

7.0 The Main Sites of Activity During the Rising.

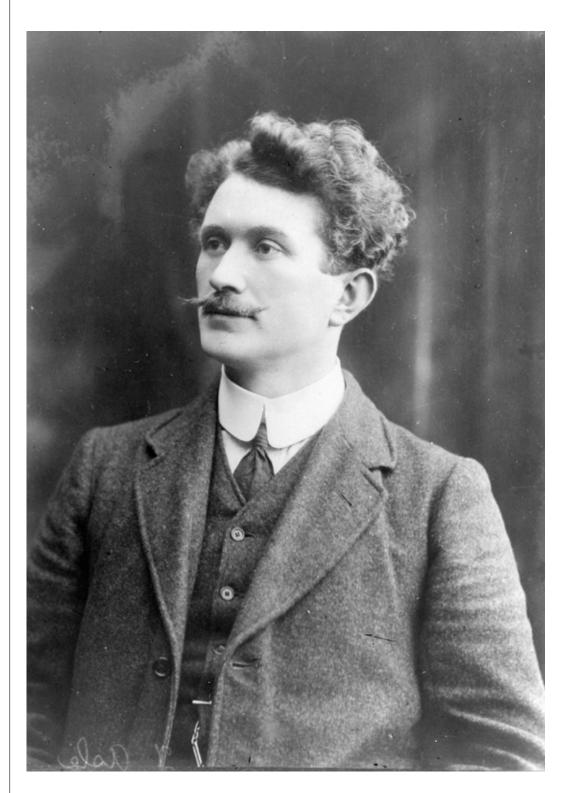
7.12 Ashbourne, County Meath

Commandant Thomas Ashe and Volunteers of the small 5th Battalion of the Dublin Brigade were active in north county Dublin throughout the Easter Rising. Partly on the advice of his second in command Richard Mulcahy, a member of a Dublin city battalion who had only just transferred to Ashe's battalion, Ashe adopted guerilla tactics, damaging railway lines and capturing some small Royal Irish Constabulary barracks, the aim being to hamper enemy movements, take pressure off their comrades in Dublin city, and procure arms. On Tuesday of Easter Week, Ashe dispatched twenty men to the GPO, some of whom were sent on to the Mendicity Institution.

On the Friday morning, Ashe's force of fifty Volunteers surrounded the RIC barracks at Ashbourne across the border in Co. Meath. The garrison of sixteen men and a district inspector was about to surrender when a force of approximately sixty RIC men and two senior officers arrived on the scene in motor cars. Following a lengthy engagement along the dykes, drains and ditches, the Volunteers forced the RIC, both those in the open and those in the barracks, to surrender. Joseph Lawless, a Volunteer who participated in the action, has given the casualties as two Volunteers killed and five wounded and eight RIC men killed and fifteen wounded. From the Volunteers point of view this was by far the most successful action of the Rising, the element of surprise probably being a major factor. Ashbourne and the guerilla warfare tactics adopted by Ashe and Mulcahy provided a role model for those involved in the War of Independence in the following years.

Following the general surrender Ashe was tried by court-martial and sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

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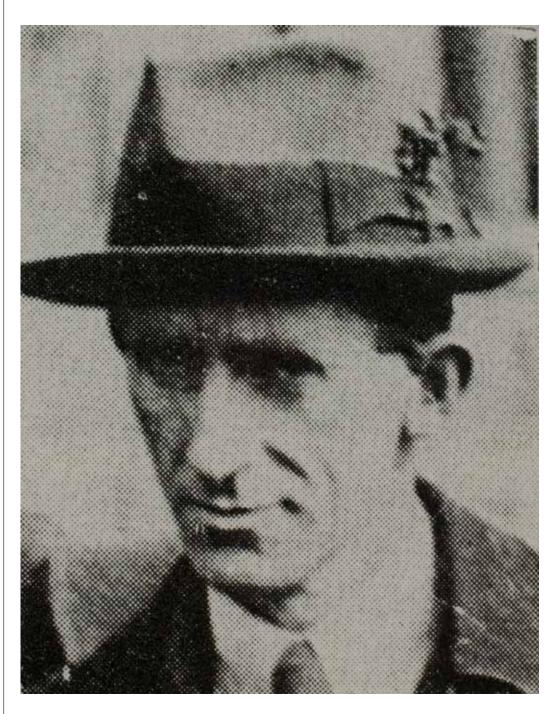


Commandant Thomas Ashe (1885-1917). Born in Lispole, Co. Kerry, he qualified as a teacher and was principal of Corduff national school, Lusk, Co. Dublin. He was a member of the IRB and the Irish Volunteers, becoming brigade commandant shortly before the Rising. He died on 25 Sept. 1917 as a result of forcible feeding while he was on hunger strike when serving a sentence for sedition. (Keogh 39).

