

Soldiers and Chiefs ***Audio Accounts***

Soldiers and Chiefs brings to life the stories of the people of Ireland who lived through different conflicts both at home and abroad. Throughout this exhibition you have the opportunity to hear the personal stories of these people as they told it – just look for the button on the front of the display cases and press to listen.

Introduction Room

Hear the stories of people who lived in and around Collins Barracks over the last 250 years.

- **1774** – A Protestant Irish soldier of the Royal Irish Regiment talks about artillery training. **53 seconds**
- **1811** – A young drummer of an Irish Regiment in the British Army talks about setting off to fight in the Peninsular Wars. **55 seconds**
- **1853** – A local woman with her child talks about how the barracks and its soldiers affect her life. **43 seconds**
- **1915** – An Irish Officer in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers talks about marching out from Collins Barracks for Gallipoli in World War I. **51 seconds**
- **1927** – A veteran of the IRA talks about his life as a sergeant in the newly formed Irish Army. **59 seconds**
- **1941** – A Volunteer soldier talks about his service in the Irish Army during the Emergency. **55 seconds**
- **2001** – A female Irish Defence Forces soldier talks about her peacekeeping role in Lebanon with the UN. **51 seconds.**

Gallery 1 - The British Garrison in Ireland

Go to Garrison Families

Hear personal stories of the experiences of soldiers and their families in Ireland in the 19th century.

- Anne Cunningham, widow of Sergeant Andrew Cunningham of the 99th Regiment of Foot, petitions the Grand Lodge of Freemasons for aid. This organisation provided assistance to army widows and orphans. **46 seconds**
- Captain Chute reads the proceedings of the regimental court martial of Michael Dee of the Kerry Militia, confined for unsoldier-like behaviour, 1809. **1 minute 4 seconds**

Gallery 2 - Warfare in Ireland

Go to The War of the Two Kings 1689 - 1691

Hear a personal story of the Siege of Athlone, 1691.

- A Williamite engineer describes his army's assault on the Bridge of Athlone, 1691. Athlone was the main gateway to the Jacobite held province of Connaught, and was besieged twice during this war. **43 seconds**

Go to The 1798 Rebellion

Hear personal stories of the Rebellion of 1798.

- Sergeant Major Jean-Baptiste Thomas of the French Army describes the Battle of Castlebar, August 27th, 1798. **52 seconds**
- James Hope, insurgent under Henry Joy McCracken's command, describes his part in the Battle of Antrim, June 7th 1798. Though the battle was lost Hope's actions allowed the majority of the rebels to withdraw. He survived and later took part in the 1803 Rebellion. **52 seconds**

Gallery 3 - The Wild Geese

Go to Irish Regiments in the French Army

Hear personal stories of the Wild Geese's experiences in European Armies during the turbulent years of the early 19th century.

- Captain William Lawless of Napoleon's Irish Regiment describes the Defence of Flushing against the British Army, 1809, during the War of the Fifth Coalition. **1 minute 13 seconds**
- Lucy Fitzgerald, commander of the Santa Barbara Company, describes the Defence of Gerona in Spain against Napoleon's Army, 1808, during the Peninsular Wars. **40 seconds**

Gallery 3a - Irish in the American Civil War

Go to Making their Mark Around the World

Hear an account of the experience of Irish military men in Mexico during the Mexican-American War of 1846 to 1848, fought after the U.S. annexation of Texas.

- Samuel Emery Chamberlain of the United States Army describes the execution of a number of the San Patricios in 1847. These Irishmen had deserted from the U.S. Army to the Mexican, mainly on religious grounds. **1 minute 3 seconds**

Gallery 4 - Irish in the British Service

Go to Garrison Duty Overseas

Hear the conditions experienced by Irish soldiers in the tropics. These soldiers suffered from malaria, yellow fever and the effects of drinking rum contaminated with lead, and many died whilst stationed in the Caribbean.

