

An t-Ógláic

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THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

Drawn by Frank Leah from a special sitting.

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THE ARMY AND ATHLETICS.

The formation of the Army Athletic Association will meet with the cordial approval of all who have the interests of the Army at heart.

Athletics form an important part of the training of every modern Army. They assist materially in bringing about that condition of physical fitness essential to the complete efficiency of the soldier and stimulate a healthy sporting spirit amongst the men.

We in Ireland have a great tradition to maintain in this matter—a tradition that is as old and as glorious as that of the Olympic Games. The Greek ideal of a sound mind in a sound body was paralleled in ancient Ireland. Here, too, we find that the great warriors of the past were also great athletes. The stories of the Red Branch Knights and of Cuchullain, the boy warrior of the North, were an inspiration for young Ireland that persisted down the centuries. The fame of the Tailteann Games was far-flung.

The scheme of organisation which has been drawn up for the Army Athletic Association is carefully thought out and comprehensively designed. It proves that it is possible for the soldiers to secure plenty of variety in their athletic training without having recourse to other than Gaelic games. There is something to suit every taste in the list of sports sanctioned by the newly-formed association and the near future should see the realisation of the Chief of Staff's vision of a big Army Sports day in the Irish capital.

The truth of the statement that the Army should be the backbone of the Irish-Ireland movement cannot be challenged. Its ranks contain some of the best exponents of Gaelic Football and Hurling, as well as Gaelic scholars. The young Irishmen in the Army are the bone and sinew of the country and will play a vitally important part in the creation of the Gaelic State to which we all look forward. They will be all the better citizens of that State in consequence of the training they receive in the Army, and the fostering of a love of clean, healthy sport will be by no means the least valuable part of their military education.

THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

A Biographical Sketch.

Lieutenant-General Sean O Muirthuille, Quartermaster-General, is a native of Leap, County Cork, and received his education at the local school at Glandore. From an early age he took a keen interest in the Irish Language Movement and did a great deal to arouse the people of the district to a sense of their duty towards the national tongue. He was prominently identified with the formation of several branches of the Gaelic League in the county, and for years was a well-known and popular figure on the Gaelic League and other national platforms. He carried off a number of prizes, including Oireachtas gold medals.

Taking up the teaching of Irish as a profession, Mr. O Muirthuille spent some years as an instructor in the County Kerry and was subsequently promoted organiser—a post which he filled with the utmost efficiency until 1916. During those years he came into close association with the Freedom group in Dublin and was one of the few energetic agents travelling the country at the time in the interests of Irish Independence.

During the time of preparation for 1916 Lieutenant-General O Muirthuille worked in particularly close contact with Sean MacDermot and Tom Clarke, and at the establishment of the Volunteers became an ardent organiser in association with P. H. Pearse, Roger Casement and The O'Rahilly. He figured prominently at many big demonstrations throughout the South.

At the time of the Howth gun-running the future Quartermaster-General was sent to arrange for a landing at Carrigaholt, County Clare, in case the vessel with the arms should put in there. His orders from Sean MacDermot were to watch out for the landing until July 26th. As will be remembered, the actual landing took place at Howth on that date.

Sean O Muirthuille, as he was known in those days, took a leading part in the setting up of Gaelic Colleges and himself taught at the O'Curry College, Carrigaholt. Later he took a hand in establishing a Gaelic College at Glandore and was one of the first teachers there.

A little time before Easter, 1916, Lieut.-General O Muirthuille was sent to Limerick to prepare the area to receive arms, which were to be passed through Kerry after a landing which was to mark the beginning of the Easter Week fight. In this work he had associated with him Major-General Brennan, the present G.O.C. of the Limerick Command, and James Leddin, a veteran in the cause, together with several others who have since done good service in the Army.

The arrest of Casement and the capture of the arms vessel upset the plan. Shortly afterward the arrest of Lieutenant-General O Muirthuille and his fellow-workers took place, but he was soon free again, and in August, 1916, with Lieutenant-General Diarmuid O'Hegarty, took up the reorganisation of the Volunteers. Communication was again established with John Devoy and other supporters in America.

Lieutenant-General O Muirthuille was prohibited by the British from leaving Limerick City for three months previous to February, 1917, when he was deported to England together with some twenty others on the pretence that a "plot" had been discovered. He and some of the others escaped and returned home to take part in the Longford election when the late Mr. J. McGuinness, T.D., headed the poll. The Q.M.G. took a prominent part in all subsequent elections both as organiser and speaker.

A close friend of the late Michael Collins he was in daily touch with him in his work. He escaped arrest at the time of the "German Plot" and was at liberty for ten months after that, being eventually taken in Cobh by the R.I.C.

In 1919 Lieutenant-General O Muirthuille took up work again for the Gaelic League as Secretary to the Dublin Coiste Ceann-tair and was elected General Secretary in 1920. In April, 1921, after the death of Stiophan Baireadh, Treasurer of the Gaelic League, the General Secretary was appointed to that position also and carried on the dual post with the utmost efficiency until the outbreak of hostilities in 1922, when he came into the Army.

He acted as Commandant of Kilmainham Military Prison from July to September 7th, when he was placed in charge of Gormanstown. In October he was appointed Assistant Adjutant-General, and in February made Quartermaster-General and a member of the Army Council.

THE WORKS CORPS.

Much Good Work in a Very Short Time—Reconstruction Problems—Repairing Wexford Bridge—Constructing an Aerodrome.

[BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.]

The British built Beggars' Bush Barracks in the year 1815, and, perhaps with some dim idea about swords being turned into ploughshares, planted a few score cannon outside the walls as posts for boundary chains.

You might pass those squat posts a hundred times without realising that they were, in reality, chunks of obsolete artillery, planted with their breech ends in the earth and the muzzles closed with ancient missiles about the size of billiard balls.

I forget where the British collected these venerable weapons—whether it was at the Siege of Troy or the Battle of Scarva. The point is, will the Works Corps, who now occupy this barracks, allow them to remain there in their comparatively useless position? I ask because the Works Corps seem to have a rooted dislike to seeing any material going to waste, and I can quite imagine that the daily spectacle of all this perfectly good material idling, as it were, on their doorstep, would set them thinking out some method of using it up in some of the jobs they are constantly undertaking.

* * * *

That is the dominant impression that one receives on coming into contact with the Works Corps—they are out to build up, to construct. Although they have been in existence for only a few months, they have already a number of big achievements to their credit, and they are prepared to tackle even more ambitious projects with the same cheery, indomitable confidence at any moment that the good of the State may require.

One of the biggest things that they have to their credit at present is the repairing of the bridge at Ferryquay, Wexford. I

was in Wexford town before they effected the repairs to the structure, and witnessed the great inconvenience which the destruction of the bridge caused to the people of the town and of the district for miles around. The other day I revisited the place, and can state with authority that the name of the Works Corps is blessed in that neighbourhood by thousands of grateful country folk and townspeople.

* * * *

The original bridge was built about ninety years ago, and is an exceptionally long structure—the camera was hardly able to get it all into the picture, as you will observe by the accompanying photograph.

Ninety-one feet of the bridge, at the widest part in the centre of its 1,343 feet stretch, were blown up, and the job that confronted the Works Corps when they got down there was a rather formidable one. However, they tackled it with their usual cheerfulness, utilised the remains of the original piles, added to them, and completely rebuilt the structure from two feet above the water line.

It was especially difficult to set the lowermost piles, owing to the river being in flood, and on a few occasions snipers tried to impede the work of the soldier craftsmen, but without effect.

The work was commenced on the 15th January, and at the end of four weeks the span of 91 feet had been reconstructed to carry heavy traffic at fifty per cent. less cost than the estimate put in by an outside firm.



“An t-Oglách”]

The All-Ireland Works Stores at Beggars' Bush Barracks.

[Exclusive Photo.]



"An t-Oglách"]

Transport at Beggars' Bush Barracks. When this picture was taken the cars shown were about to start off for the remote Western seaboard. [Exclusive Photo.]

But that is the way of the Works Corps. They not only do things well, but they generally manage to do them about thirty per cent. cheaper than "other firms." Some of the men in the Corps do not hesitate to say that they are "saving the Army half their pay." However that may be, the very remark shows that the right spirit pervades the Corps. They are out to give value and more than value for money—to do their best regardless of remuneration or other consideration.

In addition to the reconstruction of the bridge at Ferryquay, the Works Corps, during the few months of their existence, have carried out valuable constructive and repair work at different barracks. The men of the Corps are instructed in every branch of work—carpentry, lighting, sanitation, masonry, electrical work, etc., etc., and are capable, even at the present stage, of taking on almost any class of job that the Army may require to be performed.

For some time past the Corps has been at work on the old British G.H.Q. at Parkgate Street, Dublin, making it suitable for the accommodation of the Irish G.H.Q. It is a very finely situated building and, says the expert voice of the Works Corps, very soundly constructed. But the material in nearly every part is in a very bad condition from age, and the Corps has experienced great difficulty in adapting the structure for up-to-date offices.

Another elaborate piece of work which the Corps has just about completed is the old W.D. Laundry at Parkgate Street. Here they have erected engines and installed steam presses and other machinery, so that in a very short time the laundry will be able to cater for all the barracks in the Irish Capital.

Yet another little job in hands at present is the construction and erection of a huge hangar for a new Army aerodrome, together with the subsidiary buildings for same.



"An t-Oglách"]

Works Corps erecting a living hut at an aerodrome.

[Exclusive Photo.]

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WORKS CORPS' BIG ACHIEVEMENT.



"An t-Oglách"]

[Exclusive Photo.]

Top.—General view of Ferryquay Bridge, Wexford. Bottom.—Section of bridge repaired by the Works Corps.

While I was at Beggar's Bush they treated me to a demonstration of what they could do in a rush. They brought me out to a field at the back, and while I smoked a cigarette they erected a wooden hut capable of providing adequate shelter for about fifty men.

Of course they didn't altogether finish it. I expect it would have taken them whilst I was smoking a couple more cigarettes to have made the beds nice and tidy and hung a few pictures on the walls, but the performance certainly did suggest to me a swift method of settling the Housing Problem.

By the way, the Works Corps garrison Beggar's Bush entirely themselves—soldier and carpenter, too, as it were. And they take their share of patrol and other Army work.

I suggested that they should have a special crest—a theodolite

rampant with a pickaxe couchant on a field azure, or some picturesque little design like that.

They immediately produced three designs for the suggested crest which, if not exactly what I meant, at any rate were most appropriate. The design which they were thinking of adopting—this was before I had said a word, mark you—hadn't got a theodolite in it, but embraced a jack plane, a cogwheel, a pickaxe and a bracebit. They should have included a brush also, as they can turn out really decorative work when they are asked.

Yes, a couple of members of the Works Corps would be really useful chaps to have about the house. They deserve to wax and prosper.

ATHLETICS IN THE ARMY.

Association Launched at G.H.Q.—An Auspicious Beginning—Overwhelming Support for Gaelic Games.

