Castle File No. 886.

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Mc. 13.

Mc K E O N, John J.

Extract from IRISH INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY No: 319 dated 16-8-22.
File IX/1417 dated 19-8-22.

"It has been reliably reported that the Inner Circle of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Ireland have tried MICHAEL COLLINS and SEAN McKEON for treason to the I.R.B. and sentenced them to death. Arthur GRIFFITH was tried and acquitted. Twelve trusted men were given orders to carry out the sentence on COLLINS and McKEON and have joined the Free State Army, three of these are natives of Cork City. Richard MULCAHY is also expected to be convicted and sentenced to death and five other Free State Officers have already been convicted, two of them being ex-members of the R.I.C. now serving with commissions in the Free State Army. COLLINS, I am informed, is aware of the sentence passed on him. According to my information seventeen prominent Free State men have been tried, two acquitted, including GRIFFITH, three killed in action and the remainder to be killed as opportunity arises."

"Freeman's Journal"
13-6-22.

GUN-LAW HAS TO STOP.

Major-General McKeon, who was heartily cheered, asked them to return to power the present fighting Dail (applause)—to return the men who had brought them so far—to lead them the rest of the way (renewed applause). In returning the new Dail to power they were giving it a mandate to establish law and order, to protect the life and the property of every individual in Ireland, without distinction of class or creed. If a man has a grievance against another, let him bring him to the courts of the Irish nation. The law of the gun must cease.

The people were asked to give that mandate to the Panel candidates, because they controlled all the national forces of Ireland and within Ireland that had brought them so far. He wanted to make it quite clear that Government was being elected solely for the establishment of law and order, of freedom—individual freedom. The election in that constituency was rendered necessary because there were two extra candidates—one claiming to be a farmer, a ratepayer, and something else. He had taken three somersaults within the past week (laughter). The other was a Labour candidate. He granted those interests had a right to representation, but in the present National Panel they were represented. They were prepared to make the most of the present Constitution, and to give the least possible back in return to England.

'Independent' 15. 5. 22.

"Irish Times" 18.5.22 — 2nd Failure to Agree

GENERAL McKEON AS OTHERS SEE HIM

HIS RISE TO FAME AND RANK

[The following article appears in today's *Daily Chronicle*, and is reproduced by special arrangement.]

There is no army in the world more democratic in its composition than that of "Southern" Ireland. Shop assistants and the sons of small farmers, local officials and hotel servants, young university professors and fledgling students—you will find all of these types in the army supporting the Provisional Government, and by the same token in that now opposed to it.

Some of the highest officers are men whose military training, such as it was, was obtained in the rough school of guerrilla wartare. In the old days one was never certain that the man who retailed you a pound of tea over the counter was not a commandant or that the valet who brought you hot water in the morning was not a brigadier.

Unknown Warriors.

Not a few of them had served with the British Army in the Great War—but by general consent their war, the Irish war waged against the Crown forces, has taken precedence in the South of the conflict that convulsed the world. Which reveals in what light they regard it.

They fought surreptitiously. Only at rare intervals did a name emerge from the whispered mysteries surrounding an ambush, or a raid, or the activities of a flying column. But suddenly, and towards the end, one name was thrown up out of the sinister silence surrounding the personnel of the I.R.A.—McKeon, the blacksmith of Ballinalee.

He had been captured; had tried to escape, had staggered on in the night although twice wounded, and had been finally caught. The veil that had shrouded his operations in Co. Longford was torn asunder. Ballad-mongers produced flysheets enshrining his deeds—and they sold like the proverbial hot cakes.

A National Hero.

Ireland had found a national hero in Sean McKeon. To-day he is a stronger force than ever, and the apotheosis of all the best elements in the official army.

He has carried the Provisional Government through at least two crises which threatened it by sheer force of will. There is no such word as "fear" in his vocabulary; but he has the capacity to inspire the emotion in those who have sought to practice armed intimidation.

He himself, in many respects, is simple; his methods, too, are simple. * * *

If he is on a train against which crossing gates have been bolted and barred he quietly alights, selects a big stone and smashes the locks with certain expert blows, observing, "They didn't know there was a blacksmith around!" And the train puffs its way along to the next obstruction.

Quick With the Gun.

He has the reputation of being one of the quickest men with a gun in Ireland—and he always carries his revolver dangling in a holster on his right thigh. His normal speaking voice is low and marked by a distinct brogue; but he can become as incisive as the hardest when the occasion arises.

Sean McKeon is now a major-general. His rise to high rank has been meteoric, and is in part explained by the fact that he was given superior rank to recalcitrant officers into whose disturbed districts he was despatched as the military representative of the loyal forces.

His Early Life.

He is only twenty-seven, and his life has been far from smooth. The education that came to him was such as is common to the Irish village child. At sixteen he was left to carry on the forge and support his mother and a large family of brothers and sisters, and this he did with the efficiency that is characteristic of him.

Six feet tall, with the big frame and the powerful sloping shoulders which denote rare physical strength, blue eyes set in a ruddily-tinged clean-shaven face, black hair flecked already with grey—such is Sean McKeon. And the Provisional Government can count itself fortunate in having his support and not his opposition.

SOMETHING GOOD.

MR. M'KEON'S REPLY.

Mr. J. McKeon said that in the Conference he brought in a suggestion which it was unanimously agreed he should put in writing. He did so, and there was something then before the Conference for the first time which was declared to be good. He wondered what had happened since the scheme which he proposed, and which took everybody's fancy, was laid before the Conference to justify the statement that they had descended to Tammany methods. Principle, they said, would not allow them to accept the Treaty or to coalesce. But something would have to be done, and the majority would do it. Some party must govern and take responsibility for it, and if the minority were not prepared to assist in governing the nation, then the majority would have to get into position and do their duty, or some other party would do it. (Hear, hear.) It was a question of civil war or chaos.

The majority of the people of the country were in favour of the acceptance of the Treaty; the officers who proposed the Conference admitted it. For himself, he was prepared to do his duty even at the risk of sixteen days more in conference. The Conference broke down on the question of seats, and he wanted to protest against the charge made against him that it was a question of haggling over three seats.

"Sunday Independent" 4-6-22.

BALLINALEE HERO.

Major-General MacKeon to Marry.

The "Sunday Independent" is authoritatively informed that a marriage has been arranged and will take place on Wednesday, June 21, between Major-Gen. Sean MacKeon, C.O., Western Command, I.R.A., and Miss Alice C. Cooney, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Cooney, Gurteen, Killashee, Co. Longford.

BLACKSMITH OF BALLINALEE

MAJOR-GEN. SEAN McKEON TO WED

It is stated that Major-General Sean McKeon, T.D., C.O. Western Command, I.R.A., whose military exploits are known throughout the world, will, on 21st inst., be married to Miss Alice Cooney, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Cooney, Gurteen, Killashee, Co. Longford.

Maj.-Gen. McKeon.

