



PAT WALSH MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION



DUNNAMAGGIN
Easter Sunday, March 26th, 1989

Pat Walsh Memorial Easter Sunday Commemoration

*Dunnamaggin
March 26th, 1989*

PROGRAMME

Time:

12.30 p.m. Easter Sunday Commemoration Parade.

Followed by:

1. Introduction and welcome of guests.
2. Unveiling of plaques by Andy Forristal, Tom Mulrooney and Willie O'Meara, local surviving members of B and F Companies, 8th Battalion Old I.R.A.
3. Remembrance Prayers.
4. Guest Speaker: Mr. John Hassett, Chairman, South Tipperary Old I.R.A. Brigade Commemoration Committee.
5. Close of Commemoration — National Anthem.
6. Tea and Refreshments.

Commemoration music will be provided by:

KELLS PIPERS BAND
KELLS SCHOOL BAND
DUNNAMAGGIN GROUP

8.30 p.m. Commemoration Cabaret at Doherty's Lounge
Dunnamaggin.

Introduction

This booklet is a tribute to Dunnamaggin's local hero of the War of Independence, Pat Walsh, and his comrades who served with him during this critical period of Irish history.

While Pat Walsh so tragically lost his life at Knocknagress, Tullaroan, in action in May 1921, many other local men were prepared to and did risk their lives in the cause of Irish freedom. We are proud to record and honour these men, as plaques in their honour are now unveiled.

Many of these local B and F Company, 8th Battalion comrades of Pat Walsh were at the first monument unveiling ceremony on May 14th, 1950. On this occasion, 39 years later at the completion of the memorial, we are very honoured to have Andy Forristal, Tom Mulrooney and Willie O'Meara, the last surviving members of the B and F Companies.

Today, as we enjoy freedom of speech, expression and self-determination, let us not forget that many people suffered and died so that we might be free Irish men and women.

Go ndeana Dia trocaire orthu.

IRISH VOLUNTEERS

The County Kilkenny Irish Volunteers were established in May 1917. the flame of the indomitable Irish spirit had been rekindled following the 1916 Rising. Local men joined the Volunteers with the hope of at last gaining freedom from suppression through which their fathers and many generations before had lived.

“But of what consequences are our lives, or the lives of a few individuals, compared to the liberty and happiness of others”.

(Thomas Russell).

The 8th Battalion locally was comprised of the B Company and F Company.

Local B Company (Dunnamaggin - Kells area) members were: Capt. Pat Walsh, John Hickey, Michael Hickey, Jim Hickey, Pat Holden, Bill Holden, Pat Mulrooney, Bill Mulrooney, Tom Mulrooney, Larry Forristal, Andy Forristal, Maurice Cody, Denis Treacy, Bob Cody, Jimmy Carroll, Denis Lahart, Ned Egan, Phil O'Shea, John Walsh, Bill Fitzpatrick, Paddy Kenny, Kieran O'Neill, Andrew O'Neill, Bill Dwyer.

Kells: John Hanrahan, Jim Hanrahan, Bill Hanrahan, Jack Quigley, Paddy Quigley, Martin Quigley, Michael Walsh, John Walsh, Anthony Byrne, John Delahunty, John Egan, John Fleming.

Local F Company (Kilmoganny area) members were: Jack Kirwan, Jack Carroll, Jack Needham, Ned Power, Patrick Ryan, James Leahy, Jack Hurley, Tom Hurley, Jack Tobin, Phil O'Meara, Jack O'Meara, Ned Lee, Paddy Power, Paddy Cuddihy, William Holohan, Richard Holohan, James Grace, Willie O'Meara, James Butler, Michael Walsh, John Raftice, Bill Peters.

PREPARATION FOR DUTY

The local volunteers trained whenever possible at Ballintee or Shortalstown. Under Capt. Pat Walsh they became efficiently organised and ready for duty as it might arise.

Pat Walsh and his comrades were active in the fight against conscription when the British tried to coerce Irish men to become gun fodder for them during the First World War. The fight for small nations' freedom must begin at home. By organised effort, conscientious objection and the backing of bishops and priests, the Irish effort against conscription was a success.

