

**Military Archives**

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**MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS  
COLLECTION**

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**MA/MSPC/RO/611**

**GHQ  
Q COMPANY  
ACTIVE SERVICE  
UNIT**

**MILITARY ARCHIVES  
IRELAND**

**Military Service  
Pensions Collection**







Record of G. Coy. General Headquarters Unit. Active Service Unit  
Irish Volunteers, and Irish Republican Army.

From 1913 onwards the Seamen and dockers were importing arms and ammunition to Dublin for the Irish Citizen Army & Irish Volunteers during the 1913 Strike. The treatment meted out to Dockland by the D.M.P. & R.I.C. who used to enter the houses beat the occupants in bed, smash and destroy Religious Pictures and Statuettes and destroy all semblances of their homes, instilled hatred in their hearts of England and everything English. After the 1913 Strike these men renewed their efforts with energy and determination, by 1916 the Volunteers had been supplied with what arms they used in the Resurrection. After the Surrender all the dumps were empty and there was little or no arms in the country. The Seamen & Port Workers did not forget the 1913 Strike, or the Glorious fight made during the Resurrection. They started to import Arms & Munitions with renewed energy. During the early part of 1919 G. H. Q. realising that if these men were properly organised they could obtain as much arms & munitions as the funds at their disposal could purchase. I was called to G. H. Q. and the Council President impressed upon me the importance of a large and continuous supply of arms & ammunition. I was instructed to form a special Unit for this purpose. I recruited dockers & Quaymen, and, Seamen & Firemen sailing to all parts of the World, and instructed them to get in touch with others who could be relied upon in various parts of the World to establish Communications, Purchase of Arms & Munitions, and their collection and transport to Ireland. When it is realised that they were in the main, working in enemy territory, and had to contend with obstacles such as the G. P. D. Special Police, Revenue men Police; (The When arranging a purchase (The danger of picking the wrong seller was always present)



v/  
and the carrying of the stuff across thickly populated areas  
& cities, sometimes the distances been so long and the stuff  
so heavy it would be nigh impossible to walk,  
Then the lonely walk to the docks, which in most ports are  
surrounded by high walls, with wickets in their main  
gates, lighted by electric lamps and guarded by uniformed  
police whom you can see, and shadowed by the G. I. D.  
you don't see. It will be understood that getting stuff aboard  
ships & transshipping it took some doing, even then their  
work was not finished as precautions had to be taken to  
guard against spies or hostile members of the crew  
Supplies were arriving in such large quantities I had to  
have my Quaymen on duty the twentyfour hours of the day  
as time tide and bad weather plays all sorts of tricks  
with the arrival of ships, some would arrive before  
time, and over and over again be hours late

We carried our instructions as issued by Gen Michael Collins  
Joe O'Reilly & Sean Mc Mahon and never had a seizure  
or capture of consignment of stuff

The Castle Authorities knew the stuff was arriving  
but could not discover the method or source of supply  
with the result they formed a Special Unit of Black &  
Tans to cope with it. This Unit was composed of Naval  
Officers Ships Capts Engineers Firemen & Sailors  
and Revenue Officers. they were known as Q. Coy  
and were stationed in the London North Western Railway  
Hotel North Wall. Their duty consisted of patrolling the  
docks night & day, board and searching all ships  
on arrival in port irrespective of what Nationality or  
Port of registry. It was the duty of my Quaymen to beat  
the experts at their own game, and get there first  
get the stuff ashore and to the Unit's dump



We had special ships built bulkheads built in the ships for smuggling the stuff. In other ships we used to have the stuff mixed with the cargo. We also had consignments addressed to firms in the city, it would be discharged in the usual way, and my quaymen would enter the transit sheds and remove the stuff before delivery, as we always made arrangements with the Stevedores Checkers & Storemen beforehand. How well did O'Boy do their work in supplying arms munitions bombs communications and passages for members of Dail Eireann, and men on the run, is evidenced by the Freedom we enjoy today. I enclose Roll of Unit and names of ships in which the stuff arrived in to Dublin. Several men were lost at sea, a couple were killed, and a lot of them have since died. I shall give further details when called before Board. I attach list of men which have not yet been called before Board, in the circumstances might I ask that you may be so good as to deal with their claims as soon as possible.

To take any incident in their work as an example would be unfair, as it was from the beginning to end, a record of endeavour & sacrifice of which any Volunteer may be proud. We beat the combined forces of the G. P. O of Europe and the British Empire. I capture ment certain death, as the laws had instructions to shoot members of Our Unit on the spot without trial or jury

I am Sir

Yours Respectfully

John P. Kennedy

Capt. O'Boy G. H. O.

Active Service Unit

Irish Republican Army.



ROLL OF Q. COMPANY G.H.Q. UNIT. I.R.A.

