

Lt. Colonel Jack O'Connell



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Summary

John Patrick "Jack" O'Connell was born in Cobh, County Cork, on August 26th, 1898. He was actively involved in the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during the War of Independence. Notably, he was one of the survivors of the Clonmult Ambush on February 20th, 1921. Following the War of Independence, O'Connell joined the Provisional Government of Ireland Army and served as a Captain during the Civil War. He continued his military career, eventually retiring as a Lieutenant-Colonel from the permanent defense forces on July 31st, 1947. He married Shelia Cashman in 1926. They had four children Patrick, Brendan, Mary and Eleanor. He died in his home in Cobh on October 18th, 1958. He and his family are buried in the Holy Rosary Cemetery in Middleton.

Background Jack O'Connell

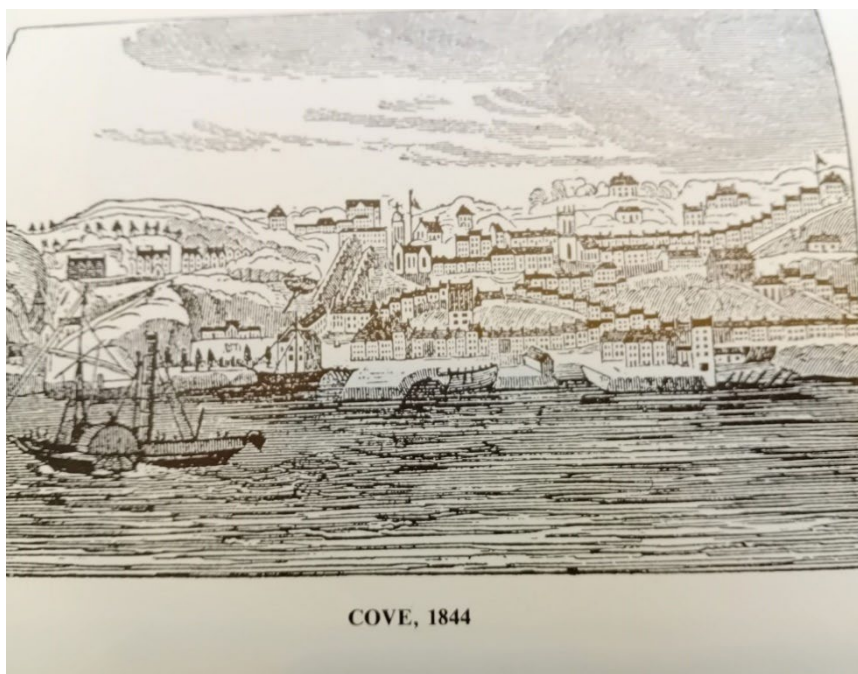
John Patrick O'Connell (Jack) was born in Cobh, County Cork, on August 26th, 1898.

1898	Twenty	444	sixth	John Patrick Male	Patrick O'Connell	Mary O'Connell formerly Sullivan	Sailmaker	Mary O'Connell Mother	Septuagesima	Thomas Dale
	August		2 Sea View		2 Sea View			2 Sea View	1898	Registrar

https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1898/02067/1789780.pdf

His father, **Patrick (Patsy)** worked as a sailmaker. Patsy was the third eldest of 10 siblings. Two brothers went abroad, Joe to the USA and Danny to Canada. There was also Johana, John, Ellen, Mary, Timothy, James, Bridget, Daniel and Joseph. Their parents, **Michael**, who was also a sailmaker and **Mary Lynch**, raised them in Kitchen Cove on the east side of Cobh. Micheal and Mary were married in Queenstown on 3rd Feb 1850.

Patsy's mother was **Mary Lynch**, she was born 14th February 1830, her parents were **John Lynch** and **Mary Collins**, she was one of seven children. Her parents were married at Aghada, on 1st December 1822.



COVE, 1844



Queenstown circa 1900

Timothy O'Sullivan and **Catherine Kelleher** were Mary's parents. Timothy was born about 1841 and Catherine about 1842. Mary was born about 1874. She had 6 siblings, Cornelius (1864), Christopher (1866), Ellie (1871) and John (1876) and twins Kate and Margaret (1878). Sadly, their mother died five days after the twins were born, she was just 36 and left a young family. Timothy was present at her death and at the time was at sea on the HMS Revenge.

