

THE

# IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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## NOTES

Whatever forms of excitement may prevail in neighbouring countries at present, things in Ireland are fairly at a stand. Even controversy has ceased to be excited or exciting. One result of the war will be that it will give the Irish people some months to think, to look around them, and to ask themselves how is old Ireland and how does she stand?

The signs are that the Irish people are thinking; looking around, and asking questions. Wild words fall on deaf ears. Nobody wants to hear any more shouting denunciations of fellow-Irishmen. The demand in certain quarters for the maintenance of political machinery in its most rigid form is an open admission that the fate of Home Rule still hangs in the balance, and that the so-called New Era has not yet begun.

The less we hear about the New Era the better. There is no flavour of a New Era, but a very distinct taste of the Old Era about certain things that have been happening in Ireland recently. Newspapers silenced. Honest men evicted from their livelihood. That does not sound new. Irish Volunteers have been victimised for the offence of adhering to their public programme and policy. Unionist Volunteers are allowed to proclaim openly their adherence to a policy of resistance to the State, and are encouraged with honours and promotions. A young girl is thrown into jail for advertising the plea of the Liverpool "Weekly Post" that Irishmen ought to fight so that Englishmen may stay at home and capture trade. That does not look like a New Era.

The worst aspect of these occurrences is that such things would not have been dared in Ireland, now of all times, but for the encouragement given by professing

Nationalists. The factious conduct of certain felon-setters will not be forgotten when the time comes for settlement.

There is one thing that is not standing still—the taxation of Ireland. It is silently but surely eating its way into the scanty resources left us. The Chancellor of the Exchequer says that he is spending Forty-five Million Pounds every month on the war. Of this expenditure, Ireland has to pay what some people call "her share." Ireland's "share" is somewhere about two or three millions per month.

We have often been told that the British Empire is a great business concern, and the Union Jack is the finest trade asset in the world. The present enormous expenditure has been justified a hundred times on purely business grounds. Let us be business Imperialists for the moment, and let us put ourselves the business question: "What will Ireland's share be in the profits, if any, of this huge expenditure of which she has to bear a proportion?"

The prospect of profit is in the increase or preservation of international trade. How much will be allowed to come Ireland's way? Mr. Winston Churchill says that Cork Harbour is the gateway of the most important trade route in the world. It is a gateway marked "No thoroughfare." We should demand and keep demanding an answer to the question, what return can Ireland count on from the many millions that she has to pay for this enterprise?

I have already pointed out, what others have failed to point out, that the Boer War had disastrous results for Irish land purchase and town tenants' purchase. Already, when all is reckoned, the present war has cost as much as the Boer War cost during several years. What hope does this hold out for future purchase prospects?

Let us put a plain case. Great Britain pays for war because the people are convinced that the war is necessary for

British prosperity. Let it be proved that the war means prosperity for Ireland. If that cannot be proved, if it appears, on the contrary, that some of the most urgent and important factors in the prospective prosperity of Ireland are certain to suffer deadly injury from the increased expenditure, surely it is only the simplest matter of fair play that Ireland should not be forced to bear any increased burden.

Of the forty-five millions per month, how much exactly is spent in Ireland as compared with the expenditure in Great Britain?

Within the past few days there have been outcries from various quarters in Ireland against the withholding of public moneys to which Ireland is entitled—the stoppage of Board of Works loans, the denial of the £40,000 already voted for Irish Intermediate education, the cessation of expenditure under the Congested Districts Board. And it has been suggested that a new organisation should be formed of tenants who are excluded from land purchase.

If these people, dwellers in the impoverished districts, tenants of unpurchased agricultural and town holdings, teachers in Intermediate Schools, etc., imagine that their feeble protests in the Irish Press are going to divert public money in their direction, they are certainly living in a fools' paradise. There is one hope for them, and only one. They must adopt a thorough and determined National policy. At present they are not listened to, because we are in an Imperial crisis. But an Imperial crisis should furnish the best of reasons for their being listened to, if they make it plain that they are not to be trifled with. Whether the British Empire is a business concern or a political concern, it has to justify itself before every country that it claims as a partner.

Taking Ireland as a business concern, the best investment Ireland can possibly



make, her best security against exploitation and impoverishment, is the creation of a thorough system of National defence. When Ireland took the business of National defence into her own hands, within a few years of the time when Dean Swift wrote that she had "nothing left that's worth defence," her prosperity began to increase by leaps and bounds. The corruption and bamboozlement of men who stood in the place of responsible leaders of the nation destroyed the National defence and was followed by the destruction of National liberty and National prosperity. That should be enough of a warning.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

## THE USE OF COVER.

The real use for taking cover is so as to be able to fire easily and effectively at the enemy. But if you are advancing you must not halt too long in good cover: it is more important to close on the enemy quickly and steadily. Advance from cover to cover, and when about to advance from one cover select the point of cover in advance you intend to make for next.