A year ago Maj.-Gen. McKeon was under the shadow of death on the scaffold, having been actually sentenced, one of the first fruits of the truce being that he regained his freedom.

Making incidental reference to the Tailteann Games, Mr. S. Gwynn, in the "Observer," says:—"The historic Tailteann Fair (held at Tellown near Navd, a few miles from Tara) was also a great festival for making marriages, and the star turn of the week, it is reported, will be a wedding beside which the fame of Princess Mary's will grow pale."

I.R.A. GENERAL'S DEATH.

SHOT IN ATHLONE.

COURT OF INQUIRY.

A Commission appointed by agreement between G.H.Q., Beggars' Bush, and G.H.Q., Four Courts, Dublin, sat at the University College, 86 Stephen's Green, Dublin, yesterday, to investigate all the circumstances connected with and arising out of the death of Brigadier-General Adamson, who was shot in Athlone on April 25 last. The Court was constituted as follows:—General Thomas Hales (President), Commandant J. J. Hogan, G.H.Q., Beggars' Bush, and Commandant-General McCarthy, Four Courts Executive.

Mr. J. H. Dixon, solicitor, appeared for G.H.Q., Beggars' Bush; Mr. P. J. Rutledge, solicitor, for the Four Courts Executive, and Mr. J. E. Wallace, solicitor, Mullingar, for the next-of-kin.

Mr. Dixon said that the shooting of Brigadier-General Adamson occurred some distance from the Royal Hotel, Athlone, at about one or two o'clock in the morning. The circumstances connected with his death seemed to have arisen from the taking of a motor car by him and some party from outside the Royal Hotel. When the car was taken it was driven some distance, and was ultimately taken to the Military Barracks in Athlone.

When General Adamson got back to the barracks he discovered that two of his party were missing, and it was when going out to see about these two missing members that he received the bullet wound from which he subsequently died. They would say that General Adamson was either shot accidentally by a member of his own force or accidentally by a member of the opposing forces; or, in the alternative, that he was deliberately shot by a member of either of the forces. A suggestion had been made—he did not know whether Mr. Rutledge intended to stand over it—that General Adamson was shot by, of all people, Major-General McKeon. He would show the tribunal, beyond any possibility of a shadow of a doubt, from the evidence of an engineer, that it was physically impossible for Major-General McKeon to have shot General Adamson, accidentally or otherwise.

The President said that he set no value on such statements as those which Mr. Dixon suggested had been made. They would act on the evidence.

Mr. Dixon replied that as the suggestion had been made in the Press that General Adamson had been shot by General McKeon, then, at least, in General McKeon's interest he was entiled to refute that statement.

Mr. Rutledge said that he was not aware of the statement that Mr. Dixon referred to having been made in the Press. If Mr. Dixon thought it necessary to go into all this he had no objection whatever.

FOUR COURTS REPORT.

Major-General McKeon said that the matter referred to was a statement issued by the Publicity Department of the Four Courts, and he just took it for what it was worth. He did not think that it was necessary to refute the thing at all, "because," he said, "you cannot shoot unless you fire. You cannot kill unless you fire. My revolver is as full now as it was that day. There is none out of it since." He looked upon the statement as propaganda "stunt," and, so far as he was concerned, he was able to bear it.

Commandant Scott Ellegettrick said that he was responsible for the reports sent from the Four Courts, and he did not make any statement such as that referred to.

Commandant-General McCarthy said that he was not going to stand for such an inference as that which it was said might be drawn from the statement.

Brigade-Commandant Burke said that the statement should be read.

Mr. Rutledge read the published report issued to the Press.

Commandant-General McCarthy said that so far as he could see he did not think that an inference could be drawn from the statement that Major-General McKeon was responsible for the death of Brigadier-General Adamson.

Mr. Dixon said that there was no doubt that Brigadier-General Adamson died from a bullet wound, and he would show that none of the party with whom Brigadier-General Adamson was fired the shot. He would produce papers which were taken from the Royal Hotel, including Standing Orders, one of which was, that no one who was not a member of the guard should have access to the guardroom. Another was that no one who was not a member of the garrison should be allowed into the barracks without first being identified by some officer in the barracks; and another was that no one should be allowed into the barracks after 10 p.m., unless he could give the password, or was recognised by a member of the garrison. These orders had a very important bearing on the case, and he thought it would be shown that certain people went into the Royal Hotel after 10 o'clock on the night preceding this tragedy.

Proceeding, Mr. Dixon referred to the evidence which had been given at the inquest on Brigadier-General Adamson, and said that he would prove that there were people with their heads sticking out of the windows of the Royal Hotel and they were calling upon people to halt. The party that went out with Brigadier-General Adamson were present, and the men who went out the second time were there, and would tell the tribunal what happened, and he thought that they would satisfy the tribunal that no shot was fired by Brigadier-General Adamson or any of the party with him. They would tell the tribunal that they saw a man standing in a doorway, that the Brigadier ordered one of them to cover him, and that immediately afterwards a body of men rushed out, knocked up the revolvers of these men, and took the revolvers from them. A shot went off, and Brigadier-General Adamson fell. There were only two parties who could tell what happened; one was the party that fired the shot, and the other the party who were with Brigadier-General Adamson, and who were his witnesses.

Going on the process of elimination, it followed that the people who rushed out of the laneway were the people who shot the man, and the tribunal must hold that whoever fired the shot was guilty of murder, and that the people who were with him were equally guilty of murder. He was not asking the tribunal to find that there was a conspiracy to murder. What he was concerned with was to find the person who fired the shot.

The President—I wish you would leave out the word murder altogether.

Mr. Dixon—Very well, sir, causing death. Causing death is very obnoxious. At the same time, I think it will get down to a stage when we cannot have any fineness about words.

Mr. O'Loughlin, Borough Engineer, Athlone, produced plans of the locality where the shooting took place and explained the various positions. He said that to fire from the hotel at a spot indicated a man could fire only with his left hand, hanging out of the window and holding on with his right.

Dr. McDonnell, Athlone, who was called to attend Brigadier Adamson, described the entrance and exit wounds. He preferred not to say what the distance was at which the shot had been fired and what the size of the bullet was.

By Mr. Rutlledge—In his opinion the shot was fired from behind and more or less to the right.

Dr. Chapman, Athlone, also gave evidence, but could not say what size the bullet was.

STORY OF A RING.

Major-General McKeon was then called, and, in reply to Mr. Dixon, said that he had been travelling for three or four days before the shooting, and went to Mr. Duffy's to get a good quiet rest. He was awakened by shooting, and, jumping out of bed, looked out of the window and asked what was the matter. A voice which he took to be that of a female said that a man had been shot in the street. When he went out he found George Adamson lying in the street.

Pointing to a ring which he was wearing, the witness said that when Adamson was leaving Duffy's he took off that ring, shoved it on witness's finger, and said, "Every time you look at that think of me." When witness got Adamson in the street in a dying condition the ring hopped back to his mind, and the thought struck him that Adamson had some information that there was going to be some attempt on his life and that he did not wish to let witness know anything about it, and had taken up a position outside to meet it. "I know that is not so," added the witness, "but that is what appeared to me at the moment." Adamson's revolver was on the ground.