Saturday, March 31st, should be a red-letter day in the history of the Army, since it witnessed the launching of the Army Athletic Association under the most favourable conditions.

* * * *

From Army centres all over the country during the past few weeks reports were being received of sports and athletic activity. Hurling and football teams had been formed, boxing tournaments were successfully organised. It was clear that the time had come to launch an Athletic Association. Accordingly a meeting was held at General Headquarters under the auspices of the Chief of Staff, and arrangements made to hold a representative conference at which the new Association should be launched. This meeting was successfully held at General Headquarters on Saturday afternoon last, and the Army Athletic Association called into being.

* * * *

The Chief of Staff presided, and the following Officers were present:—Dublin Command—Major-General Hogan, G.O.C.; Col. Higgins. Curragh Command—Major-General MacMahon, G.O.C.; Capt. B. Whelan, Capt. M. Doyle. Cork Command—Capt. M. Vaughan, Capt. Barry Duke. Waterford Command—Comdt. T. Ryan, Capt. M. Cassidy. Limerick Command—Comdt. MacGrath. Athlone Command—Lieut. Phelan. Works Corps—Capt. L. O'Brien, Lieut. J. Murphy. Air Force—Lieut. Comdt. Broy. Corps of Signals—Capt. Cryan. Artillery Corps—Comdt. D. O'Leary. Special Infantry Corps—Lieut. V. Staines, Lieut. A. Cork. Railway Protection Corps—Capt. D. J. Sheridan. General Headquarters Departments were represented by Comdt. H. G. Smith and Capt. F. O'Brien (Chief of Staff's Dept.), Comdt.-General Boylan and Comdt. Colgain (Adjutant-General's Dept.). The Quartermaster-General, who attended the inaugural meeting, was unavoidably absent, but intimated his approval of the scheme of the new Association, and on behalf of his Department promised every support to the project.

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The Central Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association was represented by General O'Duffy and Mr. Luke J. O'Toole. Mr. A. C. Harty attended on behalf of the I.N.A.C.A.

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An interesting discussion took place on the various provisions of the scheme of organisation, which was adopted, with some amendments, in the form given in the following columns.

* * * *

The attitude of the Association towards Soccer and Rugby raised a question of especial importance for the Army. General O'Duffy, speaking on the motion before the meeting, made an eloquent plea for the retention of Gaelic games in the Army. He urged that the time was not opportune to take any step that might militate against their own games. The Army should lead the way in fostering and promoting Gaelic pastimes, for which they had put up such a good fight in the past. The National Police Force had already decided to play only Gaelic games. These games were Irish of the Irish, and it would be a sad day when the Irish Army left aside their own games for games of foreign origin.

Several other speakers supported General O'Duffy, and the meeting unanimously resolved to exclude Soccer and Rugby Football, Cricket and Hockey from those games for which the Association would cater, the Gaelic codes to be followed in all outdoor games to which they applied.

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A motion, proposed by Comdt. Colgain and seconded by Comdt. McGrath, that tennis and golf be included in the games of the Association was adopted.

* * * *

The questions of finance, levies, and the appointment of whole-time officials were referred to the following Executive Committee:—Major-General Hogan, Major-General Quinn, Comdt.-General Boylan, Col. Cronin, Comdt. Colgain, Comdt. Smith, and Capt. F. O'Brien.

* * * *

Mr. O'Toole, on behalf of the Central Council, thanked the Army for the decision they had arrived at that day. In their ranks, he said, they had some of the best exponents of Gaelic Football and Hurling. They had taken a decision that day that would give a great stimulus and help to their national games. The Gaelic Athletic Association had already decided to offer two silver cups, one for football and one for hurling, for the Army Championships. These cups were now being made, and when the Championships got going the cups would be handed over to the Army authorities.

* * * *

The Chief of Staff, in thanking the representatives of the G.A.A. for their attendance there that day, said he was glad of the decision they had taken. The Army should be the backbone of the Irish-Ireland movement, and should contribute of its stock to make Ireland a truly Gaelic State. He trusted the day was not far distant when the Army would have a big sports day in Dublin, in which they would have an opportunity of showing their prowess in the field of Gaelic sport.

THE SCHEME OF ORGANISATION.

The following scheme of organisation for the Army Athletic Association was adopted at the meeting held at G.H.Q., on Saturday, 31st ult.:—

1. SPORTS.

The sports which the Association shall cater for are:—(a) Hurling, Gaelic Football, Handball, Running, Cycling, Weight-throwing, Jumping, Swimming, Rowing, Boxing, Rounders, Tug-of-War, Tennis and Golf. (b) Dances, Concerts, Gymnastics, Aeridheachta, Billiards and kindred indoor amusements.

2. MEMBERSHIP.

All members of the Army and each of such other Corps as are subject to Army Discipline are eligible for membership of the Association.

3. BASIS.

The basis of the Association shall be Companies, Battalions, Commands, and Central Executive.

4. STATUS.

- (a) Each Company shall have the status of a Club.
- (b) Each Battalion shall have the status of a County.
- (c) Each Command and Independent Corps over one thousand strong shall have the status of a Province.
- (d) Corps under a thousand shall be grouped as a Province.

5. COMPETITIONS.

- (a) Inter-Company Championship for Football and Hurling shall be held each year and shall be played on the single league system.
- (b) Inter-Battalion Championships shall be held each year, and shall be played on the knock-out system.
- (c) Inter-Command and Corps Championship shall be held each year and shall be played on the knock-out system.
- (d) The winner of Inter-Company Championship to select Battalion teams.
- (e) The winner of Command Championship to select Command teams.

6. COMPOSITION OF TEAM.

The Company to which a man belongs on the date of the opening round of the competition, is the only company for which he will be eligible to play in the competition. Where a man refuses to play for his company he shall not be eligible to play on a Battalion or Command Team. All players shall be registered at least fourteen days prior to the opening round of the competition. All teams shall register distinctive colours with the Central Executive.

7. COMMITTEES.

- (a) Each Company shall have a Committee consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and four other members to be elected at a full meeting of the members thereof.
- (b) Each Battalion shall have a Committee consisting of one representative from each Company, together with a President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, elected at the Battalion Convention.
- (c) Each Command shall have a Committee consisting of one delegate from each Battalion together with President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, elected at the Command Convention.
- (d) The Army Executive Athletic Council shall consist of one representative from each body recognised as a Command, together with President, one Vice-President, Registrar, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, to be elected at the All-Army Athletic Congress.
- (e) Battalion and Command Committees may delegate the work of organising the different sports above-named to Sub-Committees, who, in all cases, will be subject to the Battalion or Command Committee.

8. PLAYING RULES.

The G.A.A. Rules shall govern all Gaelic games inaugurated by this Association.

9. REFEREES' ASSOCIATION.

A Referees' Association shall be formed in each Command and only such Referee shall officiate in Championship Matches.

10. ATHLETICS.

- (a) Inter-Company Athletic Championship shall be held each year. The number of athletes who shall represent a Company in such Championship shall not number more than three in each event.
- (b) The rules of the I.N.A.C.A. shall govern all Athletic Competitions inaugurated by this Association.
- (c) The Battalion Committee shall select three men for each Competition to represent Battalions in Command Championships.
- (d) Command Committees shall select three men to represent Command in Inter-Command Championships.
- (e) That the Army send a team to represent them in the All-Ireland Cross-Country Championships, the members of which shall be selected by the Army Executive Council.

11. ROUNDERS.

Rounders shall be governed by rules set down by G.A.A. A Rounders Championship shall be held each year as in the case of Hurling and Football.

12. HANDBALL.

Handball Championship shall be held each year. No Battalion may enter more than one player for Command single-handed Championship. A like rule exists for Commands in Inter-Command Championship. No more than one team of two players may be entered by Battalion or Command for double-handed Championship.

13. BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS,

as in the case of above-mentioned games, shall be held each year.

14. WRESTLING, as in Boxing.

SPORT IN DUBLIN COMMAND.

At a meeting held in Collins Barracks on the 13th ult., it was decided to form a Sports and Athletics Committee with the object of encouraging sports amongst the troops stationed in Collins Barracks. The following were elected on the Committee:—Honorary President, Major-General D. Hogan; President, Rev. Father Piggott (Chaplain, Collins Barracks); Secretary, Captain B. Barry (Command Headquarters); Treasurer, Lieut. J. Whelan (Pay Corps); Members—Comdt. T. Gunn, O.C. 57th Battalion; Capt. B. McAllister, 57th Battalion; Capt. O'Connell, 57th Battalion; Capt. Cassidy, 57th Battalion; Capt. P. Byrne, Supplies; Comdt. Weddick, O.C. 13th Battalion; Capt. Byrne, 13th Battalion; Capt. Kelly, 13th Battalion; Lieut. Walsh, 13th Battalion; Lieut. Lee, Medical Officer; Lieut. Martin, Transport; Lieut. Shanahan.

A Cup and set of Medals have been put up for the winners of the League which has been started. Inter-Company matches have already taken place with a view to picking out a Battalion Team. Arrangements are also in hand for forming Hurling Teams.

GAELIC ATHLETIC PASTIMES.

Annual Congress and Current Topics.

By "OSCAR."

General O'Duffy's speech at the G.A.A. Congress brought very welcome news. He reported a conference of all the Army Commands on Saturday, March 31st, in Dublin, where it was decided that Gaelic games alone should be played by the Army and National Police Forces. It would appear that there was no compulsion in the matter, and that the different units were eager to take up and develop our own National Games. Comdt. McGrath spoke in similar terms, referring to the establishment of half-a-dozen Hurling and Gaelic Football Clubs in the Army at Limerick. This is as it should be. The games are there, and they are good. Since "An tOglach's" publication in its new form I have noticed many camans in use in the Army playing pitch. I learn that Gaelic Football and Handball also are being generally taken up in different barracks and camps.

The G.A.A. Congress at the Mansion House was brisk and businesslike. Though neither as representative nor long-drawn-out as previous Conventions, and though the different Provinces reported some disorganisation as a result of unsettled conditions, the whole tone of the assembly was one of optimistic eagerness to retrieve the ground unavoidably lost in recent years. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with the G.A.A.—its loss in revenue and decrease in number of teams affiliated are alone attributable to the conditions that have prevailed here in recent years and to the fact that the bulk of all that was best in Young Ireland was engaged in more immediately important national duties.

Viewed from every standpoint, I think the postponement of the "open-door policy" was wise. The Exclusion Rule must go sooner or later, and both parties to Sunday's debate were thoroughly honest in their purposes. What ultimately weighed heaviest with the delegates was that, in the interest of native games, the present time is inopportune for making any drastic changes in the Association's Constitution. Let us have a year's respite to recover our full vigour. Let us have our competitions in full swing, packing every ground in the country, as we did from 1905 to 1914. Let the native games have complete grip of the Irish youth. Then we may safely say "Let the games stand on their own merit." This happy hour may come before Easter, 1924.

AT CROKE PARK.

