



7.0 The Main Sites of Activity During the Rising.

7.13 Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

In Co. Wexford, due to the conflicting messages emanating from Dublin, there was considerable confusion as to whether the Rising was to take place or not. Eventually, early on Easter Monday Mrs Jennie Wyse-Power, a member of Cumann na mBan, relayed a message from Pearse that the Rising would indeed take place that day; that night news arrived that the Rising was in progress.

On Wednesday a message arrived from James Connolly requesting that the Enniscorthy Volunteers hold the railway line from Rosslare to prevent British reinforcements reaching Dublin. On Thursday the Enniscorthy Volunteers together with contingents from other areas took over Enniscorthy, establishing headquarters in the Athenaeum, a strong position beside the castle. The Volunteers were supplemented by members of Fianna Éireann and Cumann na mBan. Brigade Commandant Robert Brennan was the officer in charge. The Volunteers took over the town and blocked the roads and the railway line. They surrounded the Royal Irish Constabulary barracks and exchanged fire with the police; they did not, however, attempt to capture the barracks, believing that in time the RIC would surrender. Meanwhile, a force under Captain Paul Galligan occupied the town of Ferns and some of the northern part of the county.

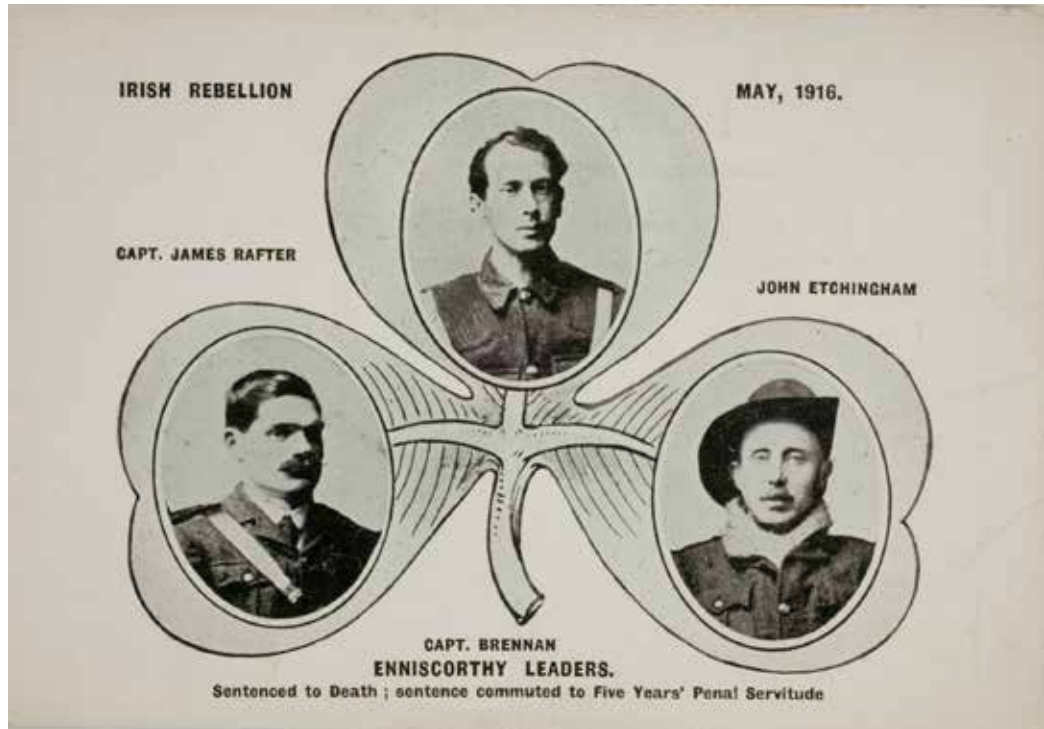
On Saturday news of the general surrender in Dublin reached Enniscorthy. The Volunteers required that the surrender be confirmed: the following day the British escorted Captain Seamus Doyle and Captain Seán R. Etching-ham to Dublin to consult Pearse in Arbor Hill. On Monday, 1 May, the Enniscorthy Volunteers surrendered unconditionally. While a number of the officers were sentenced to death, all had their sentences commuted.