Witness went on to refer to men whom he saw in the hotel after the shooting and to his endeavour to get information.

Cross-examined by Mr. Rutledge about a statement he had made to the effect that a certain person murdered Adamson, the witness said that he had no definite evidence to convict the man.

Mr. Rutledge—Are you aware that that has gone through three-quarters of the earth, blackguarding a force—

Witness—It has just gone as far as the propaganda has gone that I shot him from the window. That statement is an answer to the other.

Mr. Rutledge—You say a certain man did a certain thing. I want to know have you evidence on which to base that charge?

Witness—There will be evidence here on which to base that charge.

Lieutenant Liam Mega, of the Athlone Brigade, stated that he was one of a party ordered by the late Brigadier Adamson to go to the Royal Hotel for the purpose of obtaining a car. Witness was one of three volunteers who went to look for two of their missing men. At about 1.30 a.m. Brigadier Adamson challenged a man, who was standing in a gateway near Duffy's house, and after this about eight men appeared, shouting: "Hands up!" He saw the Brigadier put up his hands, and four or five shots were fired. Immediately after the shots he heard someone say: "My God, Shaun, what did you do that for?" The whole party began to run, and witness waited for a few minutes, and then heard a window being opened and a voice calling: "Who goes there?" He answered: "A friend," and appealed to the person at the window to go for a priest and to bring water, as an officer had been wounded and was lying on the road. Witness knelt down by the side of the Brigadier, and remained there until the arrival of General McKeon.

Mr. Duffy gave evidence of having been "covered" with a revolver by a man, when he was going for a priest, and of subsequently having been allowed to proceed.

Miss Duffy gave evidence of having been "halted" while going for a priest.

Miss Dunne stated that she heard shots fired, and saw men running up a laneway.

Commandant O'Callachan, one of the party that seized the motor car, and who was left behind when it started, said that he saw four men rush from the hotel with rifles.

By Mr. Rutledge—These men went back again.

Captain Walsh, who joined in the search for the missing men, gave evidence of putting his revolver to the breast of the man whom Brigadier Adamson told to put up his hands. To the best of his ability a man whom he now pointed out was that man. That man, so far as he knew, took the revolver out of his hand and put a revolver to his temple. Witness "put them up" and took a step to the rear, and then three or four shots were fired. About 10 or 15 yards down the street somebody jumped out of a doorway and shouted: "Hands up!" at the same time firing. That man fired again. Witness "cleared" down a lane.

The inquiry was adjourned until 11 o'clock this morning, and the inquiry into the shooting at Mulingar has been fixed for Wednesday next.

'FREEMAN'S.' 25-3-'22.

COMMANDANT McKEON.

The Irish General Election will be held at an early date, and soon campaigning will start in real earnest. Photograph shows Commandant Sean McKeon, who has been unanimously elected a candidate for one of the constituencies in Clare. (FREEMAN Photo.)

'INDEPENDENT.' 4-5-'22.

SOME DIFFICULTIES

Major-Gen. McKeon—At present it may be difficult to arrange a truce in some particular instances. Men are engaged in the pursuit of men charged with serious offences, and justice demands that certain things be done. It would be difficult to step men out at the moment to cause arrests for these incidents.

Mr. de Valera—Is Comdt. McKeon speaking as a member of the House or in a military capacity? If this matter is to be raised it must be arranged with the Chief of Staff and not a subordinate officer.

Major-Gen. McKeon—I am not going to be interrupted, no matter from what source. I am here as a member of the House. When I am a soldier, I am one, and don't you forget it—or anyone else. I am speaking from information I have at my disposal. Such being the case, if you want me to act as a soldier I can go outside and tell you.

"IRISH TIMES" 26. 4. 22.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

A SUDDEN ATTACK.

Telegraphing from Athlone yesterday, our Correspondent says:—A painful sensation was caused here this morning when Brigadier-General Adamson, I.R.A., aged 25, of Custume Barracks, was fatally wounded by a number of armed men at Irishtown. He was immediately removed to a military hospital, where he died at 10.30 a.m.

It was learned that at 2 o'clock this morning Brigadier-General Adamson, Officer Commanding the Athlone Brigade, I.R.A., left the military barracks with two men on duty. When they arrived at Irishtown nine armed men, it is stated, accosted them, and gave the order "Hands up!" Brigadier-General Adamson and his companions complied with the order. His two companions were held on one side. A shot was fired at the Commandant-General. The bullet entered his neck, under the ear, and passed through the back of his head. He fell to the ground unconscious. The armed party went away in different directions.

Major-General McKeon, with a number of residents in the vicinity was first on the scene. Priests and doctors were summoned, and the last Sacraments were administered to the wounded man. His condition was hopeless from the first.

After the shooting, Major-General McKeon received the following message from Commandant-General FitzPatrick, I.R.A. Headquarters, Royal Hotel:—

"In view of the attitude which you adopt as a consequence of the regrettable shooting which occurred some hours ago, I have, after consultation with my officers, and with a view to avoiding bloodshed, decided on leaving the Royal Hotel, and taking up quarters elsewhere. I repeat that the responsibility for the shooting rests not with me. I sincerely regret the occurrence."

At six o'clock this morning the town was surrounded by troops from Custume Barracks, under Major-General McKeon, who issued the following ultimatum to the Commandant of the troops at the Royal Hotel:—

"I hereby charge you and all officers and men in the Royal Hotel with unlawfully conspiring with a commandant and others, unknown, to slay and murder Brigadier-General Adamson, O.C. Athlone Brigade, I.R.A. I further charge the Commandant mentioned, and others known to you, with the murder of the above-named officer.

"I hereby call on you to surrender all men and officers in the Royal Hotel on receipt of this, allowing 15 minutes for reply of surrender, and after the expiration of that time I open fire, and do so as the lawful authority charged with the peace of the district."

Commandant-General FitzPatrick wrote:—

"In reply to your demand, I have no choice but to surrender. I must assert that I am not in any way responsible for the shooting."

After the surrender the officers and men were brought to Custume Barracks, where they are being detained pending inquiries.

The occurrence has cast a gloom over the town, where the deceased officer was most popular.

Touching scenes were witnessed at the barracks to-day when continual *queues* of townspeople passed to the morgue to pay a tribute of respect to the deceased officer.

In the European war Brigadier-General Adamson was a sergeant in a machine-gun corps, and won the D.C.M. and the Mons medal. Afterwards he forfeited his pension and took up arms with the Volunteers. He was Vice-Commandant of the Athlone Brigade. He was twice seriously wounded in attacks on the Crown Forces.