The Congress adjourned to watch the Finnbarrs (Cork) play Faughs (Dublin) in Croke Park at 3.15. The Corkonians' small physique made them look like a lot of schoolboys as they filed in, clad in their blue jerseys. The saffron-clad Faughs were giants by comparison.

The game was a delightful one. St. Finnbarrs were very clever with their ash—using deft overhead strokes to great effect. In any close struggles on the sod Faughs used their weight well, and rushed their opponents off the ball repeatedly. The Dublin team hurled far better than they did against Limerick. The Moclair Brothers were, with Tobin, responsible for most of their scores. St. Finnbarrs were unlucky in a series of combined attacks in the second half, and had as much of the game territorially. St. Finnbarr's present team are not as skilled as their predecessors, but the Ryng Brothers and O'Herlihy gave very impressive dis-

plays. Clan Doherty—three of them—of Clare and Kilkenny hurled in rare style for Dublin.

In these sunny days playing fields have an added attraction. There is a spring in the turf, there is a freshness in the air. Exercise stirs our pulses, and participation in healthy games awakes a sense of self-confidence and joy of life unknown to non-athletic men. Get you out into the playing pitches, then, with ash and leather, develop your physique and playing skill. It will benefit yourself and the Company to which you belong.

I do not think it will be long before Army competitions are arranged. Civic Guards are doing splendidly. They have put a great hurling team out, and their footballers gave Kickhams a great run a few Saturdays back. I look forward to some rousing Inter-Battalion Army games during the summer.

HINTS FOR HURLERS.

As many young hurlers will be taking up the game in the Army I propose giving them a few useful hints towards improving their play.

It is always best to hold the caman with the strongest hand at the handle end. Nineteen of every twenty men are right-handed, so we have the general hurling law "left hand beneath." Held thus the hurley can be used to strike right or left with equal freedom after short practice. The uppermost hand must hold the caman rigidly—the left hand just guides the stroke, the power comes from the left. Watch a good hurler in action, and you see his left hand sliding freely up and down the ashen blade, as a violinist's left hand slides along a fiddle's neck.

Beginners are always tempted to practise the lift and hit method. It is more spectacular and satisfying, but it's the wrong road to progress in hurling skill. Learn to hit on the sod. Be loth to stop a ball—judge its approach, and strike out freely always, remembering to keep the caman under control. Many good hurlers strike with good power without allowing the caman to pass beyond the point of contact. A good place to finish a full hurling swing is at the shoulder. An easy bodysweep gives great confidence, and with neat wrist action this swing will send the ball wonderful distances with no great effort.

Learn to hit a ball travelling by you on the sod without stopping it. This is the most useful stroke in the forward game. Bring the hurley to the shoulder, watch the ball closely, and swing freely close to your feet. Many make a painful swipe three feet outside them, losing all sense of balance and control, and having neither power of direction nor recovery.

If a ball is to be stopped the caman must be held quite loosely, almost limply. The ball then stops dead at the player's feet.

SAFETY METHODS.

Good players have a fine sense of hurling etiquette. They can never hurt another skilled man.

One of the best recognised, though unwritten Hurling Laws, concerns a falling ball. Every man beneath it must aim to hit it at least seven feet above the ground.

That's the old fundamental law, which is rarely broken by good players, and which makes a dashing game like hurling a comparatively safe game.

Serious accidents are very rare, and I can assure any young member of the Army who secures a suitable hurley and has a taste for outdoor exercise, that he will soon develop a love for our National Pastime which will never depart from him.

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CAMPAIGNING IN KERRY.

I.—THE OCCUPATION.

"B.H. was occupied by National Troops on 8/12/'22."
—Daily Paper.

The procession of tenders, armoured cars and Fords proceeded merrily along from A.D., and dusk was creeping on as we started to negotiate the difficult three-mile stretch of road across the bog leading into B.H. This road had been cut and trenched in some score of places, and rendered passage exceedingly difficult. Certain of the vehicles were too heavy to pass across the emergency paths that had been made, and these had to be left there with a guard of half the escort whilst the remainder proceeded into the village, or at least to the outskirts. It was a bloodless occupation, because the other chaps had cleared out on the news of our approach.

Now the difficulties started to present themselves. Of empty houses there were plenty, but, as was necessary, one sought the best position, and that was exceedingly hard to find in the dark. At last, however, a suitable billet was found for 25 men, and this was occupied and named H.Q.

I proceeded through the village with the remainder of the men, and, reaching the beach, found two empty lodges which were eminently suitable for a billet.

Once posted, the next thought was of food, and this was supplied by the local grocery store. Kindly neighbours cooked the bacon and boiled the water, and by 10.30 p.m. everyone had had a good meal.

To post the sentries caused no little thought, because the light had prevented any actual investigation of the ground, and one knew not where to post the men for the best. However, they were posted at last, and a "flying" sentry established with a view of preserving communication between the two billets. I acted as visiting rounds, and throughout the night kept on the wander. During my patrolling two revolver shots were fired at me from the beach, but investigation showed that the firer had decamped. I believe that these two shots were the only ones fired during the whole occupation.

With the dawn one could afford to relax the tension and take stock of things. By nine o'clock everyone was working at filling sandbags, putting up wire, or else out with a reconnoitring party, and, with the nightfall, one felt more assured and fully capable of defeating any attack.

Possibly the greatest impression on the first day was the fact that the majority of the villagers welcomed us as being a very necessary factor in the preservation of a peace that they had been desiring for many months. Certainly no case of open hostility was observed, and everywhere during the leisure hours one could observe the boys striking up acquaintances with various people.

II.—THE EVACUATION.

"You will evacuate your post immediately."—Batt. Order to O/C. B.H.

The order had come. We had been expecting it, because there was no longer any work to be done in B.H. and district. The roads had all been cleared, bridges mended, trenches filled, and the surrender of the local columns completed. Yet we felt that this evacuation was going to hurt. It meant parting with all the friends we had made, and these were countless. Our chaps had won the affections of the people in many ways—by their religious devotions, healthy fun, clean sport, good discipline, and enthusiastic working. Orders are made to be obeyed, however, and the parting must be made that night.

All Government property was cleared away in motor lorry by 5.30 p.m., and the troops fell to filling in their time prior to their departure at 1.30 p.m. This waiting was filled in countless ways, each man turning to the friends that he had made to pass the last few hours with them.

At 9.30, feeling assured that everything was in order, I commenced on a round of visits to pay my final respects.

At Mac's I found a repetition of the surrender night, with a free and easy concert in full swing. After singing two songs I was permitted to leave, and bade farewell to the good people there who had helped me on every possible occasion with transport, etc., to mend the roads.

On then to various other houses, each containing one or two of the men, until I reached Joan's. Joan was a kindly soul who had always made open house for us, and many was the good dance held there on "off nights." Here the house was full to overflowing, and two fiddlers, with two melodeon players, provided the music for the dancers. But dear old Joan, on coming to the door to say "Good-bye," could not stay her tears.

When 1.30 came some thirty of the villagers had defied all local precedent and stepped up to wish us God-speed, and the garrison moved off to their cheers and the band. The band was formed by one man with a captured drum, another with captured cymbals, and another with a mouth organ.

The road to Tralee was long and weary, and our hearts were sad, but on reaching Tralee at about 8.30 the band struck up, and all fell into step, and we marched as though we had just detrained rather than tramped 13 Kerry miles, each of which, I assure you, equals about three statute miles.

THE WANDERER.

O.T.C., CURRAGH CAMP.

Some Further Appointments.

The following further appointments have been made from the Officers' Training Corps, Curragh Camp:—

- Lieut. Joseph Kelly to be 2nd Lieut. 63rd Battalion.
- Lieut. Maurice Ahern to be 1st Lieut. 63rd Battalion.
- Lieut. John Francis McEvoy to be Captain 63rd Battalion.
- 2nd Lieut. Dermot Daly to be 2nd Lieut. 63rd Battalion.
- Lieut. Thomas Quinn to be 1st Lieut. 63rd Battalion.
- Lieut. C. McGlynn to be Adjutant 61st Bn., with rank of Captain.
- Lieut. Comdt. A. FitzPatrick to be Quarter-Master with rank of Captain, 61st Battalion.
- Captain Theobald Hanley to be Captain 61st Battalion.
- Captain Thomas Guy to be 1st Lieut. 61st Battalion.
- Captain Wm. Fennessey to be Captain 61st Battalion.
- Lieut. Hugh McAtamney to be 1st Lieut. 61st Battalion.
- Commandt Patk. McTaggart to be Captain 61st Battalion.
- Captain Ml. Quinn to be 1st Lieut. 61st Battalion.
- Captain Jos. Mullen to be 2nd Lieut. 61st Battalion.
- Lieut. Eamon Young to be 2nd Lieut. 61st Battalion.
- Lieut. Hugh Mulholland to be 2nd Lieut. 61st Battalion.
- A/Captain William Murray to be Captain 61st Battalion.
- Captain Michael Connell to be 1st Lieut. 61st Battalion.
- Captain Jas. Simony to be 2nd Lieut. 61st Battalion.
- Lieut. Sean Robinson to be 2nd in Command of 43rd Battalion, with rank of Captain.
- 2nd Lieut. Leo Douris to be 2nd Lieut. 43rd Battalion.
- Lieut. John Jos. Barry to be 2nd Lieut. 43rd Battalion.
- Captain Gerard Downes to be Adjutant 54th Battalion, with rank of Captain.
- Commndt. Peadar Moynagh to be Captain 54th Battalion.

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AN GALAR—AGUS A LEIGEAS.

(PÁDRAIC Ó CONAIRE, DO SHUIOBH).

Bí aithe agam tríd ar fear ós a bí tuirseac cúlúite 'oe'n saoghal doibhinn áluinn seo bhonn dia oiminn. ní maib don purt dá n-éanfaid dia, diahal ná duine naé mbíod a loct féin le págáil ag an t-óglach seo aih. b'fada leis an oíche agus é ag súil leis an lá geal; b'fada leis an lá go mbíod sé n-a oíche arís. tríd a mbíod an ghrian ar an spéir agus taitneadh bheágh seanaímail uaidi, bíod aicís agus cumá agus oíomáir aih, agus b'é a pórte 'oe ghnáé go millríde gac uile sóite leis an tpiomac mór; dá bfeicead sé an gealaé mór doibhinn aihgeada ag maisiú sliab agus muir agus coillte cnaobaca, ní áasócaé sé sin é, agus sé an purt a n-abrócaé sé leat aét naé maib san ngealaigh aét doimán maibhanta gan beaca gan beódaé, agus naé maib sa solas a bí ag teacé uaidi aét solus bheige naé maibhead don acair, aét an oimead le bheagáin eile an tsaoagail seo:

Bí cáirde aige dá mbéad fíos aige é; aét b'é a bharámail gur aih maite leis go n-éanfaid na cáirde seo ghníomh óó, agus go n-éanfaidís uocair agus oíogháil óó dá bfeilfead sé uóib. bí naímh aige aih an saoghal seo cinnte, (an iongnad leat é a léigheoir?) agus ós purt é go maib na naímh seo ann, cuirfead sé n-a luíge oite naé maib ann aét iad.