Following the Sinn Féin victory in the 1918 General Election, clear-thinking Irish men and women felt justified in organising an armed struggle to rid Ireland of occupying British forces once and for all.

THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

The War of Independence began on 21st January, 1919, on the same day as the first Dáil Éireann gathered in the Mansion House, Dublin. In August, 1919, the Dáil decreed that every member of the Irish Volunteers must swear allegiance to the Irish Republic and to the Dáil. From then on the Irish Volunteers became known as the Irish Republican Army, the defensive force of the new Dáil Éireann.

B and F Company members locally were busy gathering guns and ammunition from local householders and farmers. Denis Lahart was wounded when involved with a collecting group at Kells where a landowner refused to hand over his gun. The raiding party consisted of Pat Walsh, Denis Treacy, Denis Lahart, Pat Holden, Lyda Holden, Bob Cody and Jack Dunne.



GROUP OF OLD I.R.A. VOLUNTEERS — DUNNAMAGGIN 1962

Front Row: John Raftice, Peter Cunningham, Jack Kirwan, Jack Hanrahan, Mikey Walsh, Dr. T. Maguire, Paddy Power, Jimmy Grace, Pat Mulrooney (flag).

Second Row: Nickey Carroll, Jack Hurley. **Third Row:** Jack Brophy (hat), Jim Hickey, Mrs. Egan, Willie O'Meara, Bill Holden, Jack Carroll, Ned Power, Paddy Quigley, Joe Prendergast, Martin O'Shea, Jim Brien, Jim Hanrahan, Bill Fitzpatrick, Pat Holden.

HUGGINSTOWN BARRACKS

In order to become effective the I.R.A. needed to become well equipped. It was decided to concentrate on local R.I.C. barracks. Hugginstown was selected by the Kilkenny Brigade because of its isolated location.

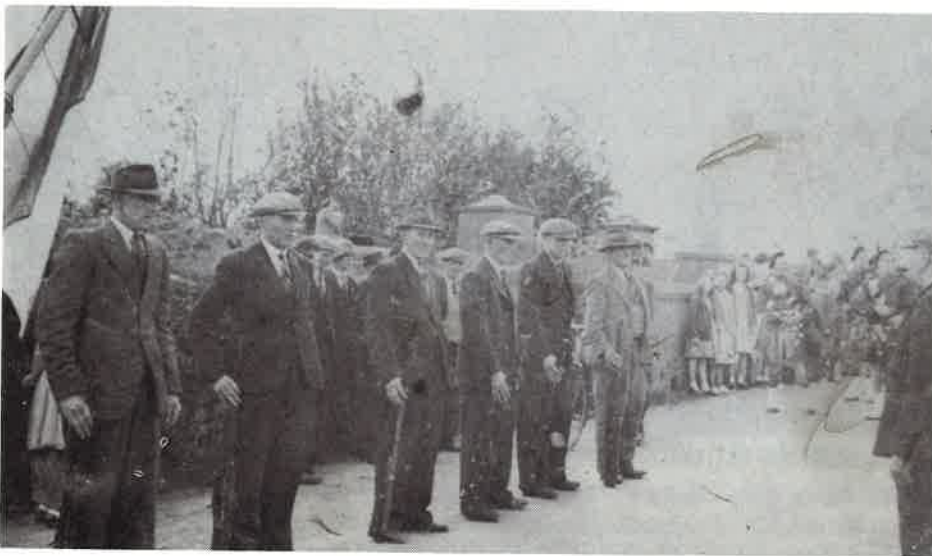
Following careful planning, the raid took place on 8th March, 1920. Local volunteers were very active on this raid, which was later to become a success symbol to other activists throughout Ireland, being only the third attack of its kind in the War of Independence to date.

Bob Cody carried the bombs hidden in a cart owned by Denis Treacy, with a jennet owned by Carrolls of Dunnamaggin, to Hugginstown. The locals who took part in the raid were Pat Walsh, Bob Cody, Pat Mulrooney, Pat Holden, John Hickey, Jack Kirwan, Maurice Cody, Jimmy Leahy, Mick Brennan (Newtown), Michael McBride (Garnaman), David Kealy (Kellsgrange), Martin Shea (Garnaman), Jim Hanrahan (Garnaman), Denis Keane (Garnaman).

