'CONNOR, West Terrace, Liverpool.**

John O'Connor, West Terrace, Liverpool, was married, father of two children, when murdered at Ballyseedy Cross Roads by mine explosion on 6/3/1923. He lies buried in the Republican Plot, Rath Cemetery, Tralee.



**PATRICK HARTNETT, Ennismore, Listowel.**

Aged 23 years, Company Captain 6th Batt. Joined the Volunteers in 1917. Fought in the Black and Tan and Civil Wars. Lived and worked in his father's farm at Ennismore. Captured in a neighbour's house and taken to Tralee. He is buried in Dysart burial Ground near Lixnaw.



**JOHN DALY, Fahaduv, Castleisland.**

John Daly of Fahaduv, Castleisland, 7 years in the Republican Army, member of Castleisland 7th Batt., Kerry No. 1 Brigade, I.R.A., when captured on 4th February, 1923. Grievously injured by torture in Tralee Jail. Buried in Castleisland.

No photograph available for John Daly.

## **WHAT REALLY HAPPENED AT BALLYSEEDY**

For those still surviving 75 years on, the Civil War holds vivid and terrible memories. A people that had remained united and steadfast in the face of the Black and Tan campaign of terror now found themselves divided on the issue of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 1921 which partitioned this small island and whose legacy can still be measured today.

Nowhere was the impact of what came to be called the War of Brother against Brother felt more deeply, or more terribly, than in Kerry during March and April of 1923.

Having accepted the reins of power in Dublin Castle, the Free State Forces attempted to "pacify" the country and met the opposition of the Anti-Treaty Republicans, or so called "Irregulars" with savage repression. This repression reached a bloody and brutal climax in March 1923, in 3 atrocities at Ballyseedy, Tralee, Countess Bridge, Killarney and Bahaghs, Cahirciveen.

At midnight on March 6th, 1923, 9 Republican Prisoners, Pat Buckley, John Daly, Pat Hartnett, Michael O'Connell, John O'Connor, George O'Shea, Tim Tuomey, James Walsh and Stephen Fuller, were brought into the guardroom at Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee.

Having already been savagely "interrogated" in some cases with the aid of a hammer, most of the men had serious injuries. They were then informed that they were to go to Ballyseedy Cross to remove a mined barricade. However, the real intentions of the soldiers became clear when they told the prisoners that the cigarettes they had just smoked would be the last smoke they would ever have.

The prisoners were brought by lorry to a spot some 200 yard on the Tralee side of Ballyseedy Cross where they could see a log lying on recently disturbed earth and stones. The nine men were tied together in a ring formation around the log, and realising that they were about to die, asked for time to pray. One of the soldiers jeeringly referred to them as "Irish Bastards" and an officer, removing the prisoners caps, told them "Ye can be praying away as long as ye like". A shattering explosion ripped the night air followed by gunfire and exploding grenades as the Free State Party finished off any who might have Dáil

vivid the initial blast. The horror of that night remained etched in the minds of the local people who witnessed crows eating human flesh from the branches of trees for days afterwards.

Miraculously, one of the prisoners, Stephen Fuller, survived unbeknown to the soldiers and crawled away from the scene of the massacre, eventually reaching a friendly house, Currans at Hanlons Cross where he stayed until being brought to Dalys at Knockane, eventually lying low in a dugout on the Herlihy Farm at Rathanny for several months. The Ballyseedy Atrocity was not the end of the savagery inflicted on Kerry Republicans. The next morning, five prisoners, Stephen Buckley, Jerry O'Donoghue, Dan O'Donoghue, Tim Murphy and Tadgh Coffey were tied to a mine at Countess Bridge, Killarney in a re-run of Ballyseedy. Again, miraculously, a survivor, Tadgh Coffey lived to tell the tale. Five days later, another five prisoners from the Kerry No.3 Brigade were blown to pieces at Baghaghs, Cahirciveen. The Free State Authorities attempted to justify these actions by describing them in the first instance as "Accidents" and later as "Reprisals". However, they had reckoned without the survival of Stephen Fuller and Tadgh Coffey, whose eyewitness accounts exposed these "Accidents" for what they were: War Crimes, for which this state has yet to answer. The survivors accounts, and the recent television drama/documentary "Ballyseedy" have ensured these terrible events of 75 years ago will continue to resonate in the minds of a new generation of Kerry people.