Uaireannta, bíod coimnáide aih an óglach seo sa gcaitair; nuair a bíod, is ag enú le páirceannair leatna féaraimha, le spuclánair geala cionánaca sléibhe, leis an tuinn ag bualad isteaé aih éirígh uaignis, le coillte iolraaca amuis naoi Samhain, le oileánair allta sna páirighis theas, le beanna boirba maorúa paol bhatacaib síoráreaca—sead, is leó síú bíod sé ag enú. an purt a bí i b'fada i gcein, sin é an purt a bíod uair i gcoimnáide; na seoda luacmaire a bíod paol n-a súil agus paol n-a láimh, ba beag é a áirte oirra.

Nuair o'eirigead mo duine ró-tuirseac aih fad 'oe'n ácair, do bualead sé amac paol an b'ásac, paol na sléibhe uairheaca, paol coillte uoba ceógh, cois aihneaca glégeala, áit a mbíod na mílte bheac. níor tuisge annsin uó ná do bualead a reanagalar arís é, go mbíod sé cinnte oearbda naé maib don tsaoagal ann aét saoghal na caímac, agus bíod sé ag iméacé leis n-a áadain doniaic cúlúite gan sógh gan suaimneas i n'óán uó, go mbíod aih fillad aih an gcaitair ácair, dá buirdeacas.

Bí truaigh an tsaoagail agam féin uó, mar ba maite uob eól uom cé'n galair cúlúite a bí ag gabáil uo'n fear boct. agus ó bí fíos a galair agam agus fíos a leigis, uó éoghas 'mo ceann é cuairt a ácair aih aih maite le sláinte a éiríde agus a anma.

"Duine gan céill tú," aisa mise leis, "agus a ácapad go mbeir sógh ná suaimneas go ued aih an saoghal seo agat go leigheasócair tú na cneatua agus na maraca adá 'uo éiríde agus it' anam féin i uosac. nuair a beas an méro sin uéanta agat, beir léargus agat aih an saoghal naé maib aihmaí ceana. féac anois tú ag iméacé leat 'uo uéaríde uéomac caointeaé casaorídeac imeasg áilneaca an uomain sáráluinn seo naé ucuigis; féac anois tú gan maite gan maoin gan éiríde gan éirígh, ag cáinead uó énníod agus uó muinntíre—"

Cuir sé isteaé oim go cantalac; eus sé fúm féin, a' páó liom dá mbéinn 'mo luíge aih leacmaib fuara i'punn go b'púiginn sólas aisteaé diaíma peapsanua ann—pur a mb'fíor uó b'éirígh. aét níor leigheas féin an sgéal leis: "éist liom," aisa mise leis, "an iomarca ué bhíon agus u' aicís agus ué uóilgeas saogail reatadaigh na haimese seo adá oite. ós purt é go mbíonn néalta uoba aih aih spéir ó am go ham, agus go b'púilro go plúiseac ann i lácair na heala seo, naé eól uoit gur goim i an spéir ué ghnáé, agus go b'púil sé i gcuimas gac uaine agann i uéanaí glégeal gáiríac nuair a uospuigim uó féin é. agus

ós seanáma liom tú, innseócair mé uoit cé'n ácair—" agus u'innis mé uó paol 'n tír áluinn doibhinn sin a mbíonn sé n-a áamair i gcoimnáide ann.

Bíos tamall fada ag cur síos leis aih an gchíod áluinn sin agus aih a gcuir doibhinn agus ionganais, sul aih éiríde sé go maib a leiríde ann aih aih aih. an uair uéiríde donnaiceas é, amíac, bí gáirí aih a beal, loinnir 'n-a súil agus doibheas aih a éiríde. bí sé aih éis cuairt fada ácair aih an tír son a mbíonn sé n-a áamair i gcoimnáide ann, agus uó muinntígh sé agus uó móirígh gur beag baoghal naé ngeadad sé ann aih agus arís eile nuair bead uairde agus uoirídeacé sna spéirígh n-áir uóirí féin.

* * * e * *
aét coir a leigheoir a éiríde: má castar an t-óglach seo aih aih ácair leat, agus má castar mé féin leat 'n-a uairí sin agus má mara mbeir an tuairisg beas le págáil agat paol 'n tír n-a mbíonn sé n-a áamair i gcoimnáide ann aih don focal ní cóir uoit an bheag aih i leiríde ácair aih. uéiríde mar bíos anam agus éiríde an uaine, is amíad bíos an tír uoirídeaca seo 'n-a leigheasad galair cúlúite óglach aih an uoblionn. aét ní móir uoit cuairt a ácair aih an áit tú féin leis an sgéal a uéarígh. uéan nuair gáiríacé tú an fáil.

PÁDRAIC Ó CONAIRE.

THIS MAY BE POETRY, BUT IT IS NOT NEWS.

To the Editor of "An tOglach."

RAILWAY PROTECTION, REPAIR & MAINTENANCE CORPS,

Limerick,

A Chara,

The news from the Cork Command in "An tOglach," No. 2, is enough to make a poor devil apply for a transfer there. What was it again? *Musical treats, suppers, dances, Shakespeare at the Opera House, the Band of the 10th on Sundays, etc., etc.* And after all this they grouse about a little rain. Lord help us! If I was Commander-in-Chief I'd shift the lot to Limerick.

I see the Editor is desirous of receiving Notes from other Commands, so here goes for a few from Limerick.

Out on the line with a rush and a roar
Thunders the armoured train,
Manned by the lads from the Railway Corps,
Who heed not the dangers that lie in store
Along the iron lane.

Bringing reliefs to their chums at the posts,
And always to the fore,
Without food or shelter, in cold or rain,
Not looking for pleasure, ignoring all pain,
That's the men of the Railway Corps.

Commandant, Officers, N.C.O.'s,
And men are always there,
The passengers get on the train and know
They are perfectly safe wherever they go,
We have them in our care.

Along the line you'll find our posts,
Our men on constant guard,
They are guarding Ireland, guarding you,
That is their work, and that they'll do
Or die, as the Irish can.

For the fun will come when the country's free
And Ireland to the fore,
So we'll fight to a man till the work is done,
We'll fight to a finish, fight and win,
That's the spirit of our Corps.

Mise,

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Óglaigh
na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND



Pages from a Soldier's Diary

Well, here goes, in God's name! "Saturday, the third day of the third month, nineteen hundred and twenty-three. I've got the day and date down, at all events. So I've started it really, at long last.

To write a diary some day or other was one of the ambitions of my early schooldays. Unfortunately—or fortunately, perhaps—I was obliged to give up school before the cane of the master had sufficiently fashioned my fingers to the art of pen-wielding, so, though I have since acquired the knack of the quill driver, and my spelling can compare favourably with Macaulay's English Gentleman, the idea of the diary remained in abeyance. At various periods, however, it recurred to me and grew stronger with each recurrence.

When, twelve months ago, I exchanged the pen for the sword—or gun should I say? I went so far as to purchase a book to use as a diary. A bosom companion of mine, who professed a brotherly interest in my welfare, abstracted the book, and again the idea was postponed. At the end of December last I invested in the present book and made a New Year's resolution to start the diary. But I had also resolved to give up cigarettes and other things, and the resolution about the diary went the way of the others.

"Private—and Confidential."

Now, at last, I'm started on the long-projected work, I'm determined to make this a real, live record of the life and times of—it doesn't matter a tinker's blessing whom. My head is not yet so swelled as to make me imagine that posterity, or that awful person, the future historian, will attach much importance to myself or my history. Still, as life is so uncertain, I append the following for the benefit of all, if any, who may peruse these pages when the writer lies—enough of that.

I, the scribe of the following pages, am a plain, ordinary-looking, fully-attested private soldier of the Army of Ireland. This work was begun in the Guard room at three o'clock on the afternoon of the third day of the third month, A.D. 1923.

I had just finished a two hours' guard, paid a visit to the dry canteen, where I indulged in two rounds of the cup that cheers—Billy Mack stood one—procured extra "fags" for the coming night, enjoyed a new record on the gramophone, and was wondering how I was going to put in the rest of the time, when, like an inspiration, flashed the thought of the diary. So here I am biting the handle of my pen and wondering where all the grand ideas I had are gone to.

Of course, it's not the happiest place in the world to start a diary. There's a card party in the corner wrangling about the count, and another pair in the centre of the floor giving McTigue-Siki exhibitions. Tommy Burke—we call him Burke of Ours—is blowing at a mouth organ, and persuades himself—he couldn't persuade anyone else—that he's playing "Kelly, the Boy from Kilann."

Billy Mack's Sisters.

I'm now two weeks in the Capital, and know my way about fairly well, much better than some of the boys who are here these months past. My pal is a Dublin chap. He calls me a country mug, "as green as the load of hay I came up on." I call him a Dublin Jackeen, and so on. I'd like to hear anyone else say anything against Billy, though; and it wouldn't be healthy for anyone to run me down while Billy Mack is around. I never pulled so well with any chap before. We often spend an evening at Billy's place. Nice decent people they are. They make their own of you at once. I never knew Dublin people were so "laukee." I'm beginning to like Dublin people. Billy has a very nice girl of a sister, three of them, in fact, but—

I'm afraid this isn't anything like what a diary ought to be, but I've such a lot of arrears to make up and have so many things to say that it's not easy to start properly. But I'll get through it all in good time. More of Billy and his—his people anon. As someone or other says, and now for the diary proper.

Weather, &c.

The weather is rotten this while past—rain then wind, then wind, then rain again and then wind and rain together. The weather is worse than the war.

That reminds me, I met little Foxey Ryan yesterday morning. One of the Ryans of our place. Up on an escort he came. I was real pleased to see him, and he was equally delighted to see me. I got a lot of news from home. Great doings this Shrove. Paddy's Jim and long Jack's daughter had a great turn-out. Tom of the river—but I'm introducing non-interesting matters again. Who the mischief cares who it was that any of them married? Too local.

Well, any way, Foxey told me everything was very quiet down South now. He says all the trouble is in Dublin. Funny—in Dublin they say all the trouble is down South. We had a ramble round the barracks and were having a "glook" at the wireless when—this is important—I saw him for the first time. Had I seen him coming I'd have cleared. Though I was anxious to see him I'd rather see him, as St. Patrick saw Clare, at a distance. But he came round the corner so sudden that there was no avoiding him. I nudged Foxey and then sprang to attention, and succeeded in giving a lovely salute. He cast a quick side glance in our direction, and I got a good look at his face. It wore a kind of smile. He's much nicer-looking than the pictures of him. He returned our salute with a quick motion of his hand, and passed on in the direction of the Guardroom.

"Who was it?" said Foxey.

"The C.-in-C., man alive," said I.

"You gave a splendid salute," said he.

"All practice," said I.

Foxey says there are a good many friends of mine coming up for to-morrow's hurling final. I hope 'twill be fine. The sergeant is calling for the relief. Now for another two hours of it.