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Thomas Ashe was an active member of the Gaelic League and an accomplished performer on the traditional war pipes. He was said to be a tall and commanding presence and a charismatic public speaker. (Keogh 3).



Richard Mulcahy (1886-1971); born in Co. Waterford, he worked as an engineer with the Post Office. He was a member of the Gaelic League, the IRB and the Irish Volunteers.

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Ashbourne, County Meath 7.12

iters.

REBEL AMBUSCADE.

10 POLICE OFFICERS KILLED AND 18 WOUNDED.

the couth, every wire either silenced by the rebeis or held exclusively by the military, rumour is a mad cut in this imaginative island. But I saw yesterday a very healthy and determined wedge of our coldiers, stiffened by batterice of artillery, moving on Enniscotthy in that leisurely way bat-tations do move when they know they have something in hand; and that denoerate constaught of averaging things rang the knoll of the Sinn Feiners in possession of the town surely and certainly. My train was stowed axay along a con-

18 WOUNDED.
18 WOUNDED.
Consolitation of the most tragic affairs in the rebellion was the ambahing of a body of police in County Meath by the rebels, with the rebels, however, accessed in the sum a stowed area y along a control the result that ten police were killed in a county Meath by the rebels, with the result of the sum femers in possession of the town in the stower of the town the police were killed in a motor care had the rebels had taken up a position for a many the sum of the relation to the relation of the sum of the second the stower of the second the stower of the second to the second to the second to the second to the relation of the second to the

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PANIC IN THE There was a panic Office about noon, wi looking at it were a fear of a falling wall, slightly injured in the It will be a weary life of the city begi normal lines. But being taken to deal wi and supply shipe are and Kingstown from are urgently needed. The necessity needed. The necessity needed in the state of the state and supply shipe are and Kingstown from are urgently needed. The necessity for f almost as urgent in surrounding country of Pasees are necessary to street in Kingstow from the street in the spoke the street in Kingstow from the street in the spoke street in the spoke the street in the street in the spoke the street in the street in the spoke street in the spoke the street in the street in the spoke street

This afternoon the g formed a variety of firing at the rebel fortu-surrection began, turnee pursuit and carried a refugree to Kingstown e bead mail steamer.

Reports from the pro-good. With the except trict nearly all rebols rendered, the evacuation where they held ev-notable.

MR. BIRREL

"NOTHING MUCH" REBELL

From Our Own O

Mr. Birrell arrived in this afternoon from Du reseal which shalled Wednesday. A special Crewe on his way to Lon Crewe on his way to Lon In an interview he sai was virtually over in Ir main bodies of rebels ha little sniping was goin parts of the country, bu Asked if military op

7.12 Ashbourne, County Meath

Joseph Plunkett Lukfield Kimmag 26 Mper Fitzvilham I Josep Oplup Army Book (153. FIELD MESSAGE BOOK (For the use of Dismounted Regimental Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of Gavairy and infantry.) This Book is ruled in 1 inch squares. The waterproof cover issued for the purpose of pro-tecting this book may be obtained on application. It should be made to outlast as many refills as possible. Special envelopes for despatching messages, Army Form C. 398, may also be obtained.

Pages from Joseph Plunkett's field notebook relating to the action at Ashbourne. (Ms. 4,700).

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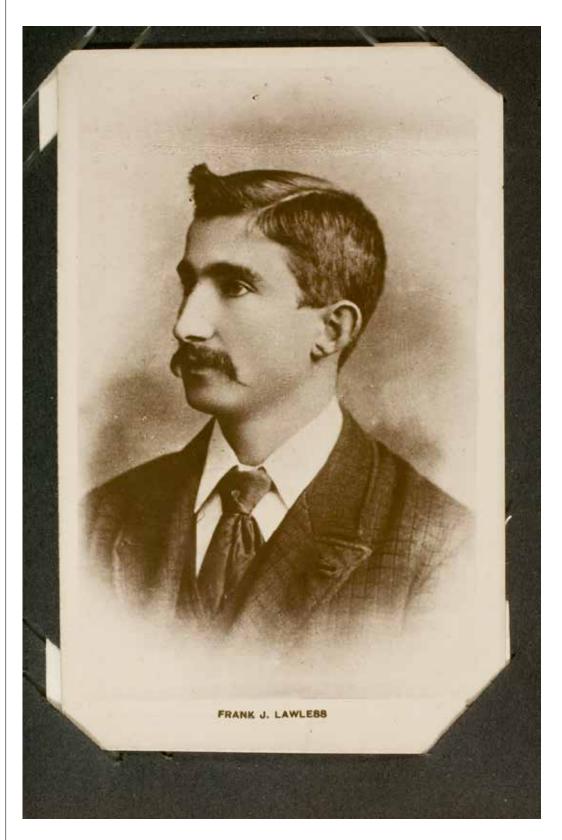
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Joseph Plunkett: Field Message Book

3rd Day Garriston [Garristown] Police Barracks taken. No guns or arms!