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*For God and for the Motherland*

*Our soldiers lived and died.*

*We glory in their sacrifice*

*And Speak their names with pride,*

*Their cause shall call to faithful hearts;*

*Their memory shall not die*

*While the towering hills of Kerry*

*Lift their summits to the sky.*

***Brian na Banban.***

## BALLYSEEDY

(for all who are so foully murdered  
and for Stephen Fuller, who escaped).

Explosives prepared  
    Carefully, well,  
Twenty-four hours  
    For seconds of hell.

Young lads half-broken  
    From village and hill,  
No family clergy?  
    Then picked for the kill.

Loaded on lorries  
    At dead of the night,  
Taken to landmines  
    Circled, bound tight.

Prayers and defiance -  
    The final thing seen,  
Laughter and jeering  
    From soldiers in green.

Boom and bright light  
    Bodies and blood,  
    Flesh on the trees  
Of Ballyseedy Wood.

But even quick death  
    Hung back in shame,  
More bombs and bullets  
    Before it would claim.

A silence descended  
That's unbroken yet,  
We, who are Kerry,  
    Will never forget.

Donal Ó Siodhacháin  
(written for the 75th  
commemoration of Ballyseedy Ambush)

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*The Cross of Ballyseedy,*

*The rocks of wild Clashmealcon,*

*The dark woods of Drumboe,*

*The midnight hour on Countess Bridge,*

*And the dawn on grey Benbulbin -*

*The memories that can never fade*

*Till rivers cease to flow.*

**(Brian O hUiginn)**



Arrival of Cumann Na Mban Colour Party at unveiling of Monument, 30th August 1959.



Cosantóirí cróda calma agus cúl tacaí bitse de pobláct na héireann, cuimnímid go bródamail agus go hurrnamáic ar an oéclár Ciarráideac so a d'fúlaimy maincineact ar an lácan seo ar oidé an Gab—7aó de máirta, 1923:

Pádraig Ó Duáclalla  
Seán Ó Dálaig

Pádraig Ó hAinmnéada  
Mícheál Ó Conaill

Seán Ó Concubain  
Seoinse Ó Séagda

Taóy Ó Tuama  
Séamus Dneathnac

Tógaó an Cuimneáán so freisin i gcuimne a gcomrádaíóte:

Donnéad Ó Bruadain  
Seán Ó Fealbáin

Mícheál Ó Raóall  
Séamus Ó Cailliúin

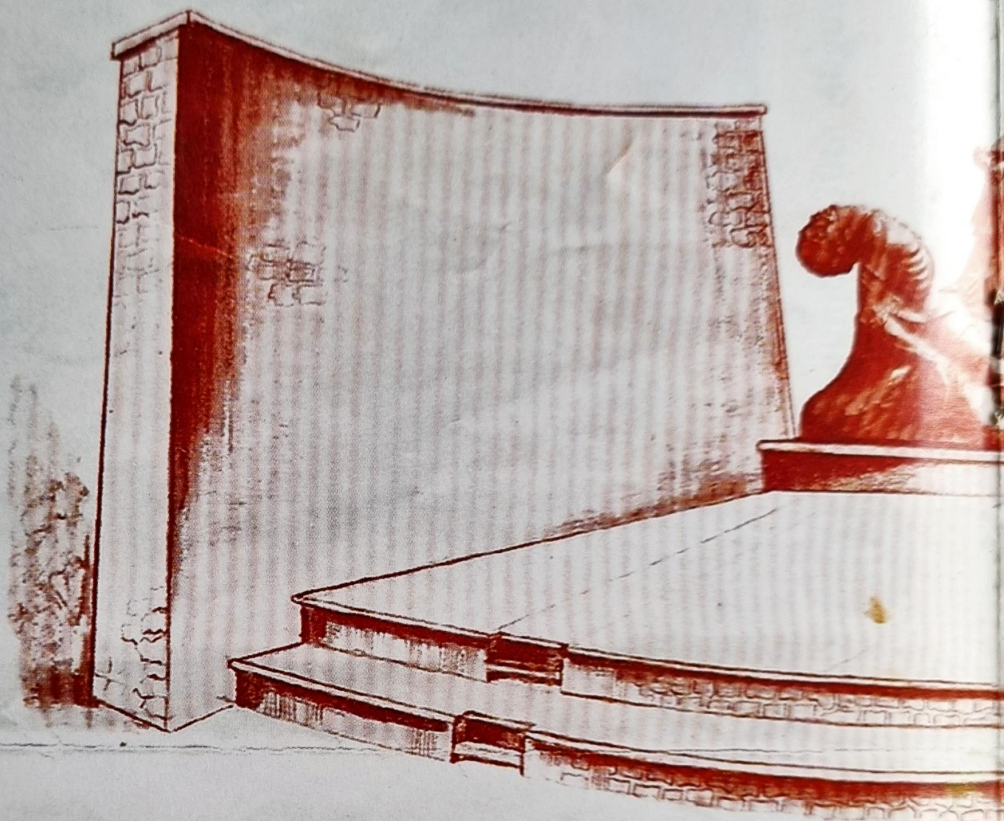
A fhuair bás ar son na héireann sa céannctar so agus i gcuimne na bpearr eile de Briogáid a hdon, Ciarráide, Arm Pobláct na héireann, a d'éag in áiteanna eile agus go bfuil a n-ainmneaca gneanca annso éios.

