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July 2022 *Your President's Message*

July 2022

Your President's Message

Brother Shillelagh's,

Hope everyone is enjoying the early summer at the Jersey Shore. June was another busy month for the club as we moved into summer with several outstanding events.

Our June 24th Golf Outing with 262 players on two courses was very successful. The support we received from our members and sponsors was unprecedented for the club. I want to thank Ray Barnes and the Golf Committee for all the work done in making this an outstanding event. The kitchen crew was stellar as always, as they welcomed us back to the club with a great meal. The generosity of our members was also evident, as we raised \$3,600 for a family in need in Brick Township. Thanks to Scott and Charlie Brady for leading this effort.

We enjoyed another great Cigar Night at the club on June 29th with Dave Matteo and Wayne Berning leading this event. Thanks also to Moira Horan and Mary Lavender for their help as well.

Caddyshack Bingo took place on June 30th. It was a standing room only crowd of 150 under the tent with the Caddyshack crew providing great laughs and entertainment to the crowd. Joe "Paradise" Kelly morphed into Joey Dangerfield for the night and was outstanding. Thanks to Joe, Ryan Lavender, Mary Lavender, Rich Mackay, Art Moloughney and Moira Horan for making this event so successful. We all hope the rumored retirement from Bingo of Joe Kelly is fake news!

The Dart League championship was won by No Hope. Congrats to team members Captain Snuffy Smith, Bill "Mumbles" Ryan, Rich Mackay, Ryan Lavender, Chuck Healy and Bob Ariel. Great work by Commissioner Anthony Aldorasi and Art Moloughney for making the season so successful. Dart League Thursday's have become a tremendous night at the Shillelagh's.

Ned Barrett is off to a great start leading our Membership Committee. Ned and the committee have recently screened and approved of 57 new Shillelagh members bringing our total numbers to approximately 1,375 members.

continued on page 2

July 2022

Your President's Message Continued

Welcome to our new members! Try to pick some upcoming events to volunteer for. It is a great way to meet new club members.

I wanted to also thank the tent committee volunteers for the hard work accomplished in putting up and taking down the tent for our outside events. The club saves a great deal of money for each event where we use our tent with the tent committee doing the work versus renting tents in the past. Thanks to Kevin Giblin and Paul Rockwell for leading this important committee.

Prayers go out to the family of Shillelagh Brother, Tom Griffin, who passed on July 9th. Tom was a great man and Shillelagh volunteer. He was a tireless volunteer and integral part of our Kitchen Crew for many years.

Enjoy your summer!

Slainte'

Craig Coyle

President FSOS Belmar

The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc.

The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc., is a charitable organization established and operated to benefit the public interest and is the club's only IRS designated 501C(3) charity and donations are tax deductible. Please help us help individuals in need. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com.

Please mail donations to:

FSOS Foundation
PO Box 627,
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Events Calendar



Sunday, July 17th • Edna Keegan

Wednesday, August 3rd • Membership Meeting

Sunday, August 7th • Edna Keegan

Saturday, August 13th • FSOS Fluke Tournament

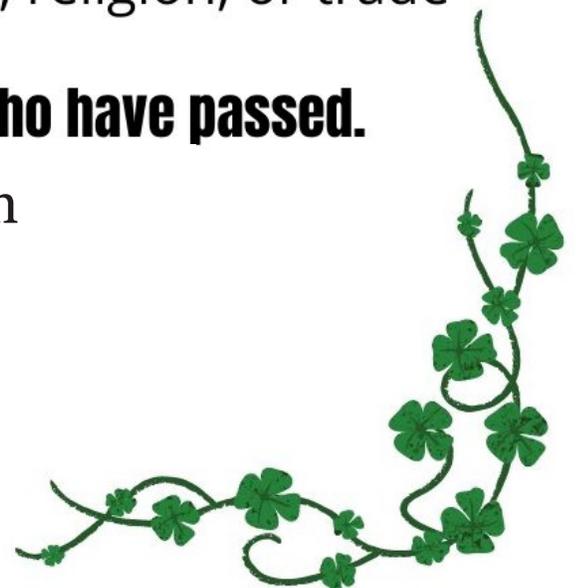


Brotherhood:

an association, society, or community of people linked by a common interest, religion, or trade

In memory of our brothers who have passed.