Practice springing up from a prone position behind shelter and running at top speed to the next position and throwing yourself behind it. Remember if you run rapidly towards the enemy you offer him a very poor target. You can also advance by crawling or by lying on the left side and pushing yourself forward with the right leg, meantime holding your rifle in the right hand. These last two methods are good for short distances where the ground is broken.

Practice aiming and trigger-squeezing in the prone, sitting, kneeling, and crouching positions, firing from behind hillocks, rocks, trees, heaps of earth, from depressions, gullies, ditches, doorways, and windows. When possible fire around the right side of your cover (or round the left side if you fire from the left shoulder). When this is not possible raise enough to aim over the top: don't simply stick up your rifle and fire at random.

When fired on when acting alone, drop to the ground, seek cover and try to locate the enemy.

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## CYCLIST TRAINING

### DRILL.

#### GENERAL.

Cyclist drill is for cyclists mounted, or dismounted and wheeling the cycle. Except when forming column of route cyclists drill dismounted in single rank.

A **cycle length** is a term of measurement (6 feet).

The **position of the cyclist at attention** is the same as that of the infantry soldier except that he grasps the left steering handle with the left hand and places the right hand on the point of the saddle, elbow to the rear.

A cyclist standing or leading his machine will **salute** with the right hand, returning the hand to the point of the saddle on completion of the salute: if mounted he will salute by turning the head and eyes towards the officer.

A party of cyclists on the march will salute on the command **Eyes Right** (or **Left**) from the commander of the party. **Front** is commanded when the salute is acknowledged.

The cyclist will take up his own **Dress- ing** from the man on the directing flank (right, unless otherwise ordered), moving his machine backwards or forwards in the most convenient manner.

A **cycle** interval is 4 feet from the top tube of a machine to the top tube of that on the right or left.

### GROUNDING, STACKING, AND MOUNT- ING, &c.

1. **Ground—Cycles.** Take a pace to the left, place the machine carefully on the ground and come to Attention. Remove the lamp first if there is danger of its being broken.

2. **Take up—Cycles.** Raise the cycle, step to the right, and come to Attention.

3. **Stack—Cycles.** On the word "stack," odd numbers move round in rear of and to the right side of their machines. On the command "cycles" each two will incline their cycles towards each other. The front wheels are turned out, the handle bars locked and the men come to Attention. Rifles are first detached and are leaned against the saddles.

4. **Unstack—Cycles.** Each man will grasp his machine and unlock the handle bar. Odd numbers move round in rear and to the left of their cycles.

5. **Mount and**

6. **Dismount** are accomplished in the quickest and most convenient way as each man is accustomed.

Cyclists should be practised in mount-

ing in succession on reaching some given point, distance being preserved, as far as possible. When in twos or in file no man should mount until the man in front is mounted. Proficiency in mounting and dismounting is most important, and should be frequently practised. While it is essential that cyclists should close up before dismounting, care must be taken that machines do not overlap, as this greatly interferes with any subsequent movement.

## DUBLIN CITY AND CO. BOARD.

Lectures for officers will be resumed at 41 Kildare Street at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 9th inst. The first lecture will be given by Mr. E. O'Duffy on "The Company in Attack."

Cyclists and Cycle Scouts of the Dublin Companies are to mobilise at Lusk at 12 noon on Sunday, January 17th. Rations are to be carried.

A despatch rider from each Company is to attend at 41 Kildare Street, between 7 and 8 p.m. on Fridays.

T. SLATER,  
Hon. Sec. (pro. tem.)

## BELFAST VOLUNTEERS.

### FIELD WORK—SCOUTING.

In accordance with the scheme of work officially outlined for Irish Volunteers, the Belfast Committee arranged a special parade on Sunday, 20th inst. The muster was fixed for 10.30 a.m., and the men moved off a quarter of an hour later. On arriving at the Black Mountain, the men were divided into two groups, the smaller—defending—under Commander O'Ceal- laigh. A half-hour's grace was given, and the attack then began, under the command of Cathal Mac Dubhghall. In spite of the very bad weather conditions the work was carried out with great efficiency and enthusiasm, and much hitherto unsuspected scouting ability was displayed. There was a thick fog,—the limit of vision being about 50 yards at most—which added to the natural difficulties, and the ground was frozen. However, the men showed surprising aptitude in availing themselves of cover, and as a whole, proved very capable. The work, according to the O.C., was "in every way worthy of trained soldiers."