Íobairt uasal agus gníomh gan eagla:  
Scríobtar a márbna go gléceal áno;

Tógcar a leacé agus cancar a gcuimne  
i gCiarráide éitis na laóe go buacé.

Drian na Danúsin.

# ROLL OF HONOUR



*Sculptor: Yann Renard-Goulet*

## TRALEE

(1ST AND 9TH  
BATTS.)

JOHN CLIFORD  
JOHN CONWAY  
DANIEL DALY  
THOMAS DRUMMOND  
EUGENE FITZFRAID  
JOHN FLEMING  
MICHAEL FLYNN  
THOMAS FLYNN  
DANIEL FOLEY  
PATRICK HANNAFIN  
WILLIAM HARRINGTON  
THOMAS HAWLEY  
CORNELIUS HEALY  
FRANK HOFFMAN  
SEAN MORIARTY  
WILLIAM MYLES  
GEORGE NAGLE  
JAMES O'CONNOR  
JOHN O'SULLIVAN  
JEREMIAH O'SULLIVAN  
PAT REIDY  
MICHAEL RYLE  
MICHAEL SINNOTT  
JAMES WALSH

## ARDFERT

(2ND BATT.)

AND

## LIXNAW

(3RD BATT.)

THOMAS ARCHER  
JAMES BARRY  
JOHN CANTILLON  
EDWARD GREANEY  
JAMES HANLON  
REGINALD HATHAWAY  
JOHN HOULIHAN  
JOHN LAWLOR  
TIMOTHY LYONS  
MICHAEL MAGUIRE  
WILLIAM MCCARTHY  
JAMES MCENERY  
THOMAS MCCRATH  
MICHAEL NOLAN  
DANIEL O'DRISCOLL  
GEORGE O'SHEA  
PATRICK O'SHEA  
TIMOTHY TWOMEY

## CASTLEGREGORY

(4TH BATT.)