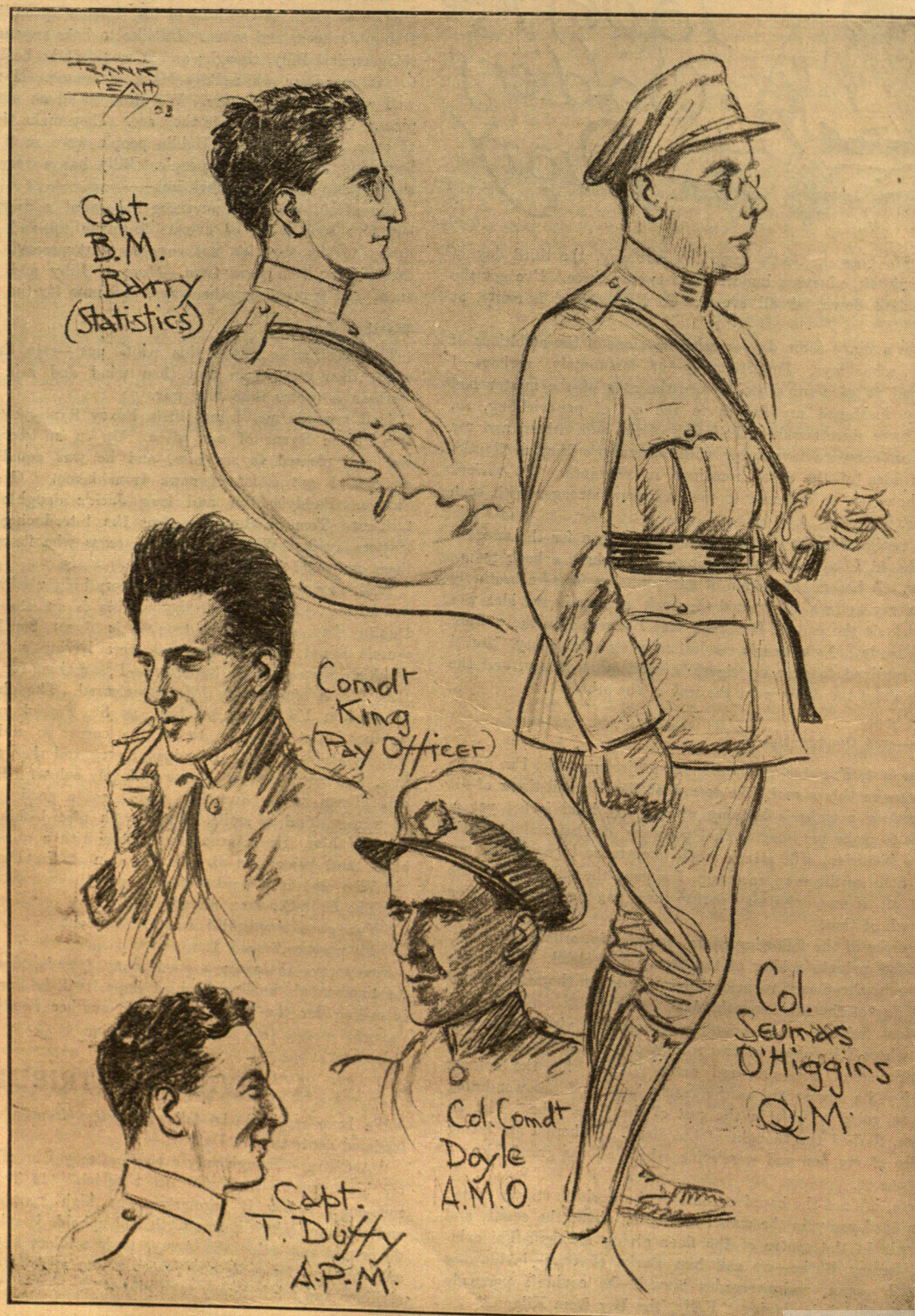
A CIVILIAN'S TRIBUTE.

We have received the following letter from a well-known professional gentleman in Dublin:—

"A Chara,—Though only a civilian, may I be allowed to express my high appreciation of "An t-Oglách" in its new excellent turn-out? I buy it regularly. The high standard of character and efficiency which it sets forth and upholds is splendid. Civilians do esteem and value the Army, their soldiers and defenders, yet one does long for order and peace, so that more intercourse between civilians and soldiers may take place."



PENCIL IMPRESSIONS 0



THE DUBLIN COMMAND.



A PAGE FROM THE ARMY'S HISTORY.

THE FORTUNES OF THE FIRST REGULAR UNIT.

Dame Street was densely crowded. College Green was one great mass of chattering, lively people. Around the City Hall, the seat of the Provisional Government, many found points of vantage on the balcony and the steps about the building. They were all waiting expectantly on this first day of February, 1922, to see the first Regular Unit of an Irish Army swing by on its way to occupy the first stronghold taken over from the British. While we waited in that surging throng one could not refrain from reflecting upon the great change, and all it portended. Irish soldiers, in their green uniforms, men of Irish blood and brains, who had stood the test of an intensive campaign of the years that went before, now reaping the reward of that courage and that endurance.

Presently there was a cheer from the Castle Street end of Dame Street. The first detachment of the Army had arrived from Celbridge, uniformed and fully accoutred, and were now marching through the streets of Dublin. A passage was cleared down the length of Dame Street, and spectators looked tensely in the direction of the City Hall. The babble of many tongues, the occasional whoop of alert street urchins, added to the general tumult.

In the midst of all this medley of sound, the skirl of a pipers' band could be heard in the distance. The people became suddenly silent; they seemed to be reserving their strength. We could now

follow comfortably the strains of the tune the band played as it came on towards the City Hall. And then one heard the tramping of marching men. The streets of Dublin, venerable old city, rich in historic memories, resounded once more to the tread of Irish soldiers.

Already the air was ringing with vibrant, enthusiastic cheers. All the pent-up energy of the previous ten minutes was loosed as the head of the detachment, preceded by the pipers' band, marched along to the City Hall.

The company of some fifty men, spruce, alert, and carrying themselves with a fine soldierly stride, swung past in their green uniforms led by Captain Paddy Daly, with Lieutenants Joe Leonard and Paddy O'Connor.

On the balcony of the City Hall two men whose work, more than that of any other two Irishmen, made the miracle of that day possible, stood observers of the great things they had brought about. Arthur Griffith, President of the Government, the beloved of his people, stood silent, immobile, almost sphinx-like, gazing down at the marching men. The significance of the day's proceedings only seemed to immerse him all the more in profound, reflective thought. He was at one with the cheering, exuberant throng—the people were coming into their own—but his was the silent understanding of the seer, who interpreted the things that passed before him.



"Irish Independent" Photo.]

The first unit of the Regular Army marching into Beggars' Bush Barracks.

Miceal O Coileáin, the comrade-in-arms of the men who marched below, ardent, generous, with all that fine enthusiasm and energy characteristic of his nature, greeted the lads with a proud smile, his whole features lighting up as he threw back his head and came to the salute. How few thought then, yet how likely it now seems—how in keeping with the dispensation of things—that Michael Collins should have worn that same green uniform with pride, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army; later sealing a life's service to the nation with a soldier's death.

On through the surging crowd in Dame Street swept the first regular unit of the Army, and into College Green, the parade ground of the Irish Volunteers of 1916. Many of the men who now marched through as Irish soldiers paraded on that memorable Easter Sunday on the same Green, and saw service not only on the historic days that followed, but also in the strenuous years



[Photo **MAJOR-GENERAL O'DALY.** Lafayette.]

of the Black and Tan regime. It was all over now. A new era had begun. The detachment of the lads in green marched on to Beggar's Bush Barracks, and relieved the British of their first military stronghold in Dublin.

And what of the fifty men who marched through Dublin and took over the Bush on that day? How have they fared? Only seven of the number seceded from the Army to rise in arms against the people. Captains Ml. Dunne and John Young and Cpl. W. J. Phillips have been killed in action. Capt. Dunne held the rank of Corporal and Capt. Young was a private in the detachment of February 1st, 1922. Pte. P. Kelly died of pneumonia.

Of the large number of that first unit serving in the Army to-day, more than ninety per cent. have made good, and hold Commissions, carrying many responsibilities.

Capt. Daly, the O.C. of the unit, is General Officer Commanding the Kerry area, with the rank of Major-General.

1st Lieut. Joe Leonard, another old member of the A.S.U., is attached to the Inspection Staff, Kerry Command, and ranks as Colonel.

2nd Lieut. Paddy O'Connor, another A.S.U. Volunteer with a fine fighting record, is 2nd in Command Waterford Command, with the rank of Colonel.

Sergt.-Major Stevenson is now attached to the Curragh Command, and has risen to the rank of Commandant.

Sergt. Harper is Asst. Q.M. Waterford Command, ranking as Captain. Sergt. Seán O'Connor is Asst. Adjutant in the same command, also ranking as Captain. Sergt. Jas. McGuinness has become second in command, Kerry Command, ranking as Colonel.

Of the five soldiers holding Corporal rank in the unit, one seceded from the Army, two, Michael Dunne, who rose to Captaincy, and W. J. Phillips, were killed in action. Jer. Robinson and W. McClean hold rank as Captains in the Army to-day.

A review of the roll of soldiers who were Privates in the first unit is no less interesting. Chas. Downing is now Camp Commandant, Kerry Command. Joseph McGuinness holds rank as Lieutenant in the same command. Ed. Breslin ranks as Commandant on the Kerry Inspection Staff. John Hanlon is O.C. of a Kerry Machine Gun unit, with Captaincy as rank. Geo. Gaffney holds a line commission as Lieutenant. Daniel Brophy is Command Q.M., with rank of Colonel. John Young, who rose to Captaincy, was killed in action. John Foy is attached to Gormanstown Camp, with rank of Capt. C. Fitzsimons holds a commission as Captain in the Works Corps. T. McKenna is also a Captain in the Kerry Command. P. J. Dalton holds Commission in the Line as Capt. P. Ratcliffe holds commission as Lieutenant in Transport. J. Conroy is serving in Kerry as a Commandant. M. Kerrigan holds a commission as Lieut. P. O'Connor holds a similar rank. John Shiney is a Coy. Sergt. Wm. Walsh is the present Q.M. of Kehoe Barracks, ranking as 1st Lieut. D. Golden has become a Machine Gun Officer, with rank of Lieutenant. Jos. O'Carroll is serving on the Curragh, also as a Lieutenant. E. Flood is serving in Kerry Command, and ranks as Captain. John Muldowney has been attached to the Canteen Board, with rank of 1st Lieut. Joseph and John Byrne are both serving in the Line as Captains in Kerry.

Coy.-Sergt. Vincent Byrne, an old Guardsman, and later a member of the A.S.U., has been gazetted as Officer Commanding the 1st Infantry Battalion, with rank of Commandant. Pte. Jos. M. O'Connor is serving as a Lieutenant in Kerry, while Pte. J. Gilhooly is now Q.M. at the Hibernian Military School, with the rank of Captain.