The special parade for field work is arranged for Sunday, January 10th, 1915, when a very large programme of work is to be carried through. Every Volunteer is expected to attend sharp to time. Place of meeting and time of start will be announced at the various parades during this week.



## mo t̃uairim féin.

## THE WAR

Nuair do cuirfeamar an obair go na n-ógláid ar bun, tá tuilleadh agus bliadhain ó join ann, is dóca go rabamar báirim. Muna mbeimid báirim ní déifimid ar oiread de buntáct agus de dian-foctar leir an obair is do cuirfeamar. Do cuirfeamar go maic can do bí uainn. Do cuirfeamar nác bfuigiríde an ní rin san tuad. Do cuirfeamar nác i gcaiteam lae amáin ná reáctamaine amáin ná bliadhna amáin o'féadfaide an obair do gabamar le n-af n-air do cadairt cum chíde. Do cuirfeamar, má bí don cuirfint ionnainn i n-don óor, go raib obair deic mbliadhann poimáinn.

Níl caitea déc bliadhain, nó beagán or a cionn, agus tá curó agáinn agus rinn ag éirge cuirfead céana féin. Tá curó eile agáinn agus rinn ag cailleamhain ar mirtis. Tá curó eile agáinn agus rinn ag éirge mí-foighead. "Is cruaid liom mar obair i," arfa tuine. "Is doagáil dom mo rúge beata do cailleamhain dá bair," arfa tuine eile. "Is mall liom mar acáimio ag doagáil cum cinn," arfa an tcear tuine. Is dóca go mbionn fuar, fuar-te, agus ró-te i n-gac don obair. Ní fheiríde an obair don de'n tceirí rin.

An té nác bfuil fé de mirtneac ann leannáin do'n arim nuair do-óí fé an t-arim i n-guair, ní tceiríde an t-arim an té rin. Ní fceirí mirtneac do cur i gcladaire. Ní fceirí an cladaire do gúoraó, óir níl an rplannac beo ann. Fanaó na cladaire amac uainn. Ar an caob amuis 'reao is fceirí iao.

An t-ponis atá ag éirge cuirfead agus an t-ponis atá ag éirge mí-foighead, cuirfí ar don nác beag an obair arim do cur ar bun i tceirí ina bfuil fupmóir ná n-aoine meacta de bair léirfupmóirca agus an-rmaacta a namáto. An fáto do rúltear nác raib uainn déc arim bpeirge do bí na mílte ag bailiugáó cúgáinn itcead gac lá. Nuair do connáctar go rabamar báirim do tceirígead ar imceact uainn. Fíllirí a lán bair imcís fóir, má leannáimio-ne de'n obair. Ní cladaire a bfuiríor, déc is amháir nác tceiríge go bfuil gádo le gníomharcaid intioir, ó' ní é nác cleactatarr féin namá déc cainnc. Nuair cifear ríao go bfuil tceirge ar an gcainnit, cuirfí itcead linne agus oéanpáimio gníom le céite. Dúimí-ne 'sair n-ultimugáó féin i gcomair an lae úo.

pádraic mac piarais.

Just now at the commencement of a new year is an appropriate time to look back at the course of the war up to the present, and to form some estimate of the future. Of actual military operations there has been rather less news than usual during the past week. In Asia and the Serbian theatre there has been little activity. In France and Flanders things have resumed the old course of local attack and counter-attack, and the only field in which operations have not been remitted is Poland. There the Germans are still progressing, though slowly and partially. They have, however, resumed the offensive in the Mława region north of Warsaw, where the Russians had gained some advantages. The garrison of Przemysl is showing renewed activity in sorties. In East Prussia there are no operations at all, and it is evident that the Russians have been compelled to reinforce their main army in Southern Poland by calling in all their available detachments as far as available.

Upon the whole the military advantages so far lie with the central empires, even though those advantages are not of the sweeping kind that the Germans, more particularly, had hoped for. In the West they are firmly fixed in Belgium and north-eastern France, and there is small probability that the Allies will be able to force them out. From right to left the German front is covered by the canal system of Flanders, then by the enormously strong position on the heights immediately north of the Aisne, then by the difficult Argonne country, and lastly by the great fortresses of Metz and Strassburg. Any attempt to turn the left flank can be met and held in the narrow gap between the two great strongholds. The right rests on the sea, and no piercing of the centre can be accomplished except by enormous numbers used with unwavering resolution. At present the Allies have not the numbers, and so far they have not displayed any very marked capacity to press a persistent attack where it is a case of huge numbers. Up to the present their offensive moves have been altogether of a local character. Coming to the right we find the flank resting on the sea. And in spite of all the efforts of the British fleet the Germans have apparently succeeded in fortifying the coast from Blankenberghe, Zeebrugge, Heyst, on towards Knocke and the Dutch frontier. As far as can be judged their flotilla base at Zeebrugge seems to be capable of resisting any ships of sufficiently shallow draught to stand inshore and bombard it. In rear of their present position the Germans have the fortresses of Maubeuge, Antwerp, Namur, and Liege, as well as their own. These will