Most Rev. Dr. Hoare, Roman Catholic Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, at a Confirmation ceremony to-day, said that the parish stood astounded at the awful murder which had occurred. He asked for prayers for the poor man who was murdered, and he hoped that God would forgive the murderer, who would be an unhappy man all the days of his life. It was shocking to see these things happening, but they would happen so long as they had two contending armies one against another, and every young man having a pistol in his pocket. They were bound to give the Government of the country—the *de jure* and *de facto* Government—their loyalty and fealty. There should be one army, and not two. Let them pray that God would have mercy on the poor man that was shot, and that God might have mercy on the murderer.

TRALEE - 23. 4. 22.

"IRISH INDEPENDENT" 25. 4. 22.

Major-Gen. McKeon, received with loud cheers, claimed the people had the right to travel from one end of Ireland to the other to express any opinion and no person, even one of the soldiers, had any right to shove a rifle up to them and say, "Thus far shall you go, and no further." They had secured their freedom, and it was their duty to hold it and utilise its many advantages.

'IRISH TIMES.' 1-5-'22.

ATHLONE'S WELCOME.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL M'KEON.

Mr. Griffith travelled to Ennis, *via* Athlone. He and his colleagues stayed there on Saturday night. When he arrived, he was given a most enthusiastic reception by the townspeople. There was a guard of honour at the station.

A meeting was organised hurriedly in the Castle Square, and some 4,000 people attended it. General McKeon, who presided, said that the people of Athlone showed that night that they stood by the man who stood by them during the fight. British propagandists said that Mr. Griffith was a moderate man, and that some others were extremists. Mr. Griffith stood by them, and if they were gunmen, Mr. Griffith was another. (Applause.) While Mr. de Valera was abroad in America, they were fighting, and Mr. Griffith was at home with them. When Mr. de Valera came from America, it was peace at any price with him. He said that the I.R.A. were going too far; that they should ease off.

'INDEPENDENT.' 4-5-'22.

Major-General McKeon issued the following statement early this morning:—

"With a view to agreeing to a truce, a meeting has been arranged between G.H.Q., Beggars' Bush, and G.H.Q., Four Courts. The meeting will take place in the Mansion House at 10 a.m. today."

'INDEPENDENT.' 1-3-22.

STIRRING SCENES IN ATHLONE

TAKING OVER OF BARRACKS

GENERAL McKEON

SPEECH ON DUTY OF IRISH SOLDIERS

FREEDOM'S GUARANTEE

Amidst scenes of wild enthusiasm a detachment of I.R.A. yesterday occupied the Victoria Military Barracks, Athlone, one of the most important and historic British fortresses in Ireland.

Commandant-General McKeon, T.D., formally took over the building from the British authorities. In an address to the Irish troops he said they were wearing the uniform of Ireland, and, consequently, a heavy duty devolved upon them to maintain the ideals of the national army.

Speaking later at a banquet Gen. McKeon condemned the dictation of the soldier to the citizen. Dublin Castle and the R.I.C. Depot in the Phœnix Park have now been completely evacuated. It is expected the latter will soon be handed over to the Provisional Government for the training of the new Irish police force.

SYMBOL OF TYRANNY

I.R.A. OCCUPY ATHLONE

Athlone was en fête yesterday when, amid scenes of wild enthusiasm, the Victoria Military Barracks and the ancient castle were formally taken over from the British and occupied by a detachment of the Irish Army.

From 6 a.m. the British garrison had been leaving the barracks in small detachments. Over 100 lorries were required to convey the troops, who, it is said, have proceeded to the Curragh.

The long procession of departing troops presented an imposing spectacle.

At 10.30 a.m. the I.R.A. troops mobilised on St. Mary's Square over 1,000 strong. Of these 100 wore full uniform and carried rifles with fixed bayonets, while all the officers were in full dress and carried revolvers.

Preceded by the Athlone Pipers' Band, a detachment of the local Brigade marched to the Town Bridge and formed up as a guard of honour from the post office to the barracks gate. At 11.30 Comdt.-Gen. Sean M'Keon, T.D., arrived at the barracks and was shown through each department by Col. Hare, O.C., Athlone Garrison, who formally handed over the barracks to the Commandant-General at 11.45.

UNIQUE SCENE.

The I.R.A. troops on the Square, headed by the Athlone Brass and Reed Band, commenced to move towards the barracks at 11.45, under the command of Comdt. Thompson, O.C., Athlone Brigade.

At the Town Bridge a unique scene was witnessed when the last of the British troops met the advance guard of the Irish soldiers,

who were loudly cheered as they swung into the barrack square. About this time Comdt.-Gen. M'Keon and Col. Hare emerged from the interior of the building, and as they passed towards the gate the Irish guard gave the salute, which Col. Hare acknowledged. As the British officer left he cordially shook hands with the Commandant-General, who saw him off.

The main body of the Irish troops then entered and were drawn up in the barrack square. The public, to the number of 10,000, were also admitted.

A GLORIOUS DAY.

Having inspected the troops, Comdt.-Gen. M'Keon, addressing the soldiers and the assembled public, said that day was for Athlone and for the whole of Ireland one of the greatest and most glorious for the past 300 years.

That day saw the downfall of all that had heretofore been symbolised by Athlone, with its barracks, its castle, and its dungeons.

Through all those centuries they had regarded it with very mixed feelings indeed. Athlone had their hatred and their love, and they looked on it with pride. That seemed a peculiar statement; but they had hatred for Athlone because it stood for British rule and the sway of Britain's armed forces. Thank God the day had now come when, as their representative and the representative of the Irish nation, he had saluted the last British soldier and watched him walk out through the gate.

UNIFORM OF IRELAND.

"You men of Athlone," continued the Commandant-General—

"You men who stand dressed in the uniform of Ireland, the uniform of Sarsfield—on you devolves a very high duty."

They should look back upon the history of Athlone, and picture the noble old soldier, Colonel Grace, and, later, Sarsfield, whose prowess forced England to withdraw her troops as she had withdrawn them that day. Let them go on further and see the struggle go on again, and witness Sergt. Costume and the plain Volunteers making their brave struggle on the old bridge.

They (the I.R.A. troops) were the plain Volunteers of to-day, who were holding the barracks for Ireland. It was up to them to maintain the high ideals of Costume and his men, as the fortress had come into their hands once more. Through no carelessness would it be lost. From that day forward the barracks would cease to represent a monument of British tyranny, but would be a guarantee of freedom to the people of Ireland for all time.

The Tricolour was then hoisted over the barracks and an armed guard posted.

Tremendous cheering greeted the Irish Flag, and the troops presented arms and 3 volleys were discharged.

In an address to Comdt.-Gen. M'Keon from the Urban Council reference was made to the gallantry displayed by the hero of Ballinalee. The united effort of the youth of Ireland had placed the Tricolour where the Union Jack formerly flew over Athlone Barracks. National unity was needed to preserve and consolidate that victory. An address was also presented by the local Cumann Sinn Féin.