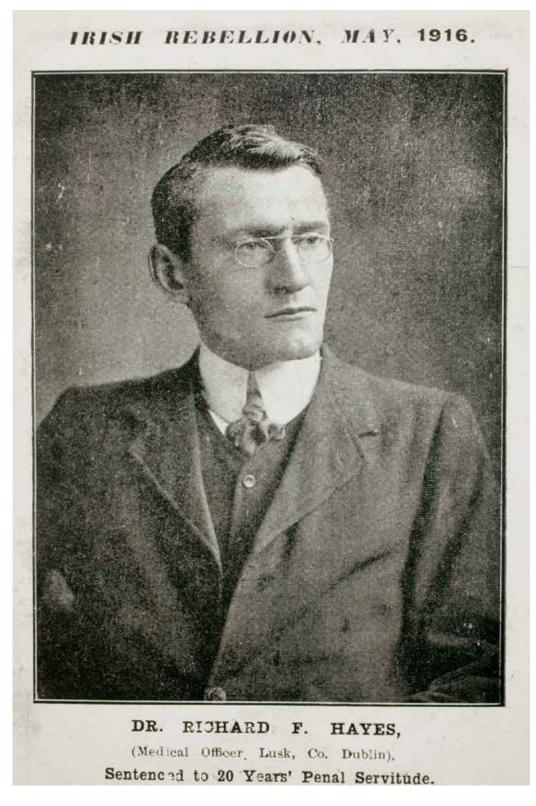
Post Office wrecked. 40 IRA under Commandant Ashe (5th Brigade [i.e. Battalion]) moving on railway north of Gormanstown.

Finglas. News from N[?avan] says 200 IRA moving on Dublin.

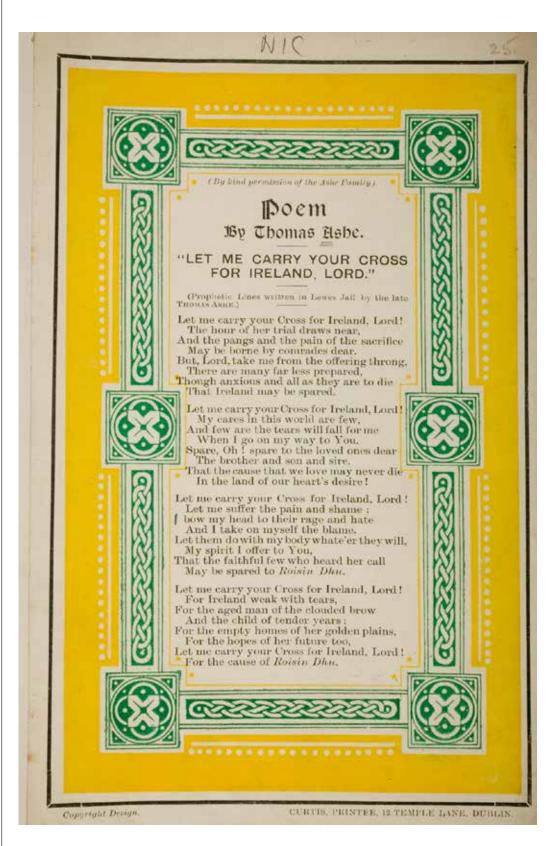


Frank J. Lawless, quartermaster of the 5th Dublin Brigade, was involved in the action at Ashbourne in which his son Joseph also took part. (Album 73).

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A commemorative postcard for Dr Richard F. Hayes, a native of Bruree, Co. Limerick and a boyhood friend of Eamon de Valera. He was afterwards author of Biographical Dictionary of Irishmen in France (1940) and other books. (Album 113).



An edition of Thomas Ashe's moving poem, 'Let me carry your cross for Ireland, Lord'. (ILB 300, P. 11/25).

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The Ashe Memorial Hall, Tralee, Co. Kerry. It now houses Kerry County Museum. (Valentine 3065).