hold out longer in their hands than in those of the Allies, because the latter have no mobile siege artillery to reduce them in the same short order. In addition the industrial regions of Belgium and France are being gradually ruined, and this will eventually prove a trump card for the Germans. What reinforcements can the Allies look to in the West to force a German withdrawal from Belgium? Belgium for her part will be hard put to it to keep her forces at their present figure. France has still some troops remaining, but only of inferior quality and ill-fitted for a vigorous offensive campaign. It must be remembered that France—precisely because she trains a far bigger proportion of her male population than Germany, has a much smaller proportional reserve. Recent informal utterances of Japanese statesmen and the dissolution of the Japanese Parliament over the projected army increases seem to show plainly enough that Japan has no mind to be brought to Europe to fight battles for anyone: Japan has secured what she entered the war for. There remain the English reinforcements. These are numerous enough, but of course their quality will be immeasurably inferior to that of the original regular army. They will lack officers especially, and in artillery—most necessary for an offensive war in Belgium, their inferiority will be very marked indeed. Naturally the later German "bans" will not be equal to the others, either. But their inferiority will be less marked, for three reasons: A good proportion of the German male population escapes the conscription, which leaves a large number of able-bodied—not old—men to draw upon; the German system provides better facilities for training these and there are fuller supplies of material on hand.

For these reasons, then, it is clear that the task of the Allies in an offensive campaign in the West is extraordinarily difficult. And it is no wonder that Russia is regarded as the force from whom a decision is to be looked for. But so far there is no sign of this. The struggle in Poland is not at any definite stage, but at the time of writing it is certainly not favouring the Russians. Nor can it be said that the Russians are likely to get any stronger: Russia is not well circumstanced to avail herself of her reserves.

Details are now to hand of the sea-fight off the Falkland Islands, in which Von Spee's fleet was destroyed. It appears that there were on the English side the battle-cruisers "Invincible" and "Inflexible," the presence of which made it absolutely hopeless for the Germans from the start. The amazing thing is how the German armoured ships stood up to the terrible pounding—one for three hours, the other for five. Manifestly the workmanship and construction of the German

(Continued on page 7.)



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41 Kildare Street, DUBLIN.

All communications re Advertisements  
to be addressed to the

**IRISH PRESS BUREAU,**  
30 Lr. Abbey Street, DUBLIN.

**The Irish Volunteer.**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1915.

## HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

The Central Executive of the Irish  
Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wed-  
nesday evening, 30th December, Mr. P. H.  
Pearse presiding.

The Director of Training reported that  
the draft Syllabus of Training would be  
ready for submission to the Executive  
within a week.

The Director of Organisation was  
authorised to prepare a Recruiting Scheme  
for 1915.

Captain Mellows, Organising Officer,  
reported on the efficiency of Companies in  
Westmeath, King's Co., Queen's Co., and  
Kilkenny.

Progress was reported in connection  
with the working out of the Communica-  
tion Scheme.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,  
Dublin, 30th Dec., 1914.

**NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.**  
**THE NEW YEAR.**

1914 was a year of pioneering: 1915 is  
to be a year of construction. In 1914 we  
needed only courage: in 1915 we shall

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need the rarer and more valuable thing,  
grit. It was easy to start the Irish  
Volunteers: it will be difficult to make  
them a really effective military force.  
But that is exactly the task that lies be-  
fore us in 1915. If the Irish Volunteers  
are not an effective military force they  
are useless, and worse than useless,—  
they are dangerous. If we did not mean  
to make them an effective military force  
we were wrong to start them. But we  
did mean to make them an effective mili-  
tary force. It remains for us to fulfil  
our intention.

**WHAT IS EFFICIENCY?**

What is to be our definition of Volun-  
teer efficiency? Obviously, ability to ac-  
complish the object for which the force  
was established. The force was not  
established to bolster up any political  
party. It was not established to afford  
its members an agreeable relaxation. It  
was not established to do deeds of knight-  
errantry in foreign countries. It was  
established to win Irish rights and to  
guard them when won. It was estab-  
lished, in other words, to fight in Ireland  
if and when it becomes necessary to fight.  
By Irish Volunteer efficiency, therefore,  
we mean efficiency to fight on Irish soil  
subject to the advantages and to the dis-  
advantages entailed by all our circum-  
stances of time and place,—the fact that  
we are Volunteers, not Regulars; recent  
recruits, not veterans; infantrymen (or,  
at best, mounted infantrymen) only, with-  
out for the present the aid of cavalry,  
artillery, or machine gun sections; as yet  
only partially armed, with ammunition  
scarce; led by amateurs, not by profes-  
sional soldiers; bound to act on the defen-  
sive, not on the offensive;—with all these,  
and other, circumstances fully in view,  
we have to set up for ourselves a standard  
of efficiency and to work resolutely and