"A SECOND SARSFIELD"

GENERAL MACKEON ON MILITARISM

Last night Commandant-Gen. McKeon, T.D., Midland Divisional Staff and Athlone Brigade Staff were entertained to dinner by Athlone U.C. Canon Crowe, P.P., presiding, extended, on behalf of the Council, a cordial welcome to Commdt-Gen. M'Keon and representatives of the Irish Army on the occasion of the taking over of Athlone military barracks.

When he saw their troops and the army of aggression and invasion passing one another on the town bridge, the thought occurred to him that it was a blessing to be alive,

and he was sure the young people, their children, and their children's children, would cherish that glorious day in the annals of Athlone. He was sure that everyone was rejoicing in Athlone at the departure of the British troops. Canon Crowe then proposed "The Health of the Irish Army," with which he associated the name of Commdt.-Gen. McKeon. The toast was supported by Messrs. L. J. Walker, solr.; Mr. J. Hughes, C.U.D.C.; Rev. Fr. Goodwin, Adm.; Rev. Fr. Barnabas, O.F.M.; Dr. Kirby, and Mr. Murtagh, Town Clerk.

PROOF OF SUCCESS.

Comdt.Gen. McKeon, replying, said words failed him to thank them for the kind remarks in his regard He assured them that, in the north and south Longford Flying Columns there were soldiers at least as brave as he. A speaker had referred to him as a second Sarsfield. If that were true, there were any amount of Sarsfields. This was a better period than Sarsfield's, for their soldiers had succeeded.

They had proof of that success in Athlone that day, and, if Ireland needed any further proof, she did not deserve success.

He did not deserve the honour that was given him that day in taking over the barracks, because it was worthy of the greatest king that ever reigned in Ireland to stand on his own territory and see the enemy marching out. The honour was theirs, too.

Referring to the ideals of the Army, he said the soldiers were the defenders and custodians of their nation's rights. They were to serve the people.

If they ever attempted to dictate to the people, it would be the negation of freedom.

If the Irish soldier attempted to force the citizen to conform to his will, then 'twere better that the khaki-clad troops had remained.

CORK TREATY MEETING.

'FREEMAN'S.' 13-3-22.

Commandant McKeon, who received a rousing reception, said that he could plainly see that the plain people of Cork understood plain people when they spoke to them. He was glad to see that they were determined that the constitutional right of the people should be upheld, and that no small body of people should dictate to them.

POINTED CHALLENGE.

Referring to an outburst of shooting which occurred at this stage, the Commandant, who preserved a calm demeanour throughout, said he knew places where these guns were wanted to-day.

"And here now," he said, "I say to these people who have guns in the city, if they want war, let them come along with me and we will get it" (loud applause).

He went on to say that he stood behind Collins and the Treaty because he knew how far they could go, and that he went as far as any human being could go.

He would not refer further, he said, to any incident that occurred in the city, except to say that the flags that were put up were the surrender of the opposition, and he would take it from them.

'FREEMAN'S.' 18-3-22.

WESTMEATH'S VOICE

Comdt.-Gen. MacKeon's Hint to the Fighters

A HUGE GATHERING

Scenes of unbounded enthusiasm were witnessed at the meeting held at Mullingar yesterday in support of the Treaty. The principal speakers were Commandant-General McKeon, Mr. Lorcan Robins, T.D., and Mr. Joseph McGuinness, T.D.

The gathering was probably the largest ever held in the town. The great space in front of the County Hall was filled by a cheering crowd. During the day large contingents, with bands, arrived from Castletown, Raheenmore, Multyfarnham, and Longford. Banners were borne, with appropriate inscriptions welcoming the speakers.

The arrival of the speakers was the signal for a great outburst of cheering, and when the Hero of Ballinalee appeared on the balcony of the County Hall (from which the speeches were delivered) there was a deafening roar of greeting.

A CHALLENGE REPEATED.

Commandant-General MacKeon said that when negotiations were decided on Lloyd George told the Dail straight that he would not recognise the Republic. The very fact of negotiations meant something to be negotiated for, well, they negotiated to the last letter, did the Plenipotentiaries, with the result that to-day the enemy had gone out, and they hadn't to put them out (cheers).

He (Comdt. MacKeon) got a hint for recruits recently from an Irish officer trying to organise a flying corps to save their people in Belfast, and he repeated there the challenge he made in Cork to some of the people now shouting "Down the Treaty" and "Up the Republic"—if they wanted something to do and would help their people up North—to hand in their names for this flying corps for Belfast, "and if necessary, added Comdt. MacKeon, "I'll lead them in person" (loud cheers).

If any such, who might be at that meeting accepted his challenge, they would find officers there who would take their names.

He wished to make a protest against the tactics of the Treaty opponents, who said they would not be able to hold their own when the enemy was gone. That was an insult to the bravery of the young men of Ireland, shown on countless hillsides (cheers). "No one says the like of that," he said, "except the fellow who hasn't pulled a trigger.

In conclusion, I say to you we have worked and fought. We delivered the goods, and our country has them. We have done our part. You do the rest. Do as you like (loud applause).

Speeches on the Ratification
by
McKEOWN. John. Comdt.

'FREEMAN'S.' 20-12-'21.

COMMANDANT MacKEOWN.

"This Treaty Brought the Freedom That Was Necessary."

Commandant Sean MacKeown seconded. He said he took that course because he knew he was doing it in the interests of the country which he loved. To him symbols, recognitions, and shadows had very little meaning. What he wanted—what the people of Ireland wanted—was not shadows but substance, and he held that this Treaty between the two nations gave them not shadows but real substance, and for that reason he was ready to support it.

Furthermore, the Treaty gave Ireland a chance for the first time in 700 years to develop her own life in her own way (hear, hear).

To him this Treaty gave him what he and his comrades had fought for. It gave them for the first time in that 700 years the evacuation of Britain's armed forces out of Ireland. It also gave them their own army, not half equipped, but fully-equipped to defend their interests. If the Treaty were much worse than it was allowed to be, once it gave them that he took it and said, as long as the armed forces of Britain are gone and Irish armed forces remained, they could develop their own nation in their own way.

ENGLISH FAITH GUARANTEE.

Furthermore, when this army was given, it simply meant a guarantee that England, and England's King, would be faithful. If the English King were not faithful, well, then they would have somebody to defend them. and to see that their rights and interests were safeguarded

It might seem rather peculiar that one like him, who was regarded as an extremist, should take this step. He was an extremist, but that meant that he had an extreme love of his country. It was love of his country which made him and every other Irishman take up arms to defend her and if necessary to die for her.

This Treaty brought the freedom that was necessary, and for which they all were ready to die, and that was that Ireland should be allowed to develop her own life in her own way, without interference from any Government, English or otherwise.

'FREEMAN'S.' 3-1-'22.

McKEON'S CONSTITUENTS

Father of Commandant Sean Connolly in Favour of Treaty

Granard District Council endorsed the action of Comdt. Sean McKeon in seconding the motion for ratification, and assured him that in voting for the Treaty he would be carrying out the wishes of his constituents.

