

Leinster Leader

Saturday, 16th January 1938

TAKING OVER THE FORTS CEREMONIAL PARADE AT CURRAGH

In connection with the historic ceremony at Spike Island on Monday when (following the evacuation of Forts Westmoreland, Carlisle and Camden the British forces, and their occupation by the troops of the National Army) Taoiseach, Mr. de Valera, personally raised the Irish tricolour over Fort Westmoreland, there was impressive ceremony at the Curragh Camp.

One thousand troops of the Curragh garrison were drawn up in parade order on the square McDonagh Barracks, with Comdt. J. Hannon (O.C., 3rd Bn., Regt. of Rifles) in charge. The parade faced the flagstaff on which the tricolour floated. A few seconds before 8 p.m. (the hour of the hoisting of the flag by An Taoiseach at Spike Island) the parade was called to the “salute,” and a firing party of a hundred men of the 3rd Bn. (under Capt. Fulham) discharged a feu de joie. In the intervals between discharges, No 3 Army Band, under Sergt. J. Owens played the National Anthem, whilst the entire parade stood rigidly at the salute.

The brief but most impressive ceremony was watched with keen interest by a very large crowd of civilians from the surrounding districts.

The units taking part were: —3rd Bn., Regt. of Rifles (Capt. O’Meara, Adj.); Depot Bn. (Capt. Daly). Artillery Corps (Capt. Gormley). Supply and Transport (Lieut. W. Nolan). Command Headquarters (Capt. J. Guiney). Engineers (Capt. McManus).



3rd Infantry Battalion



Taoiseach Éamon de Valera was accompanied by ministers James Ryan (Agriculture), Frank Aitken (Defence), PJ Rutledge (Justice), Oscar Traynor (Posts and Telegraphs), Sean McEntee (Finance), and Gerald Boland (Lands).



Flag raising ceremony on Fort Westmoreland.