AND

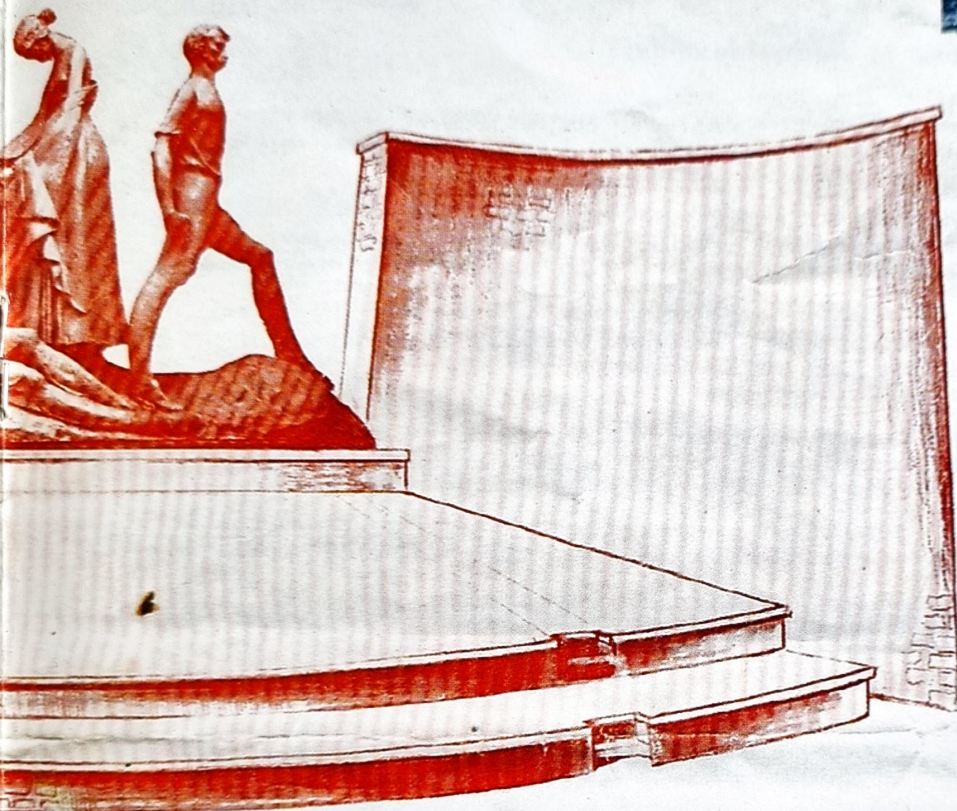
## DINGLE

(5TH BATT.)

THOMAS M. ASHE  
JOHN CASEY  
JAS. J. CRONIN  
MAURICE FITZGERALD  
THOMAS GREANEY  
PATRICK KENNEDY  
DANIEL (BOB) MCCARTHY  
MICHAEL MCKENNA  
THOMAS MORIARTY  
THOMAS O'SULLIVAN  
TIMOTHY SPILLANE

THOMAS ASHE  
CHARLIE DALY  
DANIEL ENRIGHT  
TIMOTHY O'SULLIVAN  
PATRICK FORBES  
CHARLES HANLON  
JAMES HICKLEY  
CHARLIE KEENE  
MICHAEL MUELLER  
THE O'RAHILLY  
THOMAS RUSSELL  
PATRICK SHORTIS  
AUSTIN STACK

Section of land mine used in massacre



Architect: Uinseann MacEoin

EVERYWHERE

DOLE DUBLIN  
 DOCKANE DONEGAL  
 DUBLIN DONEGAL  
 DUBLIN DONEGAL  
 DUBLIN LIMERICK  
 DUBLIN LIMERICK  
 DOCKNAGOSHILL TIPPERARY  
 DUBLIN DUBLIN  
 DUBLIN DUBLIN  
 DUBLIN DUBLIN  
 DUBLIN CLARE  
 DUBLIN DUBLIN  
 DUBLIN DUBLIN

LISTOWEL (6TH BATT.)

AND

BALLYLONGFORD (8TH BATT.)

EDWARD CARMODY  
 PATRICK DALTON  
 MICHAEL GALVIN  
 PATRICK HARTNETT  
 JOHN LAWLOR  
 JOHN LINNANE  
 JEREMIAH LYONS  
 MICHAEL (BOB) MCELLICOTT  
 DANIEL SCANLON  
 JOHN SHEEHAN  
 PATRICK WALSH

CASTLEISLAND (7TH BATT.)

MICHAEL BROSNAN  
 PATRICK BUCKLEY  
 JOHN DALY  
 THOMAS FLEMING  
 PATRICK E. KENNY  
 BERTIE MURPHY  
 DANIEL MURPHY  
 MICHAEL O'CONNELL  
 DENIS O'CONNOR  
 JEREMIAH O'LEARY  
 JOHN PRENDIVILLE  
 JOHN SAVAGE  
 RICHARD SHANAHAN  
 JAMES WALSH

BALLYMACELLIGOTT

(PART OF 7TH BATT.)

