

Curragh Local History Group



By Bill Tinsley (2016)

Greetings from Georgia.

When I was young my father used to joke that Croke Park could not hold all the people who were in the GPO in 1916.

The story which I am about to relate I had forgotten about until quite recently, no doubt revived by talk of the 1916 anniversary.

This story revolves around my uncle **Patrick Kennedy** of Howth, Co Dublin. (I attach some photographs of my subject, and I would appreciate any information that anyone can deduce from the snaps. Names, places, anything.)

Paddy Kennedy was of an old Howth, Co Dublin family. The family house at the time of this incident in 1916 still stands and is of interest. To find it go to the well known viewpoint known as the Summit on the Hill of Howth and park your car facing the low wall over which can be seen a superb view of Dublin bay and the city. On the other side of the low wall a lane leads down to the left toward the lighthouse. Well worth the walk down and along the cliffs if nothing else but to enjoy the view. Just down the lane there is one small house on the left and this was the Kennedy home. This house has surely the best view of the city of Dublin and its bay bar none. The Kennedy's sold this house to the well known and many talented Conor Cruise O'Brien about 1950. I met his widow Marie MacEntee there a few years ago and she most graciously invited us in. The O'Brien's had made no alterations to the house and it was as the Kennedy's left it. She told us that upstairs by a window looking out over this magnificent view Conor Cruise done a lot of his writing. I am told the house was also used as a "safe house" during the troubles.

The O'Brien's have since sold the house so do please be considerate of the new owner's and their privacy.

Back to my story about Paddy Kennedy. One day about 1960 I and my mother were on a visit to the Kennedy family who at that time were living in Raheny near Howth. I recall the following brief conversation between Paddy and my mother which took place outside their house by the front gate.

This conversation took place over fifty years ago and my account although short on detail is as accurate as I can remember. The subject of their conversation was how some "young fellows" do such stupid things with no thought of the danger to themselves or others. It was inspired by some teenage cyclists on the street acting the fool.

Paddy remarked that in 1916 he was in O'Connell Street and helped man a gun. He said he had no idea the danger he had been in, none. My mother asked what had happened to him. He said a British officer (presumably after the surrender) on the pavement had beckoned him to come over to him. The officer asked him his age and when he told him he received a hard smack across the face and was told to get home to his mother. The story stuck in my mind.

Only recently when I recalled this conversation I checked, and Paddy would have been 14 years old in 1916.

Paddy went on to serve in the Old IRA and after that the Defense Forces. I asked two of Paddy's surviving children if they ever heard this story and they had not. But then it turns out that he did not share any memories of his time serving in "H" Company 2nd Battalion of the old IRA or of his service in the Defense Forces. His daughter Patricia Fitzpatrick tells me he might answer a specific question from an adult but that's about all. Back then I and it seems other members of the family never had any interest in such historical matters.

It's a long shot but could anyone throw a light on this? Was he shooting a yarn or was he actually there? My memory of him is not that of a line shooter at all.

Has anyone come across any reference to this event anywhere?

Now for the Curragh Camp link. While serving in the Camp he met, fell in love with and married Ann Marie (Annette) Tinsley eldest daughter of Bill Tinsley the Royal Curragh Golf Club green-keeper. (I wish I had been at Bill Gibson's talk about the golf club.) Paddy resigned from the Army in the early 1930's when his youngest son caught Polio and needed constant medical treatment. After Paddy left the Army he became a building contractor. He and his wife are buried in the old cemetery in Howth village.

May they rest in peace.



Photograph 1. Left Patrick Kennedy and unknown right. Could be in Curragh Camp?



Photograph 2. Patrick Kennedy sitting center left. Unknowns.



Photograph 3. Sergeants Mess 5th Battalion. Curragh. Patrick center left.



Photograph 4. Parade Curragh Camp. Could be Patrick on right.

Residents of a house 61 in Brownstown, Great (Ballysax East, Kildare)

Show all informat

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation
Murphy	Anne	77	Female	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Wicklow	-
Murphy	James	32	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Wicklow	Store Man
Tinsley	Mary Anne	33	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Wicklow	-
Tinsley	William	32	Male	Son in Law	Roman Catholic	Co Kildare	Golf Green Keeper
Tinsley	Joseph Edward	3	Male	Grand Son	Roman Catholic	Co Kildare	-
Tinsley	Anne Maria	2	Female	Grand Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Kildare	-
Tinsley	William John		Male	Grand Son	Roman Catholic	Co Kildare	-



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