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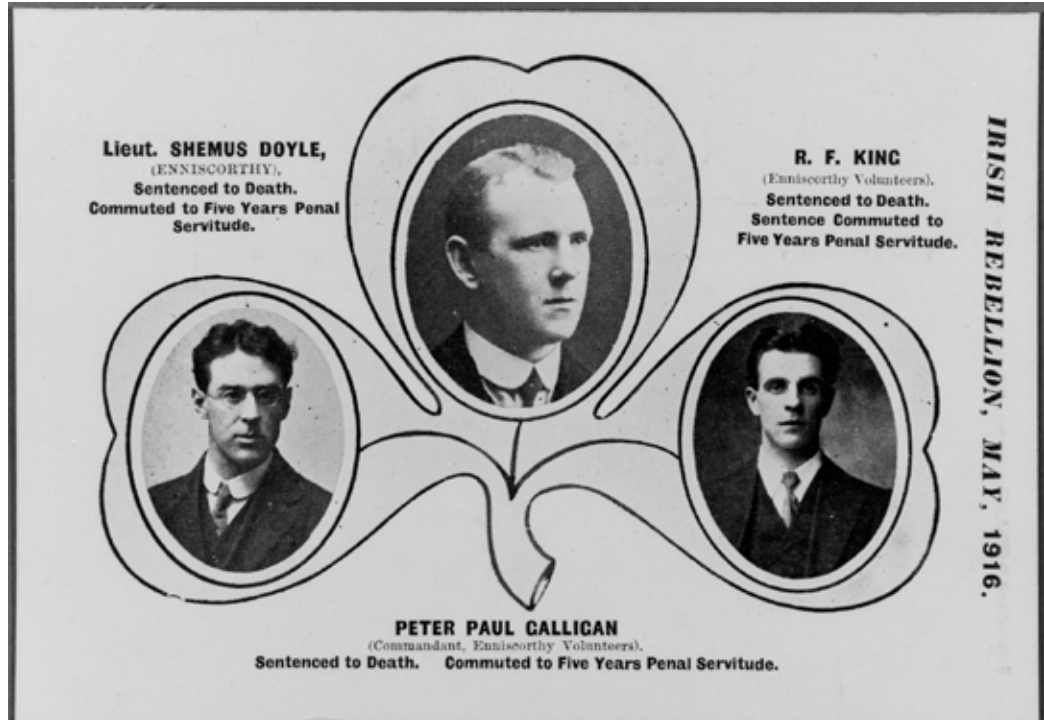
Enniscorthy as it was a decade before the Rising. (Lawrence R633).

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A commemorative postcard. (Album 273).

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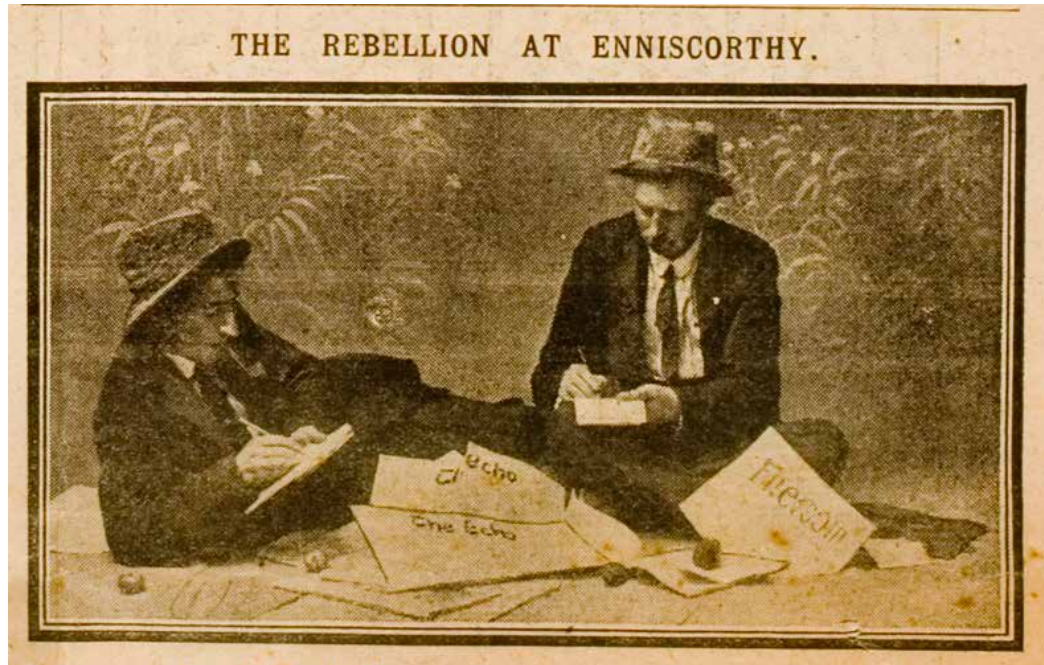
A commemorative postcard. (PLM 28,366).