In proposing the resolution the Chairman (Mr. Peter Kiernan, Co.C.) said he introduced Commandant McKeon's name because during the discussion in An Dail it was assumed by deputies that Commandant McKeon, in seconding Mr. Griffith's motion, was not voicing his own views, and he wished to let the people of Ireland know that Comdt. McKeon's constituents were at his back (hear, hear). Comdt. McKeon in all his actions had been animated by love for his country, and what was best for the welfare of his people (hear, hear).

Mr. Thomas Masterson, in seconding the resolution, said, in the first place, their representative in the Irish Parliament had suffered more than anyone else, and had faced terrible odds. He had proved himself a man of courage and judgment, and he was a man the people of Longford would follow (hear, hear).

A PATRIOT'S FATHER.

Mr. Sean F. Lynch proposed that the Treaty be not ratified.

Mr. Tuite seconded.

Mr. J. J. Connolly (father of Commandant Sean Connolly, killed in action) said he supported the ratification of the Treaty because the people of his constituency were wholly in favour of it. He thought enough good men had died, and the Treaty should be ratified without more lives being sacrificed (hear, hear).

Three voted for the amendment and nine against, and the resolution was carried.

MORE CLARE OPINIONS.

Killadysert (Co. Clare), Board of Guardians and Rural District Council, passed unanimously the following resolution, proposed by Mr. O'Neill and seconded by Mr. Griffin:

"That we the Killadysert Board of Guardians and Rural District Council, immediately representing the people of this district, approve of the recent action of the Clare County Council in calling for the ratification of the Treaty agreed to by the Irish Plenipotentiaries, and respectfully call upon the four T.D's. for the County of Clare to support the acceptance of the agreement in the resumed debate on same."

Urlingford Board of Guardians expressed themselves unanimously in favour of ratification on the motion of Mr. John Brennan, seconded by Mr. James Holohan, Co. C.

DEPUTIES' DUTY.

Edenderry No. 1 (Offaly) and No. 2 (Kildare) District Councils placed on record keen appreciation of the services rendered their country by those who signed the Treaty and those who held other views as to its effect upon the country, and called on their Deputies to vote for ratification, believing that it was their duty to give expression, not to their own views, but to those of the electors.

Lisnaskea Board of Guardians, representing 95 per cent. of the population of South Fermanagh, called upon Messrs. Arthur Griffith, T.D.; Sean Milroy, T.D., and Sean O'Mahony, T.D., to vote for ratification, believing the Treaty to be in the best interests of the country.

The resolution was proposed by Mr. Owen Hanna and seconded by Mr. James Tierney.

MR. O'MAHONY'S ATTITUDE.

The Chairman (Mr. Gallagher) said it was stated that Mr. Sean O'Mahony was opposed to ratification. If that were so he should be asked to resign. He thought this should be added to the resolution.

Mr. O'Mahony said he was willing to make any amendment in the resolution that the meeting desired.

After some discussion on the matter the following words were added to the resolution:—

"We are convinced that failure to vote for ratification would be a negation of self-determination, the principle for which they were returned."

The Chairman said they were only asking Mr. O'Mahony to do what the overwhelming majority of the people of Fermanagh required him to do, and if he was not going to do that he was not worthy to represent them.

The resolution was passed unanimously, and the Clerk was directed to wire immediately to Messrs. Griffith, O'Mahony and Milroy calling upon them to vote for ratification.

'INDEPENDENT.' 4-1-'22.

BALLINALEE'S SUPPORT

SEAN M'KEON'S ACTION ENDORSED

The people of Ballinalee and Clonbroney, at a meeting presided over by Rev. P. Markey, P.P., expressed themselves convinced that the Treaty, though falling short of satisfying the national demand, would prove the basis of full national independence. They expressed gratitude to the Plenipotentiaries, and whilst appreciating the single-minded patriotism of Mr. de Valera, believed that the delegates had conscientiously and unflinchingly been true to their ideals.

They expressed their grateful appreciation of the courageous patriotism of their representative, Commdt. Sean McKeon; his action was only such as they would expect from such a soldier and Irishman. They were confident that Mr. Jos. McGuinness their other representative, would help to set up as a Free Nation by ratifying the Treaty.

They appealed to the Dail to sink their differences and accept the united voice of the nation as the supreme arbiter for ratification.

'FREEMANS.' 13-8-'21.

MR. McKEOWN AT HOME

Countryside Ablaze with Bonfires on the Hills

Commandant McKeown left Longford yesterday morning at an early hour for his home in Kilshrewley, Ballinalee. Hundreds of people congregated to give him a parting cheer.

Despite the early hour of his arrival at Kilshrewley, the whole countryside had assembled to welcome their representative home after his thrilling experiences. The Commandant, accompanied by Mr. Joseph McGuinness, T.D., and his brother, and comrades, visited Granard, went thorugh Boulahy, and home by Clonfin and Ballinalee

At every point on the journey he received a great ovation, especially in Granard, where hundreds from the country gathered as soon as the news of the visit became known.

Mrs. McKeown has received hundreds of messages from all parts of America, Canada, and Australia, as well as from all parts of Ireland, England, and Scotland, and all the internment camps, congratulating her upon her son's release. There was yesterday a continued stream of callers from all parts of Longford at Mrs. McKeown's, and bonfires are blazing on the hillsides all over the county.

WELCOMED AT LONGFORD.

When Com. McKeown reached Longford on Thursday the town was brilliantly illuminated, candles burning in the windows of every house. In response to insistent demands for a speech, he paid tribute to the memory of Sean Connolly, Ballinalee, and Thos. Kelleher, killed in action, both of whom gave their lives nobly and heroically in efforts to save comrades. Their memory would live and inspire the men who may still have to fight for freedom. Having referred to his claim at his courtmartial, and again on his release, he said he wanted everybody to understand he was an officer of a national army, sanctioned by the people and by their Government, and which, by its fights, had received the recognition of its foes (cheers).

'INDEPENDENT.' 6-9-'21.

COMMANDANT McKEON

RECEPTION IN THE WEST

Over 7,000 people from all parts of Roscommon and the adjoining counties were present at an Aeridheacht Mor, at Keadue, at which an enthusiastic reception was given to Commandant Sean McKeon, T.D., who appeared on the platform in full uniform. The proceedings opened with a recitation by Miss Mahon, entitled, "McKeon, of Ballinalee."

Mr. A. Lavin, T.D., on behalf of the people of North Roscommon, welcomed Commandant McKeon, and said that whether peace or war came they would be prepared for it. Mr. A. McCabe, T.D., said they were there to welcome a great man thrown up in the Irish revolution. He stated that, even if they were willing, they could not enlighten the people more than they were as to the Irish peace negotiations.

BRAVE AND BEST.

