



7.0 The Main Sites of Activity During the Rising.

7.14 Co. Galway

The Irish Volunteers were well represented in Co. Galway since the early days of the organisation. Liam Mellows, a member of the provisional committee, worked assiduously at organising and training the force throughout the county. As the date for the Rising approached, however, he was in England under an exclusion order arising from his para-military activities, but James Connolly arranged for his daughter Nora to go to England and convey him back to Co. Galway, disguised as a priest. The Irish Volunteers in the county were relatively strong in numbers but were poorly armed, their total number of rifles numbering little more than 100. The IRB Military Council seems to have had considerable regard for the Co. Galway Volunteers: it planned to address the matter of the arms deficit by dispatching a substantial quantity of the proposed German arms from the Aud by train from Tralee to Limerick and onwards to various points in the county.

But the arms did not materialize and MacNeill's countermand resulted in a much smaller turn-out than might otherwise have been the case. Nevertheless, when news of the Rising reached Galway on Easter Monday, Mellows managed to mobilize a large force, some sources estimating it at between 500 and 1,000, which seems unlikely as the total strength of the Irish Volunteers at the time was little more than 10,000, of whom almost 3,000 were in Dublin; also many of those in Co. Galway would, presumably, not have mobilised for one reason or another. On Tuesday a force of

Volunteers had an initial success at Oranmore when they captured six members of the Royal Irish Constabulary, but were then routed by a large force with superior fire-power. They proceeded to Athenry where they took over the agricultural station. On Wednesday a large force of RIC attempted to drive them out but were repulsed. The same day, two companies of Volunteers routed a military detachment en route from Galway to Athenry.

The vast majority of the Volunteers in the field were intent on continuing the campaign, a stance endorsed by the large number of members of Cumann na mBan also present. Accordingly, it was proposed to march southwards into Co. Clare. On Friday, however, news arrived that the GPO and other Volunteer strongholds in Dublin had been shelled by artillery and that the Rising was on the point of collapse. Moreover, the remainder of the country had not participated in the Rising. In addition, a force of several hundred marines was approaching: the Volunteers would be no match for such a force, considering their inferiority in terms of arms and equipment.

Early on Saturday it was decided to disperse. The rank-and-file members returned home and most of the leaders went 'on the run'; Mellows managed to escape to the United States. Possibly as many as 100 of the Co. Galway Volunteers were arrested and tried by court-martial, the majority being sentenced to terms of penal servitude ranging from life to one year. In addition, approximately 500 Volunteers were deported to Britain, where most of them were interned at Frongoch in Wales.

7.14

Co. Galway

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.
See Page SIX.

Daily Express

LONDON, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1916.
ONE HALFPENNY.

The Crazy Revolt Spreads to the Provinces of Ireland.

IRISH REBELLION SPREADS.

OUTBREAKS IN THE WEST AND SOUTH; STREET FIGHTING IN DUBLIN.

SIR J. MAXWELL TAKES CHARGE.

WHOLE COUNTRY PLACED UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

A considerable extension of the Irish rebellion was announced by the Prime Minister yesterday in the House of Commons.

The revolt has spread from Dublin to other places in the south and west—particularly the west. In order not to hamper military precautions, the names of these localities have not been disclosed. No news was received yesterday from the disturbed districts.

The rebels still hold important public buildings in Dublin, and fighting in the streets continues.

Martial law has been proclaimed over the whole of Ireland. The troops are being strongly reinforced.

General Sir John Maxwell has been given plenary powers over the whole country.

Both Sir Edward Carson and Mr. John Balfour expressed their disapproval of the outbreak. Sir Edward Carson has placed the services of the Ulster Volunteer Force at the disposal of the Government for the maintenance of the King's authority in Ulster.

Mr. Asquith promised a searching inquiry into the cause of and responsibility for the rebellion.

It is supposed that the rebels are still active in the west, and that local train left Latham last night.

M. R. ASQUITH'S STATEMENT.

THE GENERAL IN CHARGE.

SIR JOHN MAXWELL'S CAREER IN THE ARMY.

General Sir John Maxwell, who has been appointed to the command of the forces in Ireland, is a soldier of high repute. He has been a member of the War Office since 1885, and is in fact one of the most experienced officers in the British Army.