These volunteers were among 60 from places all over Kilkenny and included two Mullinahone men.

The raid was a complete success and the capture of arms and ammunition increased the confidence of the freedom fighters of Kilkenny.

Following the success at Hugginstown, many R.I.C. barracks throughout Ireland were captured. The R.I.C. eventually retreated to barracks in towns



DUNNAMAGGIN I.R.A. COMPANY 1951

From Left: Paddy Quigley, Pat Holden, Denis Lahart, Denis Treacy, Larry Forristal, Ned Egan. **On Right** (giving command): Bob Cody.

only. All rural R.I.C. barracks were closed down. The local I.R.A. units immediately burned vacated barracks in order to prevent their re-opening. Barracks were burned at Kilmoganny on 4th May, 1920; Loughbrack, 13th May, 1920, and Stoneyford. This tactic helped relieve pressure somewhat on local activists who had been under surveillance and lived in constant danger of ending up in Wormwood Scrubbs jail, London, or even worse — death.

REPUBLICAN POLICE

Dáil Éireann tried to further establish self-government by establishing criminal and civil courts of justice throughout Ireland, initiated on 29th June, 1920. Policing of the rural areas following R.I.C. withdrawal was necessary in order to avoid unscrupulous behaviour. Republican police in charge of the Dunnamaggin area at this time were Pat Holden, Pat Mulrooney, Bob Cody, Denis Treacy and Phil Keeffe. On one occasion where a court was convened to deal with gun theft, the R.I.C. at Callan observed procedures but did not interfere with Republican police carrying out procedure.

BLACK AND TAN LAW

The forces of British law were now under intense pressure. The Black and Tans tried to enforce often with unruly and drunken behaviour, memories of which are vivid to many even to-day.

In September, 1920, the Dunnamaggin Company had planned to demolish the Courthouse at Kilmoganny, but on the evening of the planned attack Ned Egan received a tip-off from Kilmoganny that British Forces were there in strength, obviously expecting trouble.

The local company, led by Capt. Pat Walsh and including Denis Treacy, Pat Mulrooney, Pat Holden, Bob Cody and John Hickey arrived at Egan's Public House. following discussions they decided to call off the attack. Suddenly, two lorry loads of Black and Tans from Woodstock arrived and surrounded the pub. They entered the pub and then tied up all the men, threatening them that they would be all shot if anything happened at Kilmoganny. The Black and Tans went to Kilmoganny and returned at 3 a.m. They proceeded to get drunk and then wrecked the pub. The following morning at 8 a.m. they brought out the tied-up prisoners on Baursoob Cross and headed off in their Crossley Tenders leaving the local volunteers at the scene.

Local activists continued to harass British forces by felling trees and digging trenches across roads.

HAGGARD

On Sunday, 24th April, 1921, the local company were proceeding to join an ambush on British military at Callan. The group consisted of Pat Walsh, Denis Lahart, Pat Holden, Bob Cody, John Hickey, Pat Mulrooney, Phil O'Shea, Paddy Kenny, Kieran O'Neill and Denis Treacy. At Haggard, Kells, while crossing the road the group was spotted by a lorry load of Black and Tans. Pat Holden and Denis Treacy were seen crossing the road and made a dash to escape. They came under fire and Pat Holden was wounded in the ribs. The remainder of the company had doubled back and remained hiding. Denis Treacy and Pat Holden succeeded in escaping across the river to Goodwinsgarden.

The British forces found a coat owned by Pat Walsh at the scene. Following this episode Pat Walsh went on the run. He stayed at Danganmore during this time.

When Sean Hogan's Flying Column came to Dunnamaggin the locals kept guard while they rested at Danganmore.

KNOCKNAGRESS

Dunnamaggin's Capt. Pat Walsh joined Hogan's Column and marched with them on 9th May, 1921. News of the Battle at Knocknagress on Friday, 13th May, 1921, and capture and subsequent death of Pat Walsh was received with sadness and disbelief around Dunnamaggin.



Cumann na mBan at Pat Walsh Funeral — Dunnamaggin, May 22nd, 1921.