Quaymen.

J.A. Kennedy, Jack Higgins, P. Pedereschi, Ned Kelly, M. Aspell, M. Nugent, Joe Nugent, M. Brennan, James Brennan, Jack Brennan, Joe Nolan, Peter Ellis, George Smith, Thomas McCabe, John Kavanagh, P. McDermott, John McDermott, Chris. Carberry, Butts Callaghan, J. sammie Lynch, J. red Lynch, John Farrell, Myles Carroll, James Tully, James Heaney, P. Mullen, J. Deans, J. Whelan, W. Donoghue, W. Byrne, W. Nelson, P. Doyle, P. McDonnell, Frank Callaghan, Willie Downey, P. Leahy, Lancer McDermott, Dan Pedereschi, Barney Fitzsimons and J. Blood.

Q. Company Men Afloat (Seamen).

Murphy's Continental Trade Route.

S/S. FINOLA. Nipper Reilly, S. Kelly, Hard Loaf.  
S/S. ITA. Ned, Mooney, O'Brien, T. Casey.  
S/S. ENDA. Ambrose Kelly, Fines.

Glasgow Hesham Route.

S/S. ROWAN. P. Kennedy, F. McDonald, P. Bellew.  
S/S. MAPLE. P. McBerty, G. Proctor, W. McBain.  
S/S. TIGER. W. Purdie, N. Brown.

High Level Glasgow Coal Boats.

S/S. MUNGO. L. Donovan, F. Scully.  
S/S. ST. KEVIN. G. Brady, R. Sands.

London, Falmouth, Portsmouth, Southampton Route.

S/S. LADY CLOE. W. Byrne, M. Byrne, W. Smyth.  
S/S. LADY WIMBOURNE. Jack Lynch, P. Ward.  
S/S. LADY PATRICIA. John Wilson, G. Jones, M. Kennedy.  
S/S. Lady Emerald, Jack Sherlock, J. Kelly, J. Costello.

Liverpool, Manchester Route.

S/S. LADY KERRY. P. Mackey, J. Whelan, P. Walsh, G. Walsh.  
S/S. LADY WICKLOW. P. Wafer, P. Doyle, M. Breslin, Butterly.  
S/S. LADY CARLOW. W. Halpin, W. Curry, W. Ellard, M. Patchell.  
S/S. LADY KILLINEY. P. McCarthy, J. Fortune, C. Fortune, S. Mallin.  
S/S. EBLANA. J. Smith, J. Byrne, W. Byrne.  
S/S. CUMBRIA. J. Donoghue, Con. Murray, J. Valensie.  
S/S. BLACKROCK. E. Kavanagh, W. Verner, Ned Byrne, Ben. Costello, Leo. Mallon.

Head Line, Canadian and U.S.A. Route.

The Unit had men of the Seamen Unit placed in these ships in rotation. Also the Moore McCormac Line, U.S.A.

John A. Kennedy  
G.H.Q. Comd.



Military Archives

63 O'Connell Gardens  
Sandy Mount  
Dublin

243/440

P.S.M. 1934  
OIFIG AN EMBÓRA  
PAIGETE  
26 MAR. 1940  
DÉN OI GÉINEÁLA

To  
The Secretary  
Office of the Referee  
Military Service Acts  
Griffith Bks

X Record of Unit  
ackd. 9/11/40

Sir

Might I ask that you may be so good  
as to inform me when you may be in a  
position to call the outstanding applicants  
of Q Coy. G. H. & Q Unit before the board.

Also acknowledge receipt of the History of  
the Unit which I forwarded to you some  
weeks ago

I am Sir

Yours Respectfully

J. A. Kennedy  
Chairman  
Q Coy

Military Service  
Pensions Collection



Names of men of Q Coy 4. HQ Unit not called before Board

J. Byrne 1 Julian Place North Wall Dublin (S. 1066. m. 10)

~~L. P. Mallon 48 Pearse Square Pearse St. Dublin~~

~~W. Fynes 4 Upper Oriel St. North Wall Dublin~~ Not Called. N.A.S.

George P. Smith 16 Emerald Square Dolphins Barn Dublin

~~James Brennan 6 1/2 Hanover Quay Dublin~~

~~William Donoghue 33 City Quay Dublin~~

William N.T. Byrne 32 City Quay Dublin

The following men have lodged appeals against their awards

John Higgins 34 Sir John Rogersons Quay Dublin

John Lynch 26 Our Lady's Rd Maryland Dublin (S.P. 1147) 2

E. J. Byrne 24 Finn St. N.L.R. Dublin (B 219)

J. A. Kennedy 63 O'Connell Gardens Sandymount (A 20)

John A. Kennedy



57066 ✓

Military Archives

58637 ✓

58237 ✓

58771 ✓

58790 ✓

4765 ✓

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