Thus, with few exceptions, the members of the first unit of the Army have developed as the Army grew and developed, fitting themselves for higher rank, and its natural concomitant, increased responsibilities.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS TO 62nd BATTALION.

Captain Daniel Kelly to be Captain.
Battn.-Qr.-Mr. Joseph Beattie to be 1st Lieut.
Captain Cathal Shanahan to be Captain.
Lieut. Patrick Hayes to be 1st Lieut.
Captain — Gribbin to be Captain.
Lieut. Martin Coyle to be 1st Lieut.

CARE OF THE FEET.

An Article of vital interest to every Soldier.

It is of great importance to the soldier to keep his feet in good working order. There are several causes which produce sore feet, the chief of which are:—

1. Badly fitting boots.
2. Unsuitable socks.
3. Perspiration in an unventilated boot.
4. Naturally tender skin.

Boots should fit properly and not be too new. Don't break a new pair in on a long march, but do so gradually at more suitable times.

RIGHT SORT OF BOOTS.

Boots should not be kept too large or blisters will be caused, nor too short, to cramp the toes and produce "hammer-toes." If too narrow in the sole the toes are crowded and ride upon the top of each other, and the foot cannot expand as it should when the weight of the body falls upon it.

Boot soles should be fairly thick. Thin soles feel every inequality in the ground and soon cause tenderness. The "waist" of the boot should be made pliable by bending the toes of a new pair several times until they almost touch the lace holes. The heel should be large and low.

If boots have been stored away for any length of time they should be washed free from polish and well greased with mutton fat or castor oil before using. The best time to grease boots is after wearing them in wet weather, when the polish is softened and the pores of the leather are open. The leather then "feeds" on the grease more readily.

New boots should be tried on over two pairs of socks.

TO PREPARE THE FEET FOR A MARCH.

The best way to prepare the feet for a march is by frequent washing and daily "pickling" the feet for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour in hot salt and water, to which is added as much boric acid as will dissolve, or by soaking them in alum and water.

Then attend to toe nails, corns, &c. If you have corns and similar hard places, cut or scrape them whilst the feet are still soft from the pickling; and, as they are caused by unequal pressure on some particular spot, attend to your boots. Soft corns between the toes should be scraped directly after the foot-bath and dusted with boric acid, and the toes separated by a strip of lint.

RIGHT SORT OF SOCKS.

See that your socks are in good condition. They should be made of wool, because it is thick and elastic and dries readily, free from creases, knots and cobbled or lumpy darns. Before putting on the boots, pull the socks forward to give a little play to the toes. If they are "rucking" up, change the socks from one foot to the other, when halted, or turn them inside out.

Whenever possible, wash the feet in hot water immediately before the march, and, before putting on the socks, smear the feet well with vaseline, tallow, oil, fresh fat, or soap worked up into a lather with the hand.

SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SOCKS.

The bathing and "pickling" already recommended is the best remedy for excessive and sour perspiration.

If you cannot wash your socks and feet regularly use as many

pairs of socks as possible. Never wear the same pair two days running, but hang them up to dry and beat and scrub them before you put them on again. A penny pepper box full of powdered boric acid is most useful and a little of the powder dredged into the boot before lacing up will keep down any unpleasant odour and reduce liability to soreness.

Those suffering from "sweaty" feet would be well advised to soak their socks in a strong solution of boric acid and hang them up to dry without wringing them out, so that the acid is left in the material as the water dries out. Several pairs prepared in this way, which is neither troublesome nor expensive, should be used alternately.

The cause of sore feet is a specially tender condition of the skin, either natural or acquired, which the precautions already recommended will minimise.

BLISTERS—CARE OF BOOTS.

Blisters must be pricked *after* and not before marching, and the skin must not be torn off. A needle full of worsted may be passed through the blister and the worsted left in to drain the fluid out, and removed before marching again.

If your boots do not fit no amount of trouble will make them comfortable, and they should be changed.

Look well after the repair of your boots. Nothing is so detrimental to health and smartness as broken-down boots.

Wet boots should not be placed too near a fire, but should be packed with dry grass, hay, straw, or paper until dry.

Never march with bare feet in your boots. If your socks are done, wrap the feet in some sort of bandage or rags.

CONCERT IN CURRAGH CAMP HOSPITAL.

The patients of the General Military Hospital, Curragh Camp, enjoyed a very great treat together with their staff when Miss Bridie Maloney's Concert Party paid them a visit on Sunday, April 1st. The party has been holding concerts in the Garrison Gymnasium, and, judging by reports, had splendid audiences. But none could have possibly been so appreciative of their features as this Sunday evening audience. Pain and suffering vanished as one listened to the various items rendered. Very hearty thanks were accorded the visitors at the close, and one felt that *their* day must be the brighter because of the brightness they brought and left to the Hospital.

CHURCH FURNITURE OF
Every description, Brass Work
and Articles of Devotion.

C. BULL, LTD.
SUFFOLK STREET, DUBLIN.

SPECIAL EASTER SERVICE IN PORTO-BELLO BARRACKS.

On Easter Sunday a memorable service was held in the Chapel attached to G.H.Q. A Special High Mass was sung at 11 o'clock. The Commander-in-Chief and Officers attached to the Staff were present. The Chapel was filled to overflowing with the troops. The Brass and Reed Band discoursed sacred music outside the Chapel as the troops marched in. The Rev. E. Trainor, Chaplain to the Forces, was the celebrant. The beautiful Mass of St. Cecilia was sung by the following:—Misses Teresa Owens, Joan Burke, B. Crosbie, L. Doyle, L. Brown, and Messrs. W. Sheehan, Nolan, Comerford, Germaine and Sanfey. The solos were sung in a manner which will not be forgotten by the congregation. An outstanding feature was the singing of Wotzel's duet "In Nomine Jesu," which was rendered in a most beautiful manner by Miss Owens and Mr. W. Sheehan. Special praise is due to the conductor and organist, Mr. Mortimer Sheehan, who rendered the music for the Mass, and under whose direction we hope in the near future to have an opportunity of hearing them soon, probably at the Curragh next.



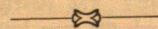
LECTURE AT KEHOE BARRACKS.

The troops at Kehoe Barracks spent Spy Wednesday in an edifying and enjoyable manner. They were given a most interesting lantern slide lecture on the Passion Play at Oberammergau by the Rev. Francis A. Gleeson, Command Chaplain, Dublin Command.

The spacious accommodation provided in the Gymnasium was comfortably filled, over 400 troops and their friends being present. The Rev. lecturer vividly described the many beautiful scenes in this Play, most appropriately called "The Dramatic Wonder of the World," and laid emphasis on the devotion of the people of Oberammergau, who lived their own lives in the true spirit of the Play.

On behalf of the officers and troops, the Rev. R. J. Casey, C.F., Chaplain, Kehoe Barracks, returned thanks to the Rev. Father Gleeson.

Sacred Music was rendered by the Regimental Band under Bandmaster Flahive. The programme included the "Stabat Mater," a cornet solo "The Rosary," and the hymn "Faith of Our Fathers." The rendering of the "Soldier's Song" brought to a close a most enjoyable evening's entertainment.



SHRAPNEL.

We wish to authoritatively contradict the report that flying fish figure on the Friday menu at Baldonnel.

* * * *

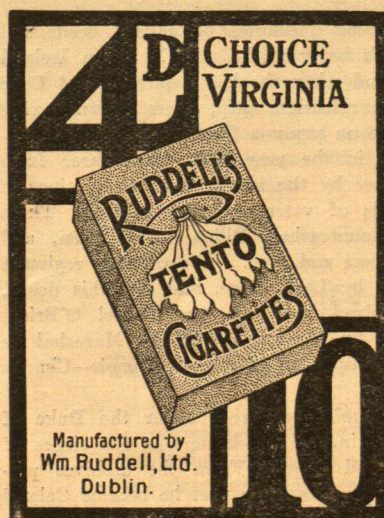
The miscreant who started the rumour now admits that it was "all a cod."

* * * *

A harassed C.R.O. recently added a pathetic postscript to a communication sent G.H.Q.:—"My strength returns have nearly driven me crazy." Curious that his strength should be his weakness.

* * * *

Our aim is week by week to make "An t-Oglach" better and better. Our readers' assistance is cordially invited.



TRY a packet of TENTO Cigarettes and you will be surprised to find that such a fine Virginia Cigarette can be turned out at such a low price.

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by tobacconists everywhere*



IRISHMEN OF ACTION.

I.—CHARLES O'BRIEN, LORD CLARE.

"As long as valour shineth
Or mercy's soul at war repineth,
So long shall Erin's pride
Tell how they lived, and how they died."

"The Irish Brigade." What memories of gallant deeds and unselfish heroism those words bring to the mind? When Ireland lay supine after Limerick, and when the hell-inspired Penal Code held our island-home in its relentless grip, those gallant exiles were winning deathless fame on many a Continental battlefield.

The Brigade was formed in the year 1690, when three Irish regiments were sent to France by the last of the Stuart kings in exchange for some regiments of veteran French soldiers. These regiments were those of Mountcashel, Dillon and O'Brien, and consisted of about 5,370 officers and men. The O'Brien regiment was raised in the year 1639 by Lord Clare, and after his death, in 1691, the command devolved upon his son, Daniel O'Brien, who in turn was succeeded by Murrough O'Brien, Marechal de Camp, and finally by the subject of this brief memoir—Charles O'Brien, Comte de Thomond.

Charles O'Brien began his military career under the Duke of Berwick in the Army of Spain. He took part in the sieges of Fontarabia, San Sebastian and Urgel. From the archives preserved in the French War Office we learn that he became Colonel of the Regiment of Clare in August, 1720. The new colonel-proprietor of the famous regiment appears to have held very definite views regarding his religion and his loyalty to the Stuart cause. When he became Commanding Officer the English and French nations were at peace, and Charles O'Brien was enabled to pay visits to his cousin, Henry O'Brien, the eighth Earl of Thomond. It was stated that on one of these occasions he was introduced to the second of the Hanoverian kings, who declared that Charles O'Brien could resume the Irish estates of his family and take his rightful place among his social equals if he would renounce the religion of his fathers. This offer was indignantly spurned by the gallant soldier, and shortly afterwards he again sailed for the land of his adoption.

In 1733 the clash of arms once more reverberated through the hills and valleys of Northern Europe, and Charles O'Brien is once more under arms in the service of France. How well he distinguished himself is apparent from the fact that just one year later he was gazetted a Brigadier of Infantry. The Siege of Philipsburg in July saw the death of James, Duke of Berwick, and here O'Brien was severely wounded while leading his men in an attack upon the outer fortifications of the town. The following years saw him active wherever fighting was to be done, and then, in 1741, we discover the name of Charles O'Brien, Comte de Thomond, prominent in the defence of the citadel of Lintz, in Upper Austria. In 1743 he fought at Dettingen, and in the June of the next year he captured the town of Ypres. Later he was attached to the Army of Flanders, and saw much service under Maurice, Duke de Saxe.