JAMES BAILY  
 DENIS BRODERICK  
 MICHAEL BROSNAN  
 JOHN BROWNE  
 ROBERT BROWNE  
 JOHN FLYNN  
 PATRICK HERLIHY  
 RICHARD LAIDE  
 JOHN LEEN  
 JOHN MCMAHON  
 JOHN REIDY  
 MAURICE REIDY

## BALLYSEEDY

AND THE ROLE OF KERRY No. 1 BRIGADE

*John Henry Gould*

*Seán S. O'Dubáin  
Máire Ní Calais*

*Murphy MacLear*

*Seán S. Mac Síúig*

### *Why did you come to Ballyseedy to-day?*

Is it because you are one of the many who nigh on forty years ago shared with the men whose names are inscribed on the memorial the honour of serving Ireland? Are you a relative of one of the fallen, proud to recall his name and claim him as your kin?

Perhaps you knew one or more of them for they were drawn from all walks of life, men of the people, of the countryside, the town, the village, popular, friendly, kindly men, united in their love for Ireland and in their eagerness to play their part in winning their country's freedom.

Maybe you were not alive in their day and know them only by repute, by what you have heard from your elders when deeds and men of other years, the triumphs and the tragedies, the hopes and the heartburnings, the uplift and the undoing, the sufferings and the severances, are sympathetically or cynically related around a fireside.

To whatever group you belong you have come to Ballyseedy to honour brave, unselfish men who died to establish and maintain the Irish Republic. Whether you served with them knew them or heard of them you cannot ignore them or the cause for which they sacrificed their young lives.

From this day forth all who pass this way will know that the men of North Kerry who fought and died for Ireland are not forgotten and that their memory will endure as long as this bronze memorial stands at Ballyseedy.

Their task is not completed. Irishmen, dedicated to the completion of that task, are in jails in Ireland and in England. While you are honouring the patriot dead of North Kerry remember that Irishmen following in their footsteps are behind prison bars.

### GOD GRANT THEM PEACE

*For God and for the Motherland  
Our soldiers lived and died.  
We glory in their sacrifice  
And speak their names with pride,  
Their cause shall call to faithful hearts;  
Their memory shall not die  
While the towering hills of Kerry  
Lift their summits to the sky.*

BRIAN NA BANBAN.

Unselfish upholders and fearless defenders of the Irish Republic these eight men of Kerry, whose names we trace with pride and remember with homage, suffered martyrdom on this spot on the night of March 6th/7th, 1923:

Patrick Buckley  
John O'Connor

John Daly  
George O'Shea

Patrick Hartnett  
Timothy Twomey

Michael O'Connell  
James Walsh

This memorial also commemorates their comrades:

Denis Broderick

John Galvin

Michael Ryle

Seumas Taylor

who died for Ireland in this locality and the other men of Kerry No. 1 Brigade of the Irish Republican Army who died in Kerry and elsewhere and whose names are inscribed on the plinth.

## *EXPLANATION OF SIGNATURES*

1. Unveiled by Maire Ní Dálagh
2. Chairman: John Joe Sheehy
3. Oration: Sean O'Dowd
4. Architect: Uinseann MacEoin
5. Sculptor: Yann Renard-Goulet

The meaning of the Memorial: Yann Renard-Goulet's marvellous sculpture is richly symbolic.

The prostrate figure represents the prisoners who made the supreme sacrifice for Ireland. Behind him the figure of a woman stands for all the Irish mothers, wives and daughters who suffered loss, and symbolised Ireland. She holds a child, symbol of the future, innocent though in the presence of death. The fourth figure is that of a strong determined youth, who strides manfully on to continue the struggle.

This monument is the property of Oglagh na hÉireann.