Rev. M. O'Flanagan, C.C., said the brave policy was always the best policy. The tears of the men and women for those who died were mingled with joy and pride that they died in the cause of Irish freedom. He paid a tribute to Commandant McKeon, and said that the honour shown to him was a sign of the advancement of the Irish cause. The fighting men of the past, through the fault of their representatives, were not honoured. Those who gave their lives, like Patrick Moran, of Crossna, would be honoured when the present generation was dead and forgotten. He warned them that the time of danger was not yet passed.

Commandant McKeon, in reply, said when he spoke his words were short and crisp. He agreed with Fr. O'Flanagan that this was no time for shouting, and concluded by thanking them for the honour done to him and the army of the Irish Republic.

Mr. J. N. Dolan, T.D., proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, Rev. Fr. Meehan, P.P., asked the people to stand by the Irish Government and to show that when they spoke they did so for the whole nation. Rev. Fr. Goodwin, C.C., seconding, said that there was every necessity to organise, and they should cut out the weak and rotten links.

Fr. Meehan having acknowledged the vote of thanks, several artistes contributed to the programme, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of the "Soldier's Song" by the entire gathering.

'FREEMANS.' 27-10-'21.

"A HORRIBLE OUTRAGE"

Award at Longford to Mother of Commandant McKeown, T.D.

Mrs. McKeon, mother of Commandant Sean McKeown, T.D., was at Longford Quarter Sessions awarded £750 compensation by County Court Judge Fleming, for the burning of furniture, farm produce, outoffices and other property by Crown forces on December 7, 1920. For the burning of a cottage occupied by the family, Granard District Council were awarded £30.

Mr. Geoghegan, K.C., for the applicant, said the act could only be described as a horrible outrage. The Crown were noticed about these claims, but he would be surprised if they entered an appearance or tried to justify the acts.

Mrs. McKeown said that owing to the indiscrifinate firing of shots by Crown forces she and her daughter left their house, and on returning found it on fire. They tried to save a good deal of the furniture and put it in a place of safety pending removal, but this was again set fire to, and all was burned. The farm produce and outoffices belonging to them in another district were also burned.

Miss McKeown also gave evidence.

'INDEPENDENT.' 20-12-'21.

'INDEPENDENT.' 4-10-'21.

TO AID AFRICAN MISSION

COMDT. McKEON, T D., IN CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

Commandant Sean McKeon, T.D., received a warm reception in Carrick-on-Shannon when he attended an aeridheacht organised by Fr. Whitney to raise funds for the African Missions. He called on the Marist Sisters and the local clergy. Rev. Fr. Dalton, C.C., presided at the aeridheacht. Comdt. McKeon paid a tribute to the missionaries, who carried not the sword, but the Cross. The Volunteers put the Irish question where it is to-day. Father O'Mahoney, speaking in Irish, said a team was going to meet England who would not let the stone of freedom roll back now that it was on the hill. Father Wilson said the missionaries were only broadening the chains of freedom. He assured the Commandant that in the prayers of the missionaries and the converts of Africa he and Ireland would not be forgotten.

'FREEMANS.' 24-10-'21.

POPULAR T.D. IN NEW ROLE.

National Discipline Essential Until Irish Question is Settled.

Commandant McKeown, T.D., received a great reception at a very successful Irish concert that took place in the Father Mathew Hall, Athlone, last evening. By request he sang two songs. Addressing those present, he said he did not know if Ireland's battle had been won or not. If further sacrifices had to be made the people should be prepared. The welcome given him he took as a compliment to the Irish Volunteers.

Very Rev. Canon Crowe, P.P., who presided, said Commandant McKeown's name was a household one in Ireland, and by his bravery he had won the praise of his bitterest enemies. They trusted that the duty of Commandant M'Keown and all Irish soldiers would in future be to safeguard the prizes that had been won. During the present peace negotiations it was the duty of all to maintain such a spirit of discipline and honour as would lead them to success.

A MODERN REASON.

It is only in comparatively modern times that we have learnt that the recovery of our national freedom is necessary for our economic emancipation, and that our national freedom can only be secured by removing that which destroyed it. Hence the use of our national aspirations, our fight for independence, our struggle to get the English out of Ireland in order to obtain it (hear, hear).

tomes,

under which we had been free men, in order to bring about our economic subjection more quickly and completely. On our side it has been one long struggle to resist this exploitation, to preserve the bare means of livelihood, while more and more feebly we clung to our Gaelic ways which had been associated with our days of liberty.

so that our country might come to exist merely for the purpose of feeding and enriching England; and, for this end, the continual suppression of our national laws and traditions and customs,

like him, who was regarded as an extremist, should take this step. He was an extremist, but that meant that he had an extreme love of his country. It was love of his country that made him and every other Irishman take up arms to defend her, and, if necessary, to die for her.

This Treaty brought the freedom that was necessary, and for which they all were ready to die, and that was that Ireland should be allowed to develop her own life in her own way without interference from any Government, English or otherwise.

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COMMANDANT McKEON SECONDS

SUBSTANCE, NOT SHADOWS

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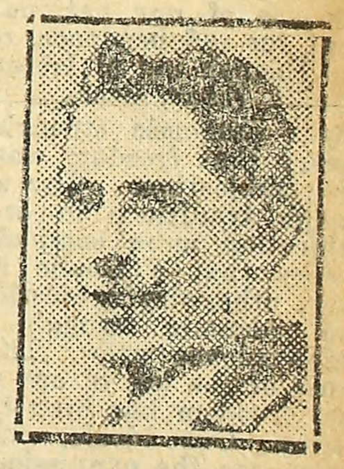
and for that reason he was ready to support it. Furthermore, the Treaty gave Ireland a chance for the first time in 700 years to develop her own life in her own way

WHAT HE FOUGHT FOR.



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McKEON. John. J. Kilshrewly, Ballinalee, Co.Longford.

Age 30. (1921).

Occupation, Blacksmith.

ELECTED SINN FEIN M.P. FOR LONGFORD AND WESTMEATH, MAY 1921.

Provincial Representative for Leinster on I.R.A. Executive. 1921.

Commandant, 1st Battalion, (Ballinalee) Longford Brigade.

Shown in Longford Brigade under H.Q. Officers. (5th Div.G.1190/67.G. 8-10-21).

G.O.C. 1st Midland Division, I.R.A. (5th Div.I.S. 12-11-21).

An original member of the Colbroney Sinn Fein Club.

Is a most dangerous man and an excellent leader.

Was mainly responsible for all the outrages and disturbances in North Longford up to the time of his arrest.

Took part in the burning of Ballinalee (evacuated) R.I.C. Barracks, and also in that of several other evacuated R.I.C. Barracks.

Arrested and sentenced to 2 months hard labour for posting up seditious notices 12-10-19.

Leader in ambush at Ballinalee when 2 R.I.C. Constables and a S.Major of the 9th Lancers were wounded on 4-11-19.

Took part in the attack and capture of Ballymahon R.I.C. Barracks 20-8-20.