- Regulations implemented by Captain Dalrymple to preserve the health of the Loyal Irish Corps in the Jamaican heat. **55 seconds**

Go to Army Families Overseas

Hear a personal story of an Irishwoman's experience in India in the 1850s

- Irishwoman Esther Anne Nicholson recalls events in India during the mutiny of 1857, when Indian troops rose against the colonial authority of the British East India Company. **1 minute 3 seconds**

Go to Anglo-Irish Officers

Hear the experience of an Irish soldier in Wellington's army in Spain during the Peninsular Wars.

- William Grattan of the Connaught Rangers describes the scene in an Amputation Hospital after the Battle of Fuentes d'Oñoro, 1811. About 1,500 men in the British Army were killed or wounded during this battle. **1 minute 25 seconds**

Gallery 5 - The First World War & The 1916 Rising

Go to War in the Streets

Audio point 1

Hear accounts of the fighting between the Irish Volunteers and the British Forces during the Easter Rising in Dublin, 1916.

- Volunteer Robert Holland recalls the taking over of Marrowbone Lane Distillery at the beginning of Easter Week, 1916. **1 minute 8 seconds**
- Volunteer Domhnall Ó Buachalla describes sniping action between buildings in Dublin city centre. **1 minute 2 seconds**
- British Army Cadet MacKay describes being captured by Irish Volunteers and imprisoned in Boland's Mills until the surrender a week later. **1 minute 30 seconds**

Audio point 2

Hear civilians' stories of events during the Easter Rising in Dublin, 1916.

- Ernie O'Malley describes the scene at the GPO in O'Connell Street at the beginning of the Rising. **1 minute 7 seconds**
- Mary Waldron recalls the looting in Dublin city during the Rising. **50 seconds**
- Thomas Drimbleton writes to inform the parents of his servant girl, Bridget, that she has been accidentally shot and killed during the 1916 Rising. **52 seconds**

Gallery 7 Claiming the Future

Go to The Creation of the Irish Defence Forces

Hear Irish Marching Orders, first used by the Irish Defence Forces in the 1920s. **33 seconds**

Go to The Fight in Spain

Hear a personal story of Irishmen fighting in the Spanish Civil War.

- James Prendergast of the International Brigade recounts the intense fighting at the Jarama Front, Spain, February 1937. **1 minute 35 seconds**

Gallery 7a - The Second World War – The Emergency

Go to Civilians at War (seating area)

Hear civilians' stories of life in Ireland during the Emergency.

- Garda Senan Finucane describes the aftermath of the North Strand Bombing, Dublin, May 31st 1941. Though the east coast of Ireland had been bombed a number of times, this was the most serious, killing a number of people and leaving hundreds homeless. **1 minute 24 seconds**
- Liam O'Reagain talks about part-time soldiering in the Local Defence Force (L.D.F.) during the Emergency. Over 100,000 men served in the L.D.F. during this time. **44 seconds**
- Maureen Diskin recalls day-to-day life and food shortages in Dublin during the Emergency. **45 seconds**
- Second Engineer Walker describes the sinking of the Irish Merchant Ship Clonlara by a German U-boat in August 1941. A number of Irish ships were sunk with the loss of 149 lives in the years of the war. **58 seconds**

Go to Irish Men and Women in the British Forces

Hear Irishmen and women describe their experiences in the Allied Forces around the world in World War II.

- RAF fighter pilot Brendan, ('Paddy'), Finucane of 452 Squadron, speaks in October 1941 about the mental after-effects of flying a mission. Finucane, born in Dublin, joined the RAF in 1938 and later fought in the Battle of Britain. He died during a bombing mission eight months after this interview. **1 minute 34 seconds**
- Sub-Lieutenant Bill Carrigan of the Royal Navy describes his reaction to the effects of the atomic bomb, Hiroshima, 1945. **1 minute 30 seconds**
- Anita Leslie describes entering the German extermination camp Nordhausen at the end of World War II. Leslie, an ambulance driver with the British Red Cross, transferred to the 1st French Armoured Division in October 1944. **2 minutes 40 seconds**