**Some of the thousands who attended the unveilings of the monument at Ballyseedy on 30th August 1959.**

## **An Interview with Stephen Fuller, the sole survivor of the Ballyseedy Massacre, by Peter Levy in 1981.**

On the night of 20 February 1923, four member of the Irish Republican Army were apprehended by members of a Free State garrison stationed at Lixnaw. The four were George Ó Shea, Timothy Tuomey, who were both to lose their lives at Ballyseedy, John Shanahan and Stephen Fuller. They were detained in the early hours of 21 February at a house in Lixnaw which had been taken over by the Free State Army. Three of the men were then taken in an open Ford truck to Ballymullen Barracks in Tralee (John Shanahan suffered from ill-health so was not taken). They were then interrogated. One soldier continuously tapped Stephen Fuller on the shoulder with a hammer. Another soldier told him to stop reminding him that "Fuller was a good man in the Tan War". One night he was taken to a room with coffins and told that his comrades were lying in the coffins. On another occasion he was placed before a firing squad. However, the firing squad aimed to miss.

After one week in Ballymullen Barracks, Stephen Fuller was taken, along with three others, to the workhouse, which later became the County Hospital and is now the head-office of Kerry County Council. This building was empty in 1923 so was used to hold Irish Republican Army Prisoners. Stephen Fuller remembers that there was a lot of water on the floor. He remained in the work house until 6 March 1923 when he was brought back to Ballymullen Barracks. He was taken to another room in the barracks where there was a fire, some stool, and six more prisoners. Captain Ed Breslin, from Derry City, handed out cigarettes and said "These will be your last, we'll blow you up like you blew up our lads at Knocknagoshel". The nine comrades were then taken to within two hundred yards of Ballyseedy. There in the road was a handful of stones, a gate and a long pole. Their hands were tied behind their backs. Stephen Fuller recalls, "Escape was out of the question, we had to accept our fate, we did as we were told and no more". Ankles and knees were then bound. One prisoner requested to be allowed to say his prayers. The soldier tying him up hit him on the head with the rope and replied "No prayers - Our lads at Knocknagoshel didn't get any chance to say their prayers".

The comment was then added "Some of you fellows might go to heaven, say hello to our boys". Stephen Fuller figured out that a small pile of stones was where the mine hole had been dug out. The Free State officer threw off their caps and said, "Pray away now". Some Free State soldiers moved to the top of Brick's Field, others moved back to the lorries about one hundred and fifty yards away. Stephen Fuller said "Goodbye", George Ó Shea said, "Goodbye, goodbye, lads". Then there was a loud explosion.

Stephen Fuller was thrown high in the air by the force of the explosion. He sought cover and witnessed the Free State soldier's attempts to ensure that there would be no witnesses to tell the sorry tale by strafing the prisoners with heavy machine-gun fire. The first house at which he sought refuge was Curran's. He was then taken by John Ó Connor and Johnny Duggan of Farmers Bridge by pony and trap to Ó Dálaigh's at Ballyfinnane. He then stayed for a week at the home of William Boyle. This was seen as an act of great kindness, considering that William Boyle was of the Protestant tradition. On 15 March he was moved to Herlihy's Farm at Menathee, Ballymacelligott.

Here he was assisted by John Cronin and Tommy MacEllistrim with the help of Gortatlea man John Herlihy. By day he stayed in the Herlihy farmhouse, by night he hid in a dugout on the farm. Peggy Hayes and a girl called Mac Mahon dressed his hands. He stayed at Rathanny for a month to allow his wounds to heal. He then risked a brief visit to his native Kilflynn and returned to Herlihy's Rathanny where he spent a total of seven months. Finally he was able to return to this farm at Laccamore, Kilflynn, where he lived out the rest of his years in peace. However, he never ceased to reflect on the irony that "Ballyseedy was a job done by Irishmen on their fellow countrymen".