Suspected of implication in the murders of D.I.KELLIHER, R.I.C. at Granard 31-10-20, and Const. COONEY near Ballinalee 1-11-20.

Leader in unsuccessful attack on Ballinalee R.I.C. Barracks when 1 R.I.C. Constable was killed and three wounded 13-12-20.

Leader of ambush at Clonfin when four Auxiliaries were killed and 7 wounded 2-2-21. (He admits this crime).

Murdered D.I. McGRATH, R.I.C. at Kilshrewley 7-1-21. and arrested 2-3-21.

Tried and convicted on 13-6-21 for the murder of two Police. Imprisoned

Released on the 9th August 1921 as a T.D. to attend the Peace Conference at the Mansion House, Dublin.

Name extracted from captured documents. (File 191).

Elected M.P. whilst in Goal in 1921.

On 22-8-21 he was reported to be living at 51, Upper Gardiner Street. (I.F.4272).

/Arrived

Arrived in Ballinalee after his release from Prison on 12-8-21 and received a great reception on his arrival at Kilshrewly.

Since his release has made numerous seditious speeches.

Present in full uniform at an Aerideacht Mor held at Keadue, North Roscommon. ("Irish Independent" 6-9-21).

Attended a Meeting at Longford on 27th September 1921. (IX/0166).

Present at an I.R.A. Meeting at Stafford's Hotel, Longford on the night 27/28th September 1921. (IX/0166).

Delivered an inflamatory speech on 30th September 1921 at an Aerideacht in St Patrick's Hall, Delvin. (IX/0166 3-10-21).

Inspected an I.R.A. Camp at Gariskar House, Moyvalley, 30-9-21. (IX/0197).

Attended meeting at Ballymahon Workhouse on 1st October 1921 (IX/0166)

Attended in uniform an Aerideacht at Carrick-on-Shannon on 2nd October 1921. (IX/0166).

Attended a Meeting on 3rd October 1921 at Strokestown, Roscommon. (IX/0166).

Present at a Review of 250 I.R.A. at Dunboyne on 9th October 1921. (IX/0235).

Took the salute and afterwards made a violent speech at Virginia on 16th October 1921 (IX/0355).

Present at a big reception held at Father Matthew's Hall, Athlone on 23rd October 1921 ("Irish Independent" 24-10-21).

His presence was required in Scotland, but the Adjt-General, I.R.A. refused him leave on the grounds that the Military situation did not admit of his being absent, and that he was required in his Divisional Area. (IX/0306 dated 28-10-21).

Visited Trim 7-11-21 and addressed a Meeting, congratulating the people on having an Auxiliary Company. (D.C. R.I.C. Report 15-11-21).

Wearing I.R.A. Uniform, addressed a Meeting at St Michael's Hall, Cootehill 16-11-21. About 450 people present. Not much enthusiasm. Introduced himself as a soldier of the I.R.A., but the object of his visit was to raise funds to build a new R.C. Church. He made a slight reference to the present negotiations, merely saying that they would get a good settlement. (IX/0609). and (D.D. 20-11-21).

Voted in favour of ratification of the Treaty on 7th January 1922.

attended conference at Carrick on Shannon on 4. 4. 22 in connection with forthcoming elections & reorganization of Army Commands in the western divisions ("Irish Times" 7. 4. 22).

appointed member of Committee of Ten by "an Dail" to receive and consider proposals of Deputation of Army Officers with a view to finding a settlement between the rival factions ("Irish Times" 4. 5. 22).

Member of Joint Committee of IRA & Executive Forces which met at Mansion House Dublin with a view to finding settlement (Freeman's Journal 10. 5. 22).

So much in the limelight, & appears to be one of the strongest champions of the P. Gov't. Has dealt firmly with Republican Forces both in Athlone & Mullingar 5th Div Dunnany 28. 4. 22).

~~Member of Joint Committee~~

Witness at "Athlone Enquiry" re shooting of General ADAMSON held in Dublin on 25-5-22 (See Ext. "Irish Independent" 26-5-22).

Pro-Treaty candidate for his present constituency in the forthcoming elections. (Ex.'Irish Independent' dated 30.5.22.)

Engaged to marry Miss Cooney (See Press cutting "Sunday Independent" 4-6-22)

Was married to Miss Mary Cooney at St. Mel's Catedral, Longford on 21-6-22. ("Irish Ind" 22-6-22).

Nominated Treaty Candidate for Longford & Westmeath. (Ext. "Irish Times" 2-6-22).

Reported to be operating in the Midlands during the storming of Republican positions by P.G. Troops. (Ext. "Freeman's Journal" 5-7-22).

Appointed to command the newly formed Western Command ("Irish Times" 8-7-22)

Present at the funeral of Mr. Arthur Griffith, President of the Provisional Government on 16-8-22. (Ext. "Freeman's Journal" 16-8-22).

A report received from the U.S.A. dated July 29th. 1922 states that on reliable authority it is known that McKEON was tried by a court of the Inner Circle of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Ireland found guilty of treason to the I.R.B. and condemned to death. Twelve trusted men were given orders to carry out the sentence on McKEON and have joined the F.S. Army. (IX/1417 d/19-8-22).

Reports from different sources in Dublin point to the assasination of prominent Pro-Treaty leaders McKEON has been mentioned as having received notice of the end. (IX/1436).

In command of P.G. Troops operating aginst the Irregulars in the Ox Mountains, Co: Mayo. Visited Boyle, the H.Qrs. of the 3rd. Western Divn., and expressed himself well pleased at the turn-out. (Ext. "Freeman's Journal" 16-9-22).

According to a Republican Propaganda Sheet McKeon at a meeting of the Dail on 28-9-22 said that he was quite willing to shoot in the street the man he thought had killed General Adamson. He went on to express his approval of Courts-Martial compsoed of Officers like himself to try Republican prisoners. (Ext. "The Fenian" No: 68 dated 29-9-22).

The following is extracted from a Republican Propaganda Sheet:- "Tuesday's press reports that Gen. Richard Mulcahy was in Boyle, Co. Roscommon, and met Gen. Sean McKeon. We wonder if he received from Gen. McKeon an explanation of the murder of Brigadier Seamus Devins and Col-Comndt. Brian McNeill while helpless in the hnads of his troops." (Ext. "Republican War News" No: 69 dated 28-9-22).

In command of column of F.S. Troops from Sligo town who made a round-up in Cos. Leitrim & Sligo. (IX/1539).

McKEON's rate of pay is believed to be £500. per annumn. (IX/1586).

Troops under his command inspected by GEN. MULCAHY at BALLYHAUNIS 8/1/23

Accompanied Gen. Mulcahy on a tour of inspection in the West.(I.T. 12.1.23.)

Maj. Gen., G.O.C., Athlone Command. (I.T. 27.1.23.)

" Arrived at Boyle, 17.3.23, and inspected Batts. in area. (I.T. 20.3.23)

Appointed G.O.C. Eastern Command, 21/3/24. (F.J. 21/3/24)