# IRISH BATTLES.

## III.—THE BATTLE OF KINSALE.

Hugh O'Neill had been waging a war upon the whole successfully for some half-dozen years when Mountjoy became Viceroy in the year 1600. He had turned his relatively feeble resources to such good account that the vastly greater part of Ireland was lost to the English. But Mountjoy's coming changed all this: the new Viceroy realised that resolute use of his great advantages should reasonably ensure victory, and he had the requisite military capacity to pursue such a policy. Moreover, he aimed—and with success—to stir up the old tribal animosities that O'Neill's wonderful shrewdness and address had partially laid to rest. The result was that his first year in office saw O'Neill losing ground everywhere—rapidly in the South and even in the North gradually. So that when the

Aquila, by vigorous and well-timed sorties, inflicted great damage, and managed to keep the heavy batteries well away, besides repulsing one heavy assault.

Meantime O'Neill and O'Donnell on the one side and the English Government on the other were both hurrying troops to Kinsale as the decisive point. Six thousand men, with ample cannon and stores of all kinds, came from England, and early in November O'Donnell was on his way southward with some 2,500 tried men. Carew was detached to intercept him by Mountjoy with about 4,000, and advanced to Cashel, posting himself in the direct line of O'Donnell's march. Now, on O'Donnell's right or western flank were the Slieve Felim mountains, the surface of which the incessant rains had made wet, miry, and absolutely im-

grimly from week to week and from month to month until we attain to that standard. And it is our own standard we must seek after, and not any other standard. Other standards, either British or German, will only mislead us. With all our own limitations and needs in mind, we must work out our own Scheme of Organisation, our own Scheme of Training, our own Scheme of Strategy and Tactics.

### WORK FOR 1915.

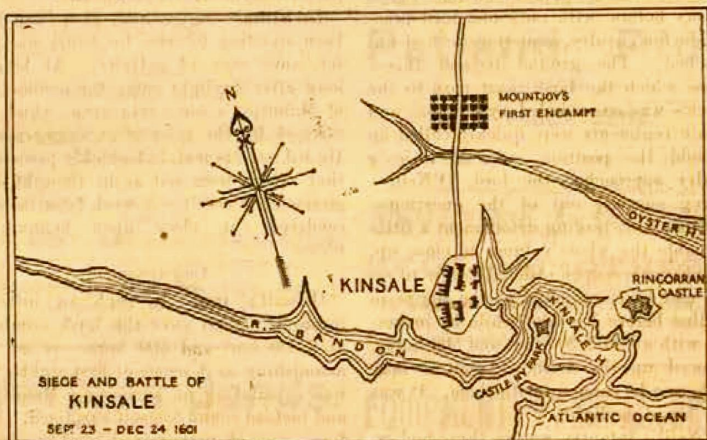
An Organisation Scheme adapted, as it is hoped, to Volunteer needs has already been promulgated: it remains to make it a fact. The matter of Training is engaging the earnest attention of the Headquarters Staff, and a Syllabus of Training will shortly be issued. This Training Scheme must be got going during the early weeks of 1915. We may sum it up in a sentence by saying that its object will be to convert our loose and partially-trained groups of Volunteers into so many mobile and disciplined bodies of riflemen-scouts. These, then, are the essentials of Volunteer efficiency—mobility, discipline, scouting, marksmanship. Everything else is important in proportion as it conduces to efficiency in one of these.

### COMMENCE NOW.

We look to the Companies to get into the swing of work right now. The Christmas holidays ended with the last night of the old year, and the New Year's work ought to have commenced with proper verve and élan on New Year's Day. There must be no intermediate period of half-work and half-play. Start off here and now with definite objectives and firm resolve to reach the objectives. Every Volunteer an efficient riflemen-scout; every Company a mobile, disciplined, and as far as possible self-contained unit of such riflemen-scouts; every Battalion a similarly mobile, disciplined, and self-contained association of such Companies: these are the objectives to be reached in 1915.