**REPORT ON BALLYSEEDY BY GENERAL MULCAHY 17TH  
APRIL, 1923**

**General MULCAHY:** A Court of Inquiry was held at Tralee, on the 7th April consisting of :- Major-General P. O Daly, G.O.C., Kerry Command President, Major-General Eamon Price, G.H.Q. , Portobello Barracks; Colonel J. McGuinness, Kerry Command, for the purpose of inquiring into the circumstances of the death of eight prisoners at Ballyseedy Bridge, near Tralee, on the morning of the 8th March. The Inquiry disclosed that the G.O.C. Kerry Command, having occasion on the night of Wednesday, 6th-7th March, to dispatch an Operation Order to Killorglin, an officer with a party of troops proceeded by tender at 2a.m. from Ballymullen Barracks in the direction of Killorglin. The way was found to be blocked by a stone barricade across the road at Ballyseedy. The road through Ballyseedy was the only road ordinarily open to transport between Tralee and Killorglin at that time. In accordance with a Command Instruction, the officer in charge of the party took no steps to have the road cleared by the troops accompanying him, but returned to Tralee with a view to bringing back prisoners to remove the blockage. Six prisoners were taken from the jail and three from the workhouse for this purpose. They returned to Ballyseedy towards 3a.m. On reaching the barricade again the prisoners were lined up and told the purpose for which they had been brought out, and instructed to move the barricade, which they proceeded to do. After being engaged on the work of removal for a few minutes there was a loud explosion, which knocked the officer in charge of the party to the ground, wounding him in the arm, and wounding also a second officer (scalp wound) and a sergeant, who was wounded in the left leg and knee, the two latter being subsequently detained in hospital.

On searching the immediate neighbourhood of the explosion immediately afterwards, the dead bodies of eight of the prisoners were found, all badly cut up. The ninth man was missing, and a search of the locality failed to disclose any trace of him in the darkness. Ambulances were sent for to Tralee, the wounded officers and men brought back, and subsequently the bodies of the dead prisoners.

In the meantime the clearing of the road was completed by the soldiers, and the officer and party proceeded to Killorglin.

The following finding has been issued by the court:-

- (1) That the civilians in question lost their lives in explosions while removing obstructions on the road placed there by Irregulars.
- (2) That the explosions were caused by land mines and bombs placed there by Irregulars with the object of causing loss of life amongst members of the Army, and preventing reinforcements from reaching an area in which most serious destruction to life and property would ensue if the Irregulars achieved their object.
- (3) That it has been found necessary to employ civilian prisoners for the purpose of removing obstructions since September last in this particular command owing to the high percentage of casualties suffered by members of the Army, having themselves been obliged to remove trap mines, which had become the principal weapon of war of the Irregulars.
- (4) The Court further find that the allegations contained in the Irregular propaganda submitted to the Court, particularly with reference to the mal-treatment of prisoners, are untrue and without foundation, and that no blame is attached to any officer or soldier engaged in the operations in which these prisoners lost their lives.
- (5) The Court are further of opinion that, in view of the fact that the Irregular propaganda has hitherto, in most instances, proved false and misleading, undue attention should not be paid to charges against the Army, based on statements contained in such propaganda.
- (6) In fine, the Court is of opinion that, in view of the abnormal conditions which have prevailed in this area, and of the inordinate and malignant nature of the fight carried out against the Army in their efforts to restore peace, the discipline maintained by the troops is worthy of the highest consideration, but that in dealing with all matters involving possibility of the loss of human life the strictest discipline must be maintained.

President: P. Ua Dalaigh, Major General.

## **CAPT. NIALL C. HARRINGTON**

“Captain Niall C. Harrington was part of the Free State Army Contingent which landed in Fenit on August 2nd 1922 and was attached to the Free State Garrison at Ballymullen Barracks from where the nine Ballyseedy Martyrs were taken to their death.”

The attached copy of the alleged court of inquiry into the Ballyseedy Slaughter is in my personal knowledge totally untrue. The bomb was constructed in Tralee under the supervision of two principal officers, Captains Eddie “Bd” Flood and Jim Clarke and with the complete knowledge and encouragement of Major General Paddy Ó Daly, shown here as president of the court of inquiry. Ballyseedy was a reprisal for Knocknagoshel. It was planned and carried out by a group of Dublin hard core officers. The prisoners were tied together and blown to pieces. Those not immediately killed were bombed and shot to death. One, Stephen Fuller escaped.

Signed  
Niall C. Harrington

## **TUOMEY AND O’SHEA**

It was on the seventh day of March, Nineteen Twenty Three  
Two noble souls for ever went into eternity,  
O Lord, it was an awful sight all on that fatal day,  
They cruelly murdered six young men with Tuomey and O’Shea.