The chief battle of this campaign was that fought at Fontenoy, in May, 1745, between the English, Hanoverians and the Dutch on one side, and the French on the other. The Allied Army numbered close on 55,000 men, and the French 44,000. The object of this engagement was to compel the French to raise the siege of Tournai, but the latter, leaving an investing force to carry on the siege, marched out to give battle. O'Brien was in supreme command of the entire Irish Brigade. On the night before the battle Colonel Lally made a tour of inspection, and discovered that a portion of the French flank was unprotected. He immediately placed several redoubts and field pieces at this

spot, and the wisdom of this move doubtless saved the French Army from annihilation when the issue was joined on the following morning.

The plan of the Allied Army, as contained in the Order of the Day, was—The English, under General Ingoldsby, were to attack the French at the wood of Barri; the Dutch to attack the French at the village of Fontenoy and at St. Antoine, and the Dutch and English, with the Hanoverians, to pierce the French centre. The first two attacks failed, but the Duke of Cumberland, with 15,000 "shock troops" and 20 field pieces, forced his way past all obstacles into the French centre. In vain did the picked troops of France hurl themselves against the English column, and it looked as if the day was lost. Then Colonel Lally, who had saved the right of the line through his forethought, suggested that the head of the oncoming column might be broken by rounds of cannon shot. His advice was taken, and, while the French cavalry was massed behind the heavy guns in order that they might be ready to charge when the cannoniers had completed their work, regiments were hurried from other portions of the field to attack the oncoming column on its flanks.

The Irish Brigade, who had been kept in reserve during the day, was selected to lead the attack, and just before giving the signal to advance Lord Clare rode along the serried ranks and ordered the troops to reserve their fire until the points of their bayonets touched their adversaries. His tour completed, O'Brien rides out to the head of the Brigade, and, unsheathing his sword, cries: "Forward, the Irish Brigade!" With a wild "Hurrah" the men leap forward, and above the din of battle might be heard their war-cry, "Cuimhnighidh ar Luimnech agus ar fheall na Sassanach." The composite column of English and Hanoverian troops paused on the crest of rising ground in order to meet the oncoming foe. An Irish officer named MacDonagh far out-distances his countrymen in his eagerness to meet the enemy, and as he dashes forward a stalwart English captain steps forth, and soon the pair are engaged in combat. The troops on either side pause to watch the duel. Then a triumphant shout breaks from the Irishmen. The English champion is disarmed, and marches, a crestfallen prisoner, to the rear. Then again the fierce wild shout rings out as the exiled sons of Ireland hurl themselves upon the enemy. Bayonets and swords flash in the sunlight; a shiver runs through the Allied column. Then a withering volley crashes out. More fierce work with sword and bayonet, and then—the end. That gallant column of seasoned troops who had marched so proudly through all obstacles, and who had almost grasped the laurel wreath of victory, now fled a broken mob across the plain of Fontenoy. The Irish Brigade captured 15 of their 20 cannon, and, greatest prize of all, two regimental colours.

The victory at Fontenoy was dearly bought, for the Irish Brigade lost 98 officers and 400 men killed and wounded in their epoch-making charge. The King of France, who was an eye-witness of their gallant conduct, visited their lines after the battle, and thanked each regiment in turn for its services. The Colonel-in-Chief, Lord Clare, received two wounds in the fight. Later he was ordered to sail for Scotland to assist Charles Edward in his attempt to regain the throne of his fathers, but Fate ordained otherwise, and Lord Clare was again destined to lead his splendid troops in the service of Louis of France. In 1748 he distinguished himself at the Siege of Maestricht, and later was made Marshal of France.

In 1761 the Continental newspapers announced the death of Charles O'Brien, Earl of Thomond, Viscount of Clare in the Kingdom of Ireland, Marshal of France, Chevalier of the Order of the Holy Ghost. He died at Montpellier on September 9th, aged 62 years. In 1755 Charles O'Brien married Marie Genevieve Louise Gauthier de Chiffreville, by whom he had one son who died in Paris in December, 1774.

(Next Article—Lally, Comte de Tollendal.)

BATTALION ADJUTANT'S COURSE.

Answers to Questions—Administration— Table I.

1.—(a) State what entries will appear in Part II. Routine Orders.

Answer.—Everything regarding the pay, allowance, or service of any officer or man or anything which affects the allowance of any dependant. Attestation; Joining up of Recruits. Arrivals and departures. Authorised promotions. Appointments to special duties. Transfers. Extension of Service. Discharges. Deaths. Civilians. Absences. Courtmartial. Summary punishments. Fines. Civil Arrest and Conviction.

(b) To whom must copies of Part II. Orders be sent?

Answer.—To Command Headquarters; to the Records Officer, G.H.Q.; to the Chief Pay Officer, G.H.Q.; to the Command Pay Officer; to the Battalion Pay Officer; to all Battalion Headquarters Officers; to the Company Commanders, and copies should be posted in prominent places in the Battalion, as Officers', Sergeants' Mess, Canteen, &c.

2.—(a) In writing Operation Orders

(a) What is the order of arrangement?

Answer.—Operation Orders will be arranged thus:—

INFORMATION: Information regarding the enemy and your forces.

INTENTION of the Officer drawing up the Operation Order.

INSTRUCTIONS, *i.e.* details of troops employed; tasks allotted to them; administrative details, as medical arrangements, &c.

REPORT CENTRE: Where reports are to be sent.

At bottom of Order.

DISTRIBUTION, *i.e.* to whom the copies are to be sent.

(b) How are place names, nights, roads forming boundaries between Units written?

Answer.—*Place names* will be written with block capitals. In a case of two places with the same name a description taken from the Map should be given.

Nights are written:—Night of the 18/19th.

Roads forming boundaries are always marked inclusive or exclusive.

(c) How are Operation Orders distributed to those concerned?

Answer.—By special messenger, who gets a receipt. A record of all receipts is kept, and marked secret and confidential.

3.—What procedure will Officers adopt regarding:—

(a) Applying for short leave.

Answer.—They will enter their names in the Leave Book kept in the Orderly Room, and before going on leave will examine it and see that the leave has been sanctioned and initialled by the Adjutant.

(b) A Long Leave.

Answer.—They will write to the Adjutant three days before the date they wish to go on leave and ask him to place their application before the Commanding Officer. They will not go on leave before this has been formally granted.

(c) How do men apply for leave? Through what channels is it sanctioned?

Answer.—Men apply for leave by submitting a written application to the Company Commander or being brought before the Company Commander by the Company Sergeant-Major and stating the request. The Company Commander will recommend and forward the application to the Adjutant for the sanction of the Commanding Officer.

(To be Continued.)

THE LAWS OF THE ARMY.

When the laws of the Army are written,
As written they surely will be,
In words that are learned and legal,
Some stern regulations we'll see.

But the main points that we should remember,
So seldom appear in such "laws,"
That I venture to put them before you,
To study by sentence and clause.

Take heed what you say of your Rulers,
Be your words softly spoken or plain,
Lest a bird of the air tell the matter,
And so ye shall hear it again.

If ye labour from morn till even,
And meet with reproof for your toil,
It were well that the Gun should be humbled,
The compressor will check the recoil.

On the strength of one link of the cable,
Dependeth the might of the chain,
Who knows when thou may'st be tested,
So live that thou bearest the strain.

Count not upon certain promotion,
But rather to gain it aspire,
Though the sight line shall end on the target,
There cometh perchance a misfire.

Can't follow the track of Dolphin,
Or tell where the Sea-Swallows roam?
When Leviathan taketh his pastime,
What ocean he calleth his home?

Even so with the words of the Rulers,
And the orders those words shall convey,
Every law is as nought beside this one:
"Thou Shalt Not Criticise, But Obey."

(Continued on page 20.)



SAOLUINN DO'N ARM.

Gaelic.

tuair, éas, tair, tair.
 Seata, cearnós, sgiatán, bloc.
 An seata tuair, an sgiatán tair.
 An cearnós tair, an bloc éas.
 An mór seata, seata an canáil.
 Seata ráta uí mháine.

Seomra, halla, oifis, biaólann.
 Sípéal, leabharlann, na stóir.
 An osbuidéal, leirs, páirc.
 Biaólann na noipisead, O. an pása.
 Seomra an sháit shó, seomra an
 sháir.

halla na scoruidéadta,
 halla na lúit éas, halla an bíó.
 Oifis an éinn cafa, oifis an ioméair.

leirs an imearta, páirc an imearta.
 leirs na liairóiré láime.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I,
 L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, U.

Aon, dó, trí, ceathair, cúig.
 sé, seacht, ocht, naoi, deic.

Sasra, buiréan, complaét, caé,
 leat buiréan, leat-complaét.

Complaét a D, caé a ceathair 'irl.
 Bloc a S, seomra a deic

Roinn ciarruidé.
 Trais lí, lios tuatáil, cill áirne.
 Caéair sairóin, Oileán ciarruidé.
 neirín, an dainsean, Sleann beite.

PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION.

Hooig, hass, hee urr, hirr.
 Gatha, karnogue, skeepawn, bluck.
 A gatha hooig, a skeepawn hee-urr.
 A karnogue hirr, a bluck hass.
 A moor yattha, gathun konnawl.
 Gatha Raw hee vawna.

Showmra, hollo, iffig, beelunn.
 Shape-pale, lyour lunn, nuss store.
 Ann nuss bwid dale, lerrig, pawirk.
 Beelunn nun nuffiguck, oiffigun faw.
 Showmran gun naw gum no, showmrun
 gaurdha.

Hollo nuss sgur reeucktha.
 Hollo null loo klass, hollun veeg.
 Iffig-gun been koha, iffig gun noum
 purr.

Lerrigun nimirha, paurka nimmirha.
 Lerrig null leer hoede law.

Aw, bay, kay, day, ay, eff, gay, hay, ee,
 ell, emm, enn, oh, pay, or, ess, tay, oo.

Ain, though, tree, kahir, kooig,
 shay, shockth, uckth, nay, deh.

Gossurra, bween, koumpluckth, koh,
 lahween, lah koumpluckth.

Koumpluckt add day, kohha kahir etc.
 Blucka gay, showmra deh.

Rhine keer ree.
 Thraw lee, liso thoohul, keel laurna.
 Kohir sive veen, ill lawn kee ree.
 Ned-deen, a dhangun, gloun beha.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

North, south, west, east.
 A gate, a square, a wing, a block
 The north gate, the west wing.
 East square, south block.
 The main gate, the canal gate.
 Rathmines gate.

A room, a hall, office, mess.
 Chapel, library, the stores.
 The hospital, pitch (playing), a field.
 The officers mess, the pay office.
 The orderly room, the guard room.

The recreation hall.
 The gymnasium, the dining hall.
 The Commandant's office, Transport
 office.
 The playing pitch, the playing field.
 The ball alley.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I,
 L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, U.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

A squad, a section, company, a bat-
 talion, half section, a half company.

D company, fourth battalion, etc.
 Block D, Room 10.