General Sir John Maxwell was born in 1852, and served in the Indian Army. He was promoted to the rank of Major-General in 1905, and to that of Lieutenant-General in 1910. He has been a member of the War Office since 1885, and is in fact one of the most experienced officers in the British Army.

THE GENERAL GAS ATTACKS ON THE BRITISH.

ON OUR LINES BY THE IRISH.

GREAT AIR FEAT.

British Official.

FROM SIR DOUGLAS MAIG.

General Sir Douglas Haig, who has been appointed to the command of the forces in the West, is a soldier of high repute. He has been a member of the War Office since 1885, and is in fact one of the most experienced officers in the British Army.

THE GENERAL COMPULSION COMPROMISE KILLED.

DRAMATIC WITHDRAWAL OF THE NEW MILITARY SERVICE BILL.

CABINET TO RECONSIDER ITS PROPOSALS.

The new Military Service Bill, which was introduced by the Government in the House of Commons yesterday, has been withdrawn. It was introduced in the House of Commons yesterday. A debate followed in which a great deal of criticism was made of the Bill. The Government has decided to withdraw the Bill, and to reconsider its proposals.

WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT?

M.P.'S VIEWS ON THE NEXT STEP.

Daily Express' Lobby Correspondent.

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GENERAL SIR JOHN MAXWELL.

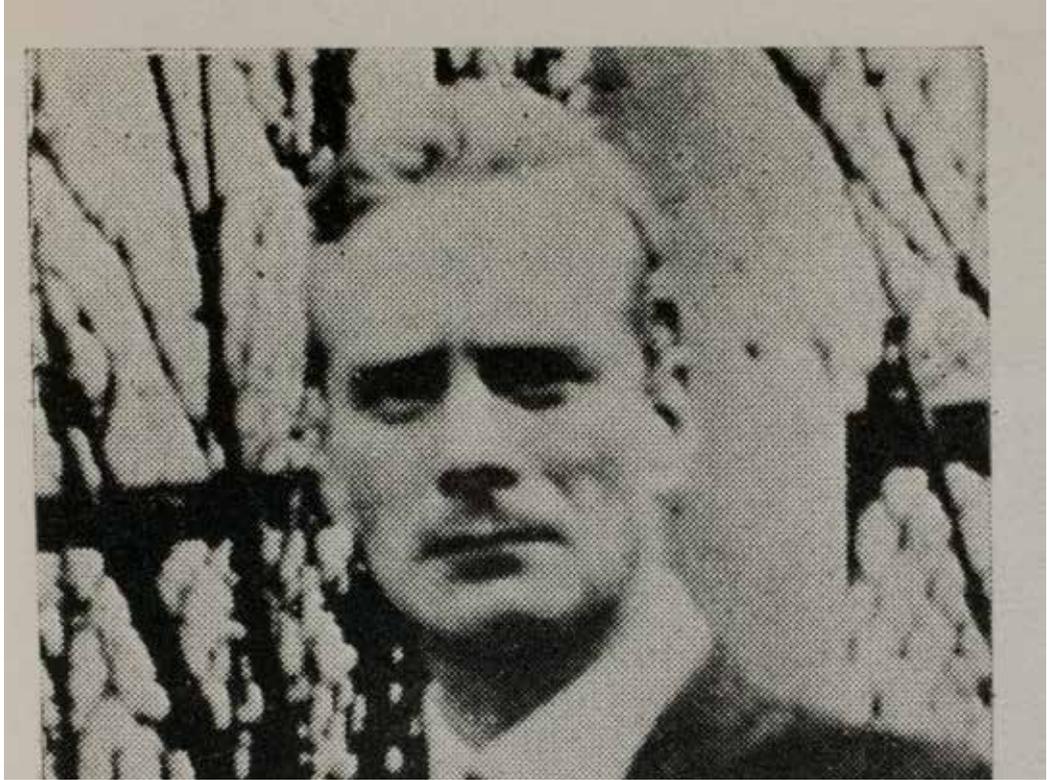


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Liam Mellows (1892-1922) was born in England and reared by his grandparents in Co. Wexford. Socialist and radical in outlook, he joined Fianna Éireann and the IRB, and was a member of the provisional committee of the Irish Volunteers. He contributed greatly to the development of both Fianna Éireann and the Irish Volunteers in areas outside of the capital.

7.14 Co. Galway



A Connacht Tribune report on the Rising in Co. Galway.