The local company of the I.R.A. met at Dunnamaggin and decided that Pat Walsh's body should be laid to rest at his native Dunnamaggin. Father T. Hennebry, curate in Dunnamaggin; John Hickey and Pat Holden went to Fermoy to return his remains to be buried under his native soil. Capt. Pat Walsh's Comrades carried his coffin and laid him to rest at the local cemetery on Sunday, 22nd May, 1921. Despite large military presence in the area, three volleys were fired over the grave by Denis Treacy, Bob Cody and John Hickey.

THE TRUCE

On Monday, 11th July, 1921, "The Truce" between England and Ireland commenced.

But many prisoners remained in jails all over Ireland. While negotiations were on-going, definite release could not be assured. The Tunnel Escape from Kilkenny Jail was greatly assisted by the Dunnamaggin company I.R.A. on 22nd November, 1921. Denis Treacy arranged that six of the Dunnamaggin company would be available to transport to freedom the escaping prisoners. Many prisoners were carried concealed in six pony and traps by Dunnamaggin men out the Waterford Road. The prisoners were carried to the Hugginstown area. From here they returned to their own homes.

From these accounts it is clear that Dunnamaggin can be proud of the part played by her sons during the fight for freedom of our country.

It is a fitting acknowledgment that the local members of the Irish Republican Army during the War of Independence are now honoured with Pat Walsh on the monument at Dunnamaggin.

Great tribute is also due to the Dunnamaggin Cumann na mBan women for their vital contribution and assistance during the War of Independence.

Pat Walsh — Dunnamaggin's Patriot

PAT WALSH was born in Dunnamaggin village in 1887, son of Matt Walsh and Mary (nee O'Neill). Matt Walsh was originally from Newmarket and had spent some time in America before returning to marry Mary O'Neill, daughter of a local publican at Dunnamaggin.

Pat attended Baursoob National School and later, at the age of ten, Kells National School. He went on to Callan C.B.S. and showed keen interest in reading and learning.

Pat's mother died while he was still a young man.

He joined the local G.A.A. club called the Glory Rovers (name derived from the local Glory River) and became a very active member. He trained hard at hurling, football and refereeing. He travelled great distances by bicycle to follow Kilkenny hurling teams and was extremely proud of his county which won seven Senior All-Ireland Championships between 1904 and 1913. Pat trained local children in the art of hurling at the local field. He represented the Glory Rovers at Southern Board and County Board levels.

Signs of his love and determination to uphold the Irish spirit were evident when he defied a British ban to lead out the Glory Rovers against Ahenure in 1919.



GLORY ROVERS TEAM — LATE 1920's

Front Row: Jack Kinsella, Jim Kennedy, Pak Morris, Jack Doran, Francie Peters, John Ryan. **Second Row:** Pierie Mullally, Nicky Coady, Willie O'Meara, Jim Carroll. **Back Row:** Pat Dempsey, Pat Holden, Larry Forristal, Tom Whelan, Andy Forristal, Jim Burke.

He was a devoted scholar of the Irish language and he promoted Gaelic language classes locally. He liked to be called his name in Irish — “Pádraig Breathnach”.

Pat was instrumental with Pat Holden (Dunnamaggin), John Hickey, Denis Treacy and Pat Holden (Newtown, Kells) in organising the Sinn Féin club at Dunnamaggin before 1916.

WALSH — THE LEADER

He organised the Irish Volunteers locally and became an officer and leader. He was very active in the fight against conscription during the First World War.

In 1919, after Dáil Éireann was established, Pat transferred with the volunteers to the national army of defence — the Irish Republican Army. He was at the head of all Dunnamaggin company activities during the War of Independence, including Hugginstown, on 8th March, 1920.

ARRESTED

He was arrested on 8th December, 1920, when his house was raided, where seven copies of *An tOglach*, the republican newspaper, and two “An Dáil Éireann loan certificates” were found. He was convicted at Waterford court of being in possession of seditious reading matter and was sentenced to two months in jail with hard labour.

On release he attended battalion meetings as Captain of the Dunnamaggin Company I.R.A. and was more eager than ever to continue the struggle.