### TO DUBLIN COMPANIES.

There has been some slackness in the attendance and punctuality of the Dublin Companies during the past few weeks, due doubtless to the pressure of Christmas overtime on so many members. Now that Christmas is past, large and punctual musters must be the order. The Director of Organisation is signalling the New Year by a tour of inspection of Dublin Companies, which commenced on Monday, Jan. 4th, and will report to the Executive on the strength and efficiency of the Companies visited. A proposal for a general meeting of Dublin Volunteers to be addressed on behalf of the Executive on the various branches of Organisation and Training will probably take concrete shape in a week or two. This plan of detailed inspection and conference will subsequently be extended to the provinces.



Spanish Army landed at Kinsale at the end of September, 1601, they had no immediate adherents and had to await the arrival of the Ulster chiefs.

The Spanish forces numbered something over 3,000 men under the command of Don Juan de Aquila, and the English garrison evacuated the town—then a small place of 200 houses—on their approach. The Spanish General immediately set to work to strengthen the defences of the town and also manned the two works, Rincorran and Castlepark, commanding the harbour entrance. Mountjoy, collecting all available forces and summoning reinforcements, marched at once to Kinsale, hoping to crush Aquila before any rising in his favour took place in Munster. About the middle of October he had 10,000 men before the town and a squadron off the coast. The capture of the Rincorran fort allowed the ships to come in and aid in a general bombardment. Later on Castlepark also fell, and all the heights around the town were in Mountjoy's hands. Even so, De

passable. But by great good fortune an exceedingly heavy frost came on that night; and Red Hugh, breaking camp in the middle of the night, threw his entire force off the main road and across the now passable mountains. By an extraordinary and forced march, and abandoning some of his baggage, he reached Croom, in the present County of Limerick—40 English miles in 24 hours. He was then well beyond the reach of Carew, who fell back to Kinsale. He was now in a position to rally to himself any disaffected chiefs of West Munster, and was joined by a second Spanish force of 700, under Alorzo de O'Campo, which had landed at Castlehaven. Establishing himself at Bandon, he isolated Mountjoy's army on that western side.

This was the state of affairs for about a month when on the 19th of December O'Neill's advanced troops were observed on the hills to the north of the English camp, occupying the road to Cork. The Viceroy's army was now itself virtually surrounded, and it was O'Neill's policy



to continue in this fashion. The severe weather was playing havoc with the English contingents of Mountjoy's army, and the constant harassing sallies of the Spaniards kept them unable to get repose, while on the land side all communication was cut off. O'Donnell, however, and many of the Southern chiefs were for an immediate attack, and De Aquila was of the same mind. Accordingly a concerted plan of attack was decided on.

O'Neill was to make an attack in full force on the English lines on the night of December 23rd, and De Aquila was to make a sortie upon becoming aware of his approach. It is probable that Mountjoy had intelligence of the projected attack, and had in consequence doubled his guard and held his men in readiness though not actually under arms. At all events a good watch was being kept and he was warned in good time that the Irish were advancing with matches lit—the flashes showing in the darkness. Mountjoy had his measures taken beforehand: the enemy had to advance by a marshy hollow with only one ford practicable for cavalry, and this he had entrenched. The ground beyond this—across which the Irish must pass to the attack—was commanded by cannon, and certain regiments were quickly called up to hold the position. As Mountjoy's cavalry approached the ford, O'Neill—finding surprise out of the question—drew back his leading detachment a little to enable the whole column to close up. Mountjoy thereupon ordered Carew to return and take command of the troops in the line before Kinsale, while he in person, with about 1,200 foot and 500 horse, followed up the Irish. About a mile further on he came up with them. It was then broad daylight.

O'Neill's infantry was in three bodies, the cavalry in a fourth, the front covered by a bog. The actual conduct of the fight on the other side fell to the Marshal Sir Richard Wingfield, who acted to Mountjoy much in the capacity of a Chief of Staff. This officer, advancing with Clanrickard and 100 horse, threw out as skirmishers 100 men of the first infantry that came to hand. These were driven back by skirmishers thrown out from O'Neill's centre, until reinforced by a second hundred, with which addition they succeeded in driving back the Irish skirmishers. Meantime Mountjoy's other troops were hurrying up as quickly as possible, and Clanrickard essayed a charge on the left one of the three bodies of infantry, which was, however, repulsed. They were followed up by the Irish cavalry, but not so vigorously as to suffer much loss.

On the other flank, with the bog extending around their right, stood O'Campo and Tyrrell, whom Mountjoy engaged with the last of his infantry detachments to come up. The second body of his

infantry the Viceroy held in reserve, merely keeping them in readiness in the centre. It was fortunate that he did so, for O'Neill, after the repulse of Clanrickard's horse, moved forward his own centre with the object of separating the two wings of Mountjoy's force. The English general thereupon brought up his reserve and charged home on a section of O'Neill's centre, with the result that all that body fell back and took post on a height to the rear. At the same time Clanrickard, strongly reinforced, charged and routed the Irish cavalry and then wheeled in on the flank of the corps he had previously charged unsuccessfully; and this time with complete success. The centre was next attacked vigorously and dispersed. O'Campo's Spaniards and that sterling soldier Tyrrell made a determined stand and were practically cut to pieces; the Spanish officer being made prisoner and Tyrrell just contriving to escape. The Irish lost almost 2,000 men with arms and baggage, but there was no pursuit beyond the battlefield.

