



ÓGLAIGH NA hÉIREANN

Ag cruinniú sa Rotunda, Baile Átha Cliath, an 25ú Samhain 1913, is ea a bunaíodh Óglaigh na hÉireann. Chuir siad rompu ‘na cearta agus an tsaoirse atá i bpáirt ag muintir uile na hÉireann a bhaint amach agus a choimeád’. Leath an eagraíocht nua go tapa, ach ba bheag arm a bhí aici. Faoi spreagadh thabhairt i dtír na ngunnaí i Latharna, a rinneadh gan chur isteach ó na húdaráis, bheartaigh náisiúnaithe radacacha, Pádraig Mac Piarais ina measc, gunnaí a smuigleáil isteach ón nGearmáin. Ach murab ionann agus cás Latharna, bhí na húdaráis ag faire go géar ar na poblachtaigh chun nach n-éireodh leo aon arm a thabhairt isteach sa tír.

Idir an dá linn bhí eagla ag teacht ar choiste Sasanach agus Liobrálach Angla-Éireannach i Londain go raibh an U.V.F. á armáil féin gan aon chur ina choinne ó rialtas na Breataine. D’foc baill an choiste seo, lenar áiríodh Alice Stopford Green, Sir Roger Casement agus Mary Spring Rice £1,500 san iomlán isteach i gciste le hairm a cheannach go mídhleathach d’Óglaigh na hÉireann. Thoiligh Erskine Childers agus Darrell Figgis, iriseoir Éireannach agus ball d’Óglaigh na hÉireann, dul go Hamburg na Gearmáine le hairm a cheannach ó chuideachta arm ann.

Ar chlé: Edward Carson ag léirbhreithniú Óglaigh Uladh, 27ú Meán Fómhair 1913.

Left: Sir Edward Carson reviewing the Ulster Volunteers, 27th September 1913.

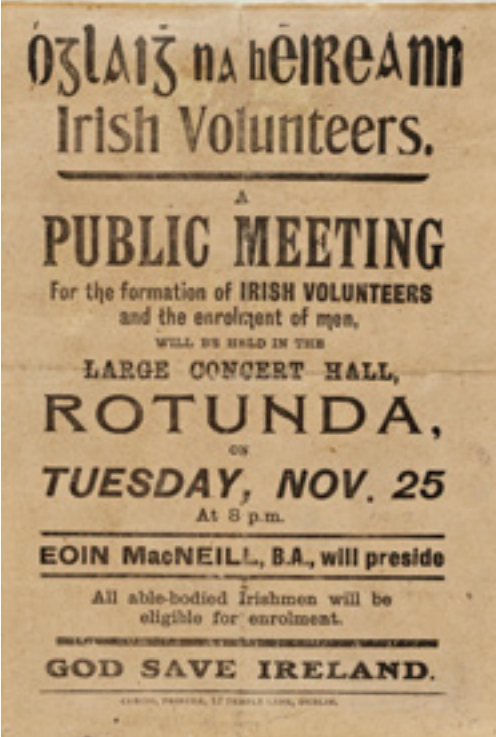
THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS

The Irish Volunteers were formed at a meeting in the Rotunda, Dublin, on 25th November 1913. Their stated aim was ‘to secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to all the people of Ireland’. The new organisation spread rapidly, but was poorly armed. Prompted by the Larne gun-running, which had been conducted without interference from the authorities, radical nationalists such as Pádraig Pearse planned to run guns from Germany. They were hampered, however, by strong government enforcement of a proclamation against the importation of arms into Ireland.

Meanwhile, a committee of English and Anglo-Irish Liberals based in London became increasingly alarmed at the arming of the U.V.F. and by the failure of the British government to prevent it. Members of this committee, including Alice Stopford Green, Sir Roger Casement and Mary Spring Rice, subscribed a total of £1,500 to a gun-running fund for the arming of the Irish Volunteers. Darrell Figgis and Erskine Childers agreed to negotiate the purchase of weapons from an arms firm in Hamburg, Germany.



Ar dheis: Baill d’Óglaigh na hÉireann in éide, 1914.
Right: Member of the Irish Volunteers in uniform, 1914.



Thuas: Ruaidhrí Mac Easmainn (Sir Roger Casement) (1864 – 1916)
Above: Sir Roger Casement (1864 – 1916)



Thuas: Lámhbille do chruinniú tionscanta Óglaigh na hÉireann, 25ú Samhain, 1913.
Above: Handbill for inaugural meeting of Irish Volunteers, 25th November 1913.
Thíos: Alice Stopford Green, Cathaoirleach Choiste Londan c. 1925
Below: Alice Stopford Green, Chairman of the London Committee c. 1925