

Military Archives

**MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS
COLLECTION**

MA/MSPC/FE/37

**NEWBRIDGE
KILDARE**

**MILITARY ARCHIVES
IRELAND**

**Military Service
Pensions Collection**

Military Archives

As captain of the howbridge
Company of Rathanna Eireann
during the last three months
prior to the Truce I certify that
to the best of my knowledge the
following were members of the
Company.

Thomas Coyle

Joseph Walshes Moorefield MA 6928

Malachy Dempsey, Roseberry

Raddy Dempsey "

Edwora Grace, Ballymaney

Joe Grace "

Chris Dempsey] " MD 50114

(2) Pat Scraghy Eye S

[Mr Nolan] MD 6268 Rowan Ter

J Nolan "

* James Keogh Hawkfield 3rd rd
Manufactured
KIRA about
this time

Thos Behan Moorefield

Bernard Kennan

Raddy Doyle

P Seanlan Eye S

Accoed Paddy Callan J.W.A.

Military 2 Archives

J. Ryan
 J. J. J. J.
 Jim McKenna Rowan Ter
 J. Cogan ^{24SP} ⁹⁰¹¹ ? Carragh.
 Joe Pierce Limerick St
 Pat May
 Jim Dillon
 Jim Reilly
 Simon Cooper
 J. Cogan
Fin Mahon, Limerick St MA5799
 J. Hogan
 Tho Pierce Limerick St
 Pat Treaney Market Square Transferred
IRA at
this time
 Bob Dunne Power Cont.
Patrick Wallace ^{7th} ¹⁵⁶⁴ Eye St
 Felix Duff Eye St
 James Forrell Robert St
 ? Crooked Kichein
 Jack Forrell (deceased)

(all addresses at the time of service)
 James Sheehan
 Ballymany. s/c
 Newbridge

General Decision re Fianna Éireann Cases.

Rúnaí,

For some time past applications for medals in respect of alleged membership of Fianna Éireann have been causing trouble and worry, especially where the Referee's records do not include Fianna rolls for a particular place or district and where, as a result, there is no evidence - even prima-facie - that a Fianna unit existed.

It was one thing to include the Fianna in the Military Service Pensions Acts, but I imagine that the Bord of Assessors and the Referee did not award military service certificates to Fianna claimants unless they had very definite evidence of membership. In the same way - it was all right to include the Fianna in the Army Pensions Acts, because if a member of the Fianna was wounded or contracted a disability in the course of service, it would also be within the bounds of possibility to establish membership. But for special allowance purposes, the Fianna present a very great problem. If a Fianna unit existed in any place or district, it is reasonable to suppose that Rolls would have been supplied for the purposes of the 1934 Act, as it would have strengthened the local position, and where there are no Rolls, it is equally reasonable to assume that while boys may have been carrying messages, etc., they were not members of the Fianna, which is the statutory requirement for the award of the Medal.

If this is accepted, verifications by I.R.A. officers are of little value, and equally valueless are those of persons who are stated now to have been Fianna officers but who were never recorded as such for 1934 Act purposes. You have no doubt seen cases where there was full verification of Fianna claimants at I.R.A. Company level, and some at Battalion level, but where enquiries elicited the fact that there was no organised Fianna unit.

A Acting on behalf of An tAire, I find it impossible to be satisfied as to Fianna Membership where there are (no records, and I would now recommend that, in the absence (of records, all applications for Medals in respect of Fianna membership should be refused. There is too much involved, (in the payment of special allowances to quite young men for many (years to come.

(Sgd.) L. Ó Ciosáin

18 Meitheamh, 1959.

Aire,

I am in agreement with the proposal at "A" above.

(Sgd.) Aodh Mac Brádaigh

29/6/59

Aontuighim

(Intld.) C Ó B
2/7/59

A3C(M)

I agree that, in the circumstances, the Medal issued to Mr. Coyle should be held to have been duly awarded, as was done in the case of James Sheehan (24/10091).

In accepting these two cases, we are, in effect, accepting the existence of a pre-Truce Fianna unit in Newbridge. I have, therefore, reviewed the following cases in which Medals were issued under the old system and withholding the Medals duly awarded:-

34/56019 James A. O'Regan

MD/7370 Patrick Doyle

MD/10633 James Keogh

MD/1751 Malachy Dempsey

MD/2122 Edward Grace

The above are on the list supplied by James Sheehan on the file of J.A. O'Regan. They may be told that their cases have been further investigated and that, in consequence, the Medals issued to them have been held to have been duly awarded. They may, at the same time, be issued with Travel Cards, and if they have applied for any of the other benefits, the necessary action may be taken.

George Cardiff (MD/4385) is not on the list applied by Mr. Sheehan. Mr. Sheehan, who may be told of the decisions in the other cases in which he was interested, should be asked about Mr. Cardiff.

James C. McKenna (MD/45249) is possibly the Jim McKenna, Rowan Terrace on Mr. Sheehan's list, but if he was at U.C.D. as he says, his membership of the Newbridge Slua at the critical period would be doubtful. No further action need be taken in his case. Neither need anything be done about Patrick J. Prendergast (MD/22637). He is not on Mr. Sheehan's list.

21st Samhain 1969

Military Service
Pensions Collection

Newbridge Fianna Éireann

Fullan, Patrick (deceased) 24 SP 4772

Sheehan, James 24 SP 10091

O'Regan, John A 34 SP 56019

Doyle, Patrick MD 7370

Coyle, Thomas MD 1329

Keogh, James 24 SP 10633

Dempsey, Malachy MD 1751

Grace, Edward MD 2112

Cardiff, George MD 4385

McKenna, James MD 45249

Prendergast, Patrick J MD 22637

Particulars of the abovecases are set out on the attached sheets.

No records having been submitted, by way either of lists of officers or Slua Rolls, indicating the existence of an organised unit or Slua of Fianna Éireann in Newbridge during the three months which ended on 11th July, 1921, all but two of the eleven cases listed were dealt with in accordance with the terms of the Ministerial decision (MD 32839) of 2 July, 1959, a copy of which is annexed for reference.

The two exceptions are the cases of James Sheehan and Patrick Fullan, deceased. In both cases, the Board of Assessors certified non-pensionable membership for the critical period. In the case of Mr. Sheehan, the certificate is for membership of Fianna Éireann, while that granted to the late Patrick Fullan is for membership of Oglaigh na hÉireann (I.R.A.)

It has been the practice to waive the normal investigation procedure in cases where an applicant for the Service (1917-1921) Medal has been credited by the Board of Assessors with membership of one of the specified organisations for the critical period. Accordingly, when Mr. Sheehan applied for Free Travel, etc., the Medal issued to him in 1942 was automatically held to have been duly awarded.

Mr. Sheehan has submitted a list of persons who, he states, were members of Fianna Éireann in Newbridge during the three months which ended on the 11th July, 1921.