After the encounter at Haggard Pat was on the run again when he joined Ned Aylward's Column and Sean Hogan's Flying Column on 9th May, 1921.

KNOCKNAGRESS

On Friday, 13th May, 1921, British forces chasing Hogan's column took them by surprise at Knocknagress, Tullaroan. Pat Walsh, Sean Quinn and Paddy Power got cut off from the main group. As Walsh and Quinn tried to get over a bank they were met by a hail of bullets. Quinn and Walsh fell wounded but luckily Paddy Power escaped. The wounded soldiers were thrown into a lorry and left suffering while their captors drank at a Tullaroan pub following the battle. Locals who offered assistance were turned away by the guarding soldiers.

Sean Quinn died shortly after the military trucks arrived at Kilkenny Military Barracks on the night of 13th May. Pat Walsh was moved four days later while still in a critical condition to Fermoy Military Hospital. His

wounded leg had become gangrenous. How he must have suffered on that rough journey. Following a crude operation to amputate his leg, Pat Walsh died on Wednesday, 18th May, 1921 (age 34 years).

“I am satisfied I have done my duty to my beloved Ireland . . .
. . . I do not believe our blood has been shed in vain”.

(Michael Mallin).

LAST FAREWELL

Pat Walsh's body was brought back to Dunnamaggin on Saturday, 21st May, 1921. Great crowds joined the cortege from Callan to Dunnamaggin. He was taken to the local church that evening. On Sunday, 22nd May, he was carried to the local cemetery at Dunnamaggin by his comrades. A very strong British military presence at the funeral did not hinder the republican spirit. Despite removal of the Tricolour from the coffin by a British officer on leaving the church, at the cemetery Ellie Peters of Cumann na mBan produced a Tricolour and draped the coffin before burial.

Three volleys were fired over the grave that evening.



Pat Walsh Funeral Procession — Dunnamaggin, May 22nd, 1921.

“An ancient grey-walled church,
A Celtic Cross of limestone made,
In a little Irish churchyard
A martyr's bones are laid.”

– Richard Lahart.

Despite generations toiled,
Freedom still spoiled,
Conflict of will embroiled,
Countrymen in exile.

– G.M. 1989

Dunnamaggin Pat

*I'll sing tonight of a hero bold
Who died for a noble cause.
He gave his life in a bloody strife
Against cruel alien laws.
He left his dear old father's side
and his happy home one day
To fight for Ireland's freedom
at the dawning of the day.*

CHORUS:

*God rest this gallant hero,
No boasting coward was he.
He bravely fell in an Irish dell
His native Isle to free.
Beside his comrades brave and true,
Mid the Black and Tans rat-tat,
Fell that bold Kilkenny rebel
Brave Dunnamaggin Pat.*

II

*With the foeman's guns around him,
Gravely wounded there he lay,
They took him in a lorry,
To a dark ward far away.
But his blood did flow for Ireland
On Tubrid's steep hillside,
And his body joined old Mother earth
To swell the martyr's tide.*

III

*No more upon the gaelic field
His form again we'll see,
No more he'll roam his dear old haunts
Round Kells and famed Kilree.
The fair spot of his native glen,
Where oft in boyhood glee,
He walked with pride and mingled mirth,
Near his own loved Ballintee.*

Pat Walsh Memorial Committee

Members: Tom Holden (Chairman), John O'Shea (Treasurer), Ger Mullally (Secretary), Ray Cody, Billy Treacy, Jimmy Treacy, John Holden, Ned Kirwan, Willie O'Meara, Andy Forristal, Tom Mulrooney, Jim Wallace, Martin Brennan, Des Lahart, Dick Forristal, Paddy Walsh and Chris Holden.

The Pat Walsh Memorial Committee aim is to honour the memory of the local men who contributed to our freedom. While today we take our freedom for granted, we must ensure that future generations will be aware of Dunnamaggin's contribution to the creation of a free Ireland. The committee would gladly welcome new members. Please contact a committee member if interested.

We are indebted to the detailed references on Dunnamaggin history by Richard Lahart and *The Flying Column - West Kilkenny* by Jim Maher.

This booklet was compiled with the help of sponsorship from:
Avonmore Foods Plc.
Brett Brothers Ltd.