In Kinsale, meanwhile, Don Juan had been standing to arms for hours waiting for some sign of activity. At length long after daylight came the commotion of Mountjoy's force returning, which he mistook for the noise of an engagement. He led out his men but quickly perceived that things were not as he thought and guessed the result. A week later he surrendered the place upon honourable terms.

#### COMMENTS.

O'Neill's rout—by such an inferior force—O'Campo gave the Irish numbers at 6,000 foot and 500 horse—is not as astonishing as it seems at first sight. He was calculating on surprising Mountjoy and instead found himself surprised. His force was of very mixed quality, practically only O'Donnell's contingent, Tyrrell's veterans, and O'Campo's Spaniards being good troops; and these were in part unsteadied by their untrained auxiliaries: the Viceroy, on the other hand, had picked troops and his best officers. It was, as a matter of fact, inadvisable to attack at all: it would have been much sounder to sit down and isolate the Viceroy, an easy task and one which would have allowed of some degree of training being imparted to the worthless levies of the Munster chiefs. Kinsale was sufficiently provided for months and the severe weather was killing Mountjoy's troops in dozens. The battle gives us a striking proof of the danger of night attacks: such should never be attempted with poor troops, and the ground should always be reconnoitred as thoroughly as possible beforehand. In addition on this occasion the night was desperately wet and dark: some authorities even say that the Irish lost their way, but this is not certain. All Mountjoy's measures were good: his careful

selection and preparation of a defensive position, his following up of the retreating enemy, the vigorous holding attacks with such forces as he had available, his keeping a reserve in hand and using it unhesitatingly at the proper moment. Many Irish writers make a scapegoat of De Aquila, but surely, in engaging the attention of all the English forces in Ireland for three months he fairly did his part.

## TACTICAL PROBLEMS.

The Editor has decided to publish a series of Tactical Problems, and he requests Irish Volunteers to send in their solutions. The solutions sent in will be discussed in a subsequent issue of the IRISH VOLUNTEER and helpful criticism and suggestions given. This is not a competition and no prizes for the best solutions will be given—it is just part of the work of this paper in helping the Volunteers to become trained. We hope that many of our readers will send us their solutions. They will find it very useful.

### I.

#### GENERAL IDEA.

A Red force is engaged in landing on the coast between Balbriggan and Skerries, with the intention of advancing on Dublin. A Blue cyclist patrol near the Naul observes them at 6 a.m. just as the first boat-loads are disembarking. The Blue troops available for the defence of Dublin comprise the Dublin City Volunteers and the Companies from the neighbouring districts: the Red forces are supposed to be considerably more numerous if they can be fully developed.

How can Blue act so as, (A) if possible overwhelm Red before the landing operation is completed, (B) failing this, successfully oppose the march on the city?

#### NATURE OF SOLUTION.

The solution will consist in particular of a "Special Idea" developed from the above "General Idea." It is desirable to formulate a sound general scheme of defence, but due regard must be paid to the several details involved. Accurate calculations of time and distance are required, and extra credit will be given for any solutions showing special care in studying the nature and requirements of the ground.

#### CONDITIONS.

All solutions must reach Headquarters on or before January 18th. Each solution must be signed with the author's name, rank, and unit. Only one solution may be sent in by anyone.



THE WAR.

(Continued from page 3.)

ships must be excellent or they could never have remained afloat for any such length of time.

During the past week there have been numerous instances of activity on the part of German submarines and aeroplanes. Several English ports have been visited—probably in an endeavour to locate the battle fleet. No damage was done by the aeroplanes, nor was any attempted by the submarines, so that apparently the visits were intended purely as reconnaissances.

"C" COMPANY, 1st BATTALION.

An election of Company Commander will take place at 41 Parnell Square, on Thursday night, 14th instant. Punctual attendance requested at 8 p.m.

By Order,  
J. E. LYONS, Hon. Sec.

"D" COMPANY, 4th BATTALION.

A full attendance of this Company is requested at next parade, Friday, January 8th. The names of recruits wishing to join this Company will be taken any Friday night, between 8 and 10 p.m., at the Drill Hall, Larkfield, Kimmage.