Tom Griffin



Irish History #94

Phase 1 of the Civil War and Arthur Griffith's Death

After escaping capture in Dublin, Liam Lynch went to Limerick, where he set-up a command as "the Chief of Staff of republican forces." He ordered commanders of republican divisions outside of Ireland's capital to remain in the countryside and not counter-attack Dublin.

The order confused the South Dublin IRA Brigade who occupied Blessington, Co. Dublin, 15 miles from the capital. They didn't march on Dublin, nor did they defend Blessington. Facing an attack by Irish military forces armed with "artillery, armored cars and automatic weapons," they abandoned the town. This scenario was replayed in numerous towns and cities.

In Waterford city, after the Irish military secured the quays, they were able to "ferry" men and artillery into the city. Encountering this, republicans surrendered. In Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, Dan Breen - one of the leaders of the Soloheadbeg ambush that opened the Irish War of Independence (See Chapter #57) - and 400 republicans failed to defend the town when confronted by Irish army forces who outnumbered them. In Westport, Co. Mayo, rebels faced 400 Irish soldiers, an artillery gun and an armored car. They abandoned the town without a fight.

Michael Collins appointed himself as Commander in Chief of Ireland's National Army, and "transferred the day-to-day leadership of the provisional government" to W.T. Cosgrave. Richard Mulcahy became the Minister of Defense. Collins and Mulcahy pressed the initiative on behalf of the government. They understood the need to appear in control of the war in order to persuade Great Britain to continue withdrawing its troops from Ireland. And they viewed Limerick as "strategically" critical to holding Ireland's south and west.

On July 11, 1922, Irish military forces began their attack on rebels garrisoned in barracks in Limerick. Eight days later, Lynch left the city and Limerick rebels surrendered. Several hundred republicans were cap-

tured, and 800 were held in a jail "designed to hold only 120." During the war, other jails also overflowed with prisoners, forcing the government to open three internment camps. Ultimately, prisoners - but not those considered to be IRA leaders - were given amnesty and released if they signed a pledge not to take up arms against the provisional government.

During the last week of July, republican leader Oscar Traynor was captured and Collins' close friend Harry Boland was killed by government forces. Ireland's National Army was on the offensive in the war's first month.

The situation in counties Cork and Kerry, however, initially favored the rebels. They drove pro-treaty troops out of Skibbereen, Co. Cork, and Listowel, Co. Kerry. As a result, these counties became known as the "Munster Republic." But a "series of amphibious landings" turned the tide in favor of the Irish military.

The landings allowed the National Army to deploy men, artillery guns and armored cars. After landing in Fenit, Co. Kerry, Irish forces captured Tralee on August 2. The army also landed in Youghai and Glandore, both in Co. Cork, and secured surrounding areas. On August 5, the Irish military drove an IRA group of 2,000 men from Killmallock, Co. Limerick, near the Cork and Kerry borders.

Under the Anglo-Irish Treaty, Ireland was barred from having a navy. But the British supplied the Irish government with several gunboats that the Irish used in their amphibious offensive.

The final landing took place in Cork city. Irish forces came ashore unchallenged, but skirmishes took place in the city's outskirts. Seven rebels and nine Irish soldiers were killed in the fighting.

One of the Irish Free State soldiers who died was named Flood. He was cut-down by "IRA machine gun-fire." As he lay dying in a field, republican Frank O'Donoghue "broke cover" and ran to him. Holding

Flood's hand, O'Donoghue said an "Act of Contrition in his ear." They had fought together in the Irish War of Independence. The scene poignantly captured how comrades in arms in that war heart-wrenchingly became enemies in the civil war.

Cork, like other places, was abandoned by the rebels after they burned down their barracks. By August 10, the "'Munster Republic' had been overthrown," and the set-piece fighting phase of the civil war was over.

The government had won the "conventional" war. Demoralization started to take root among republicans. But fighting would drag on for nine more months.