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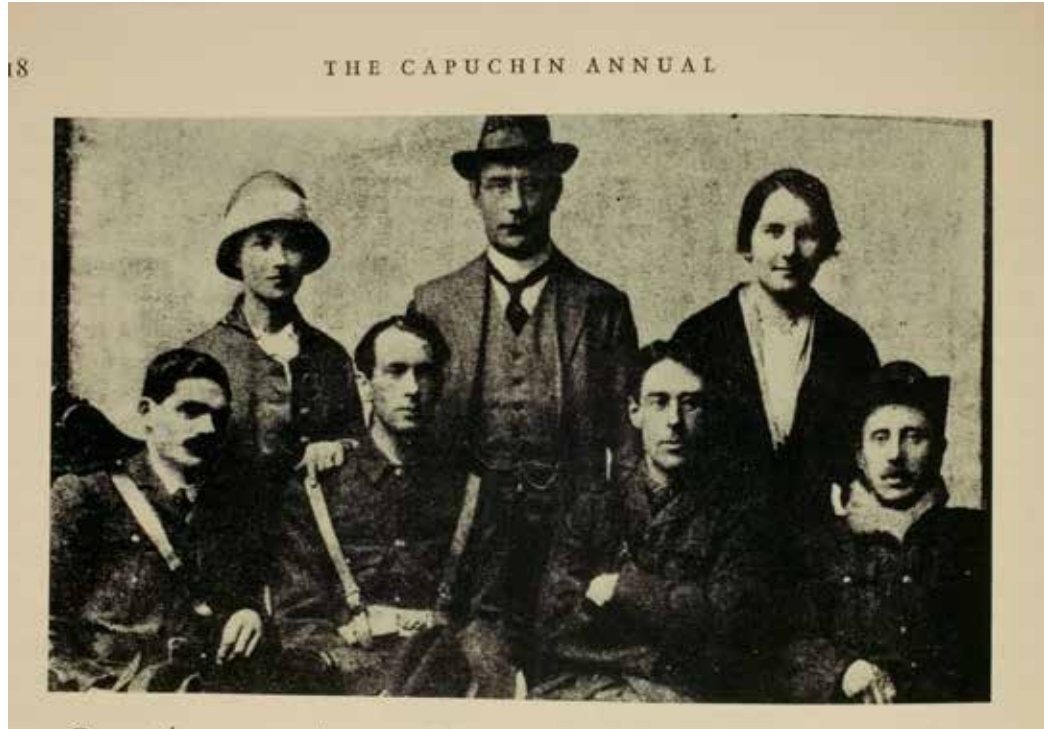
Photograph from a commemorative postcard for Michael de Lacy who was sentenced to death but had his sentence commuted to five years penal servitude. (Album 73).

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Section of a newspaper report. The photograph shows Larry de Lacy (left) who is said to have made 'a sensational escape to America when wanted under the Defence of the Realm Act'. The other man is Seán R. Etchingham, who took part in the Rising at Enniscorthy. (Daily Mirror, 9 May 1916).

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Group taken on Monday 1 May before the surrender. Front row: Seamus Rafter, Robert Brennan, Seamus Doyle, Seán R. Etchingham. Back row: Una Brennan, Michael de Lacy, Eileen Hegarty. (Capuchin Annual, 1966).