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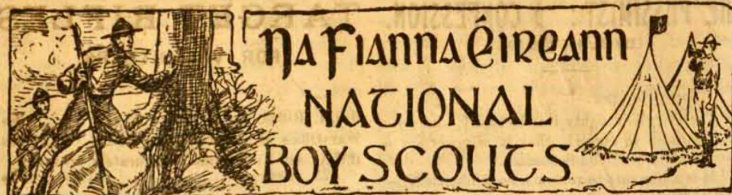
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Tosnuighmis anois in ainm Dé: Let us begin now in the name of God. Let us not carry into the New Year the jollity of Christmas. It is time to leave aside the easy pleasure of the Ceilidhe and the Theatre and put our backs into the sterner work of training for the purposes of war. Every hour spent in pleasure to the neglect of our work impairs our efficiency, softens our muscles, and dulls our intellect. There is no longer time for the normal amusements of normal times. We are in a state of war and this very year even the youngest boy in the Fianna may be called upon to withstand the hardships incidental to war. He who is not preparing for such a crisis must stand a poor chance of coming through the ordeal. Many of the older boys may be called on to justify their national faith by force of arms. The one question for each of us is: **Am I ready?** To this question each of us must answer truthfully. If we are not ready we must strain every nerve to become so as quickly as possible. There is ample opportunity for training, and he who neglects it must be regarded as a fool or a traitor.

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting my old comrade, Captain Liam Mellows. The Captain is now an organiser for the Irish Volunteers. He graduated in the Fianna, starting as a full private in An Cheud Sluagh, Camden Street. However, he was too hard a worker to be left long in the enjoyment of the mediocrity of Camden Street. He organized a first-rate sluagh in Dolphin's Barn, which is not, by the way, keeping up to the reputation it earned a couple of years ago. Well, the Captain and myself discussed at great length many schemes for the improvement of the Fianna through the country. In his capacity as Volunteer Organiser he travels through a great part of Ireland, and he promised to help in the training of

the Fianna whenever possible. He also said, incidentally, that he thought there were many officers in Dublin who were not doing all they might do. I assured him that he was quite wrong and that all, or nearly all, our officers were first-rate workers. Now then, let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and set our organisation buzzing during the present year.

The new monthly paper, edited by Percy Reynolds and Patsey O'Connor, is promised for next month. The name of the paper will be "Fianna," and, I am told, it will deal with every phase of the National Boy Scout movement. It will be written largely by members of the Fianna; but every member of the Fianna will not be given a place in its columns, as is evidenced by the following rhyme sent me for publication:—

My name is Percy Reynolds,  
And I'm a clever chap;  
My partner is O'Connor,  
Always eager for a scrap.  
We ran a Christmas journal,  
A venture we made pay;  
So to propagate our Kultur  
Likewise to have our say—  
We will run a monthly paper,  
For as editors we shine.  
But we'll accept no "copy"  
From that critic called O'Ryan."

The age of censorship has, indeed, arrived.

WILLIE NELSON.

#### DUBLIN BATTALION.

The following Companies start work this week. Boys wishing to join Na Fianna Éireann may do so on application to the officer in charge.

Coy. A, 34 Lower Camden Street.—Mondays and Thursdays, 8—9.30 p.m.

Coy. B (Right-Half), Camac Place, Dolphin's Barn.—Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8—9.30 p.m.

Coy. B (Left-Half), Emmet Hall, Inchicore.—Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8—9.30 p.m.

Coy. C, 9 Merchants' Quay.—Mondays and Thursdays, 7.30—9.30 p.m.

Coy. D (Right-Half), Dollymount.—Thursdays and Saturdays, 8—9.30 p.m.

Coy. D (Left-Half), Fr. Mathew Park, Fairview.—Mondays and Thursdays, 7—9 p.m.

Fianna Cadet Corps meet on Wednesdays and Fridays at 41 Kildare Street, 8—9.30 p.m.

#### IRISH VOLUNTEER CONCERT.

A musical treat, in aid of the Irish Volunteer Equipment Fund, to take place in the Banha Hall on Saturday, the 9th inst., commencing at 8 o'clock, has been arranged by a distinguished Volunteer vocalist, Lieut. E. O'Connor Cox (Feis Ceoil Gold Medallist and winner of the Denis O'Sullivan Memorial Medal, Feis Ceoil), who will be assisted by such well-known artistes as Mr. Vincent O'Brien, Mr. Patrick Delaney, Mrs. O'Moore and Miss Mary Delany (Feis Ceoil Gold Medallists), Miss Eileen Hayden, Miss Maire Hughes, Messrs. T. Kennedy, J. O'Beirne, and Cathal MacDubbghaill, Miss Una O'Donnell, Mr. M. Whelan, and The Celtic Trio (Irish Dancers).

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