On August 19, IRA Adjutant General Con Moloney issued an order to IRA rebels, instructing them "to abandon conventional operations and form active service units not exceeding 35 men to conduct guerilla attacks." Now, the civil war entered a new phase involving guerilla warfare tactics. The government responded with overwhelming force and emergency laws aimed at decapitating the threat.

During 1922, the National Army doubled in size from 20,000 troops to 40,000 and, lacking large-scale public support, the intensity of guerilla fighting by republicans diminished over time. Still, the remainder of the war was bloody and bitter with many criminally suspicious retaliatory killings.

During this period, Dail President Arthur Griffith was ill. Unexpectedly on August 12, he suffered a stroke and died. Collins reportedly called Griffith "the father of us all," and said: "In Arthur Griffith . . . there is a wisdom and awareness of things which are Ireland."

Griffith had launched Sinn Fein ("Ourselves Alone") in 1905 as a movement promoting Irish nationalism and independence. The movement developed into the main Irish nationalist political party. Over the years, he edited weekly newspapers that inspired a generation of republicans. James Joyce considered Griffith's "United Irishman" and "Sinn Fein" weeklies to be the only Dublin newspapers worth reading.

Griffith joined the Irish Volunteers. Yet, he es-

chewed violence except when used defensively. He took part in the 1914 Howth gun-running episode, but not in the 1916 Easter Rising. This was designed so that he could continue to support the Rising's call for self-determination and independence in his writings. British authorities, however, accused Sinn Fein of fomenting the Rising and arrested him.

When Eamon de Valera went to the United States, Griffith stepped up to serve as Acting President of the Irish Dail in his place, and stepped down when de Valera returned two years later. De Valera appointed Griffith to serve as the lead plenipotentiary in London during the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations. Griffith signed the Treaty that he and Collins had negotiated with the British. The Treaty split the IRA and Sinn Fein.

When de Valera walked out of the Dail because the plenipotentiaries signed the Treaty without his foreknowledge, Griffith was elected President of the Dail. Many believe he worked himself to death. British Treaty negotiator Lord Birkenhead lamented Griffith's passing, and said he "perished of sheer exhaustion and overwork."

Griffith was a staunch defender of the Treaty, which he saw as bringing "effective independence for most of Ireland." Except for Ulster, the pragmatic Griffith delivered on his vision of Ireland as a free nation. And, like Collins, he viewed the Irish Free State as "a step toward [the island's] ultimate freedom." Although, he opposed Collins' post Treaty efforts to destabilize the Northern Ireland government.

Praise for Griffith was universal, when he died. Even his opponents paid tribute to him. Anti-treaty republican Erskine Childers described Griffith as "the greatest intellectual force stimulating the national revival of 1916-19."

Anti-treaty republican and future President of Ireland Sean T. Kelly was interned in Kilmainham Jail when Griffith died. He expressed his opinion on Griffith's special place in Irish history in a letter to Griffith's widow. He wrote: "Future generations of Irish men and women shall draw inspiration [from] a truly patriotic son whose political philosophy so eloquently taught,

and whose long years of toil and sacrifice brought the present generation of Irishmen from their knees to their feet, and rekindled in their hearts the almost extinct flame of liberty.”

Griffith was also lauded in the United States. De Valera adversary Judge Daniel Cohalan of New York said Griffith was “the brain of the Irish movement for freedom,” and the New York Tribune called him “the rock of the revolution.”

Griffith was laid to rest at Glasnevin Cemetery on August 16. Six days later, another giant in the pantheon of Irish heroes would die. Michael Collins was killed in the Beal na mBlath ambush in southwest Cork. We will look at the circumstances surrounding his death and the repercussions in the next chapter.

Sources: Peter Cottrell, *The Irish Civil War 1922-23*, Osprey Publishing Ltd. (2008); Darragh Gannon and Feargal McGarry, *Ireland 1922*, Royal Irish Academy (1922); Colum Kenny, *The Enigma of Arthur Griffith*, Merrion Press (2020); Michael Laffan, *Judging W.T. Cosgrave*, Royal Irish Academy (2014).

Slainte Mhor, EMN



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Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022

7:30pm

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