At Ballyseedy’s steeple view that lies near sweet Tralee  
The cowardly Staters laid a mine as you may plainly see  
The explosion shook the mountain and was heard for miles away.  
This brutal murder of six men with Tuomey and O’Shea.

They tried to hide this shameful deed and frame it best they could  
But one of them he did escape through Ballyseedy Wood,  
The secret he unfolded before the dawn of day,  
That he might relate that awful fate of Tuomey and O’Shea.

One word to Stephen Fuller you were left the tale to tell,  
Mulcahy’s hounds were thirsty to take his life as well,  
But the Virgin Mary spared her child before the dawn of day,  
May the Lord have mercy on their souls, young Tuomey and O’Shea.

**MRS. NORA LEAHY  
GLENNOE, KILFLYNN.**

## I gCuimhne

I GCUIMHNE Cosantóirí cródha calma agus cúl tacaí dílse de Phoblach na hEireann, cuimhnighimid go bródamhail agus go hurramach ar an ochtar Ciarraidheach so a d'fhulaing mairtíreacht ar an láthair sea ar oidhche an 6adh - 7adh de Mhárta, 1923.

**PADRAIG O BUACHALLA, PADRAIG O hAIRTNEADA,  
SEAN O CONCHUBHAIR, TADGH O TUAMA, SEAN O DALAIGH,  
MICHAEL O CONAILL, SEOIRSE O SEAGHDHA,  
SEAMUS BREATHNACH.**

Tógadh an Cuimhneachán so fresin i gcuimhne a gcomrádaidhe:  
**DONNCHADH O BRIADAIR, MICHEAL O RAGHALL,  
SEAN O GEALBHAIN, SEAMUS O TAILLIUIR.**

A fuair bás ar son na hEireann sa cheanntar so agus i gcuimhne na bhfear eile de Bhriogáid a hAon, Ciarraidhe, Arm Poblacht na hEireann, a d'éag in áiteanna eile agus go bhfuil a n-ainmneacha greanta anseo thíos.

*Iodhbairt uasal agus gníomh gan eagla,  
Scríobhtar a marbhna go glégeal árd,  
Tógtar a leacht agus cantar a gcuimhne,  
I gCiarraidhe dhíllis na laoch go breath.*

### **PRESENT COMMITTEE**

Gerry Savage - **Chairman**, Billy Leen, Martin Ferris, Mike Mansfield, Paddy Kelly, Eddie Riordan, Donal Cusack - **Secretary**, John O'Mahony, Risteard O Fuaráin, Patrick Corkery, John O'Shea, Brendan Dowd.

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## **BALLYSEEDY CROSS (popularly sung to the air "She Lived Beside the Anner")**

The Dawn of Freedom once more shone across our gloomy isle  
The Sacred Cause for which they died, still lives within our minds  
For Ireland, mother Ireland, you bore a bitter loss  
When you lost eight true and noble sons at Ballyseedy Cross.

It was on a cold spring morning in the second reign of 'Tans  
Those true and noble Irish sons fell by those wicked hands  
And how those tyrants tortured them and trampled them like grass  
Before they took their sacred lives at Ballyseedy Cross.

May God reward their guiltless souls, for them we humbly pray  
Pat Hartnett, Buckley, Daly, Walsh, young Tuomey and O'Shea,  
O'Connor and O'Connell, their graves now growing the grass  
They met their doom in early bloom at Ballyseedy Cross.

And how Steve Fuller's life was saved no one but God can tell  
And how he bade his comrades a last and long farewell  
And many the sorrowing tear he'll shed as by the road he'll pass  
To think of blood of comrades shed at Ballyseedy Cross.

God pity their poor mothers, heart-rending to relate,  
They found their bodies torn and bruised at Ballymullen gate,  
One thought that did console them; We'll never grieve their loss  
Because they died for freedom at Ballyseedy Cross.

Sleep on, sleep on, brave Irishmen in your lonely scattered graves  
From Countess Bridge, Killarney, to Clashmealcon's lonely caves  
They gave their lives for freedom and bore their bitter loss  
On the bloody road from Easter Week to Ballyseedy Cross.