Kerry Command.
 Tralee, Listowel, Killarney.
 Cahirsiveen, Castle Island.
 Kenmare, Dingle, Glenbeigh.

THE LAWS OF THE ARMY (Continued from page 19).

Saith the Wise: "How may I know their purpose?"
 Then acts without wherefore or why,
 Stays the fool but one moment to question,
 And the chance of his life passeth by.

If ye win through the greatest of battles,
 Unmentioned at home in the Press,
 Heed it not; no man see'th the piston,
 But it driveth the engine no less.

Do they growl? It is well, be thou silent,
 So that work goeth forward amain,
 Lo! the Gun throws its shot to a hair's breath,
 And shouteth, yet none shall complain.

Do they growl? and the work be retarded,
 It is ill, speak whatever their rank,
 The half loaded Gun also shouteth,
 But cannot pierce armour with blank.

Doest think in a moment of anger,
 'Tis well with thy seniors to fight,
 They prosper who burn in the morning,
 The letters they wrote over-night.

For some there be "shelved and forgotten"
 With nothing to thank for their fate,
 Save that (on a half-sheet of foolscap)
 Which a fool "had the honour to state."

So thou, when thou nearest promotion,
 And the stripes that are gilded are nigh,
 Give heed to thy words and thy actions,
 Lest others be warned thereby.

It is ill for the winners to worry,
 Take they fate as it comes with a smile,
 And when thou art safe in the harbour,
 They will envy, but may not revile.

As the spring riseth clear on the mountain,
 Floweth down, and is lost in the lake,
 So shall you spend your life's work unheeded,
 Such time as these laws you forsake.

OUR PURPOSE.

"For the cause that needs assistance;
 'Gainst the wrong that needs resistance;
 For the future in the distance,
 And the good that we can do."

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Óglaigh
 na hÉireann
 DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

OUR INFORMATION BUREAU.

When in Doubt write to "an t-Oglach."

Soldiers are cordially invited to make use of this column. All queries should be addressed to the Editor of "An t-Oglach," G.H.Q., Portobello Barracks, Dublin, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, which will not be made public unless desired.

Readers should write on one side of the paper only. It is possible that some slight delay may occur in answering certain queries owing to the necessity for making inquiries, but all questions will be answered in the earliest possible issue.

SQUARE PEG.

"Annoyed."—Write to your O.C., explaining the matter, and he, no doubt, will have an investigation made.

ALLOWANCE FOR STEP-CHILDREN.

P. F. K. (Ennis).—You are entitled to Dependant's Allowance in respect of step-children, and should make formal application to the Dependents' Allowance Branch, Army Pay Corps, Portobello, and enclose certificates of birth of the step-children and also certificate of marriage of your present wife to her former husband.

GAINING RANK.

Vol. G. L., Curragh.—There may have been exceptional cases of the kind you mention, but in the main Volunteers have made good. Proficiency will always tell.

SOLDIER COOKS.

Battn. Cook (Limerick), "Camp Kettle," and others.—See correction under above heading in this department of our last issue.

THE SUPER QUERY.

"A., Belfast."—There is a great deal of detail in your letter, but you omit to state what "this matter" is that you are inquiring about. We cannot answer a query until we receive it.

DETAILS OMITTED.

C. H. M. (Kerry).—You do not give either your name, your military address, or your home address. Strange though it may appear, these details are necessary before your query can be answered.

TRANSFERS.

"Ditty Box," Dublin.—Make a second application to your O.C., as the matter may have been overlooked.

Vol. L. L., Kildare.—You can make further representations to the O.C. of your unit at a further date.

"Dot-Dash."—We do not think you can do anything more than make a further application through your O.C. Your knowledge of Signalling ought to facilitate the change.

"Thomas" (Kerry).—Apply to your O.C. for the transfer to the Military Police.

SECOND ISSUE OF UNIFORM.

Coy.-Sergt. T. W. (Limerick).—The provision you refer to in a G.R.O. applies only to Commissioned Officers. You should apply

to the O.C. of your Battalion, who will issue an order on the Battalion Q.M. should a second issue be due to you.

COURTMARTIALED SOLDIER.

Private J. L.—The finding of the Court apparently is still awaiting promulgation, and we cannot, therefore, advise you in this matter.

OVERPAID.

"Private."—The answer to your question is in the negative. Immediate steps are being taken to have the allowance discontinued in the cases mentioned and perhaps refunded.

MACHINE GUNNER.

P. F.—You are not entitled to extra pay.

TAILOR'S GRADE PAY.

Spud (Gormanstown).—He must apply through his O.C.

RED CROSS.

"An Old Volunteer."—No, a Red Cross man is not entitled to more pay than an infantry man.

"Voice from the Wilderness."—Apply through your O.C.

CLERKS' PROFICIENCY PAY.

"Anxious."—The O.C. is responsible for grade. If he decides that the claimant is not entitled to proficiency rate, the applicant's claim cannot be entertained. Copy of "An t-Oglach," Vol. I., No. 3 (New Series), posted you on 26th ult.

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

T. McD. (Boyle).—Should apply through his O.C. to the Command Transport Officer, and, if he cannot decide, to the Chief Transport Officer, with regard to being graded.

WAITER'S QUERY.

J. P., Co. Clare.—You are not entitled to extra pay.

A WIRELESS WAIL.

"Edward Current."—All applications for grade or proficiency pay must be sent through your O.C., who is the only one in a position to certify as to your efficiency.

CLERK'S PROFICIENCY PAY.

Sean A. C.—Claim for proficiency pay must be made through your O.C. to G.O.C., Dublin Command.

SIGNALS.

"Third Rate Signaller."—Make out a new claim in respect of the first matter you mention. The only rate for Signallers fixed is that for Wireless Operators. With the development of signalling the other matter will no doubt receive attention.

REFUND.

"Old Volunteer."—If your name appears on a G.R.O. you will be paid monthly by cheque. We have no doubt you will get the refund for the expenditure you have made.

NOM-DE-PLUME WANTED.

M. F. M. (Co. Cork).—Why don't you give a nom-de-plume? The O.C. of your unit should recommend you in the first instance. We presume you have already attested.

OUR LIMITATIONS.

"Diggers."—You cannot make the claim you mention through "An t-Oglach." Make it through your O.C. to the Officer Commanding Works Corps, in which you are now serving.

SENSE OF DUTY.

"Fight On."—We are passing your letter to the proper quarter to be dealt with. We admire your sense of duty.

"An Old Regular" (Mullingar).—We are having the first part of your letter dealt with by the proper authority. A soldier's holidays are always subservient to duty. When going on leave you are entitled to a voucher to your home, provided you have not received a free voucher during the previous six months.

N.C.O. UNIFORM.

"An Old Volunteer" (Leix).—A Battalion Quartermaster-Sergeant has 3 green bars on the sleeve of his tunic. The Battalion Sergeant-Major wears uniform similar to an officer but without any rank insignia.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"Undergrad."—Communicate with the Department of External Affairs, Government Buildings, Merrion Street, Dublin.

"Cody" (Limerick).—You do not state how you became detached from your unit. If you are medically fit and a good soldier you should have no difficulty in finding your place in the ranks.

"A Galtee Boy" (Kildorrery).—Not being an Army matter we are not in a position to reply to the questions you raise.

"Treaty" (Charleville).—We appreciate your good wishes for the success of the Army journal. See Reply to "An Old Regular."

Vol. P. F. (Portlaoighise).—The question of leave is one for your O.C.

"One of The Model Boys."—(A) We cannot presume to give a test for the particular condition you name. (B) Twenty-fours, when a charge should be made. The question of trial depends on several factors. (C) Not on the parade ground. If on sentry duty, or on duty in barrack, he is.

Vol. John A. (Beggars' Bush).—You must first report back to your unit.

B. F. (St. Brechan's Hospital).—There is no O.C. Board of Works. You should have representations in the matter made through your O.C.

"Shaun," Offaly.—Apply through your O.C.

CONTROL OF CANTEENS.

"Colonel".—We have read your remarks with interest. They are certainly pertinent queries for those interested in the welfare of the troops. "Dry" Canteens are run in most areas by voluntary associations. We think with the formation of the Army Athletic Association the whole question, particularly that of profits, will receive closer attention. The whole matter you raise is one for a letter to our journal, rather than a query to our Information Bureau. It interests everyone.

TRADESMAN SOLDIER.

Vol. P. McN. (Laytown).—Apply through your O.C. for transfer to the Works Corps. Your particular training should stand you in good stead there.

STAFF CLERKS' UNIFORM.

"Sean" (Carlow).—There is no distinctive dress. The wearing of slacks is usually permitted. The rank marking is sometimes worn in a green plush stripe, instead of cloth. We cannot say if this is regulation.

WAR LOAN BONDS.

L. O. (Island Bridge).—We cannot at the moment give you any direction in this matter. We should advise you to retain the vouchers.

RAILWAY CORPS.

Volunteers D. and B. (Kilmac).—The procedure to adopt is to make application for the transfer to your O.C.

"Kerryman."—Bring the matter under the notice of your O.C., and he will, no doubt, give it his attention.

"F. F."—The Railway Protection Corps is one of the Army Special Services, and as such soldier clerks are in the same position as those in any other service. A recommendation for proficiency pay must be made by your O.C.

THREE QUERIES.

Corpl. C. W. (Banteer).—In reply to your queries, we wish to say:—(1) We have no knowledge of any such position. (2) He can apply for transfer to O.C. (3) This depends upon the time for which he enlisted. If that has expired, he can apply for his discharge.

CLERK'S PAY.

"Wenna."—If you are doing clerical work, and have had considerable experience, you should have no difficulty in this matter. The regulation is that the O.C. under which the soldier serves must recommend him for proficiency pay.

ESSENTIAL DETAIL OMITTED.

Will correspondents please note that in all queries relating to Dependants' Allowance, the home address, together with the full name of the dependant and the full name of the soldier, must be supplied to enable the case to be traced. This applies to a number of letters on this subject received during the past three weeks, and will explain why answers to same do not appear.

COMMUNICATION OFFICE PAY.

T. W. (Collins).—You have not enclosed your name, and we consequently cannot deal with the matter you raise.

"Safety Catch."—Yes, there is a distinction in dress. The Battalion Sergt.-Major wears the uniform of an officer without rank insignia. The Company Sergt.-Major wears the uniform of the non-commissioned ranks, with three green markings on the sleeve. The answer to your second question is in the negative.

TRADESMEN'S PAY.

"Enquirer" (Collins Barrack).—Tailors and Shoemakers are classified as Grade (2). Outdoor allowance has been permanently discontinued.

REPLIES HELD OVER.

Replies to the following, whose letters only reached us as we were going to Press, are held over to next issue:—Pte. W. R. (Carragh); Pte. J. McC. (St. Brechan's); Sergt. T. J., "Engineer," "Offaly No. 1," "Signaller Waterford Command," Mrs. McP. (Belfast); Paddy, Ennis; Sergt. J. J. M.; Sergt. J. D. (Veritas).

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