Timothy worked as a Cook and later a Steward on the HMS Orwell. During that time, HMS Orwell was involved in general policing duties and was tasked by the Coast Guard to keep Castletown-Bearhaven port open several times. He served on HMS Revenge in 1878 and had three years remaining in his Navy service.

47197

Names in full Date of Birth 27 Dec 1841

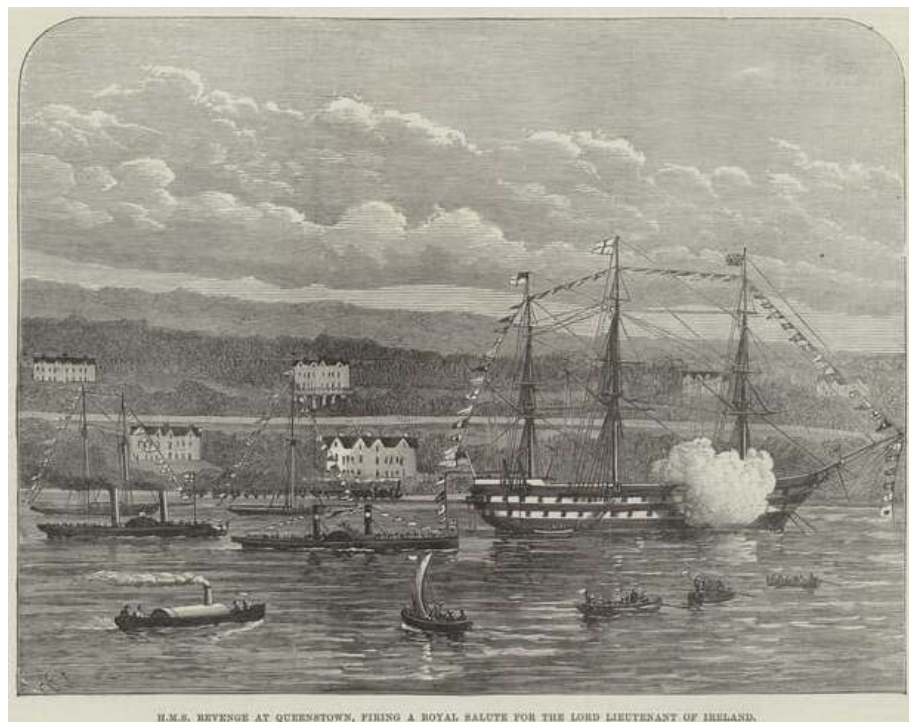
Timothy O'Sullivan Place of Birth Queenstown
Cork

Date and Period of C. S. Engagement.	Personal Description.					Trade.	Gunnery Engagements.	
	Height.	Hair.	Eyes.	Complexion.	Wounds, Scars, or Marks.			
	5 8	Dark Brown	Grey	Sallow	Small scar under left eye.	None		
Traced 2/11 Ships served in. Coast Guard. Seamen Riggers.	Ships' Books.	Rating, &c.	G. C. Badges worn.	Period of Service.	Time.	Character.	If Discharged. Whither and for what cause.	Remarks.
	List. No.			From To	Years. Days.			
Orwell	5 4	D. 2. cl.		1 Jan 70 - 20/10/76		Paid Off Scores	Traced P. 2. 12. 25	
"	1.	"		23/12/76 - 31 Dec 81				

Timothy O'Sullivan Naval Record <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D6585052>

Timothy worked on HMS Orwell, a Britomart-class gunboat commissioned in 1866 and stationed in Cobh from 1870 to 1887. It shows that he was Paid Off. That can mean the boat is being retired and all crew are let go. The Orwell is a wooden hulled boat and is very dated as new iron hulled boats are being made. In 1880, there was a mass decommission of older navy boats, all the crews were being paid off. However, Orwell was one of three boats that were kept and re-commissioned.

In 1978, he reported that he was aboard the HMS Revenge docked at Queenstown at the time of his twins Margaret and Kate's birth and shortly thereafter, when his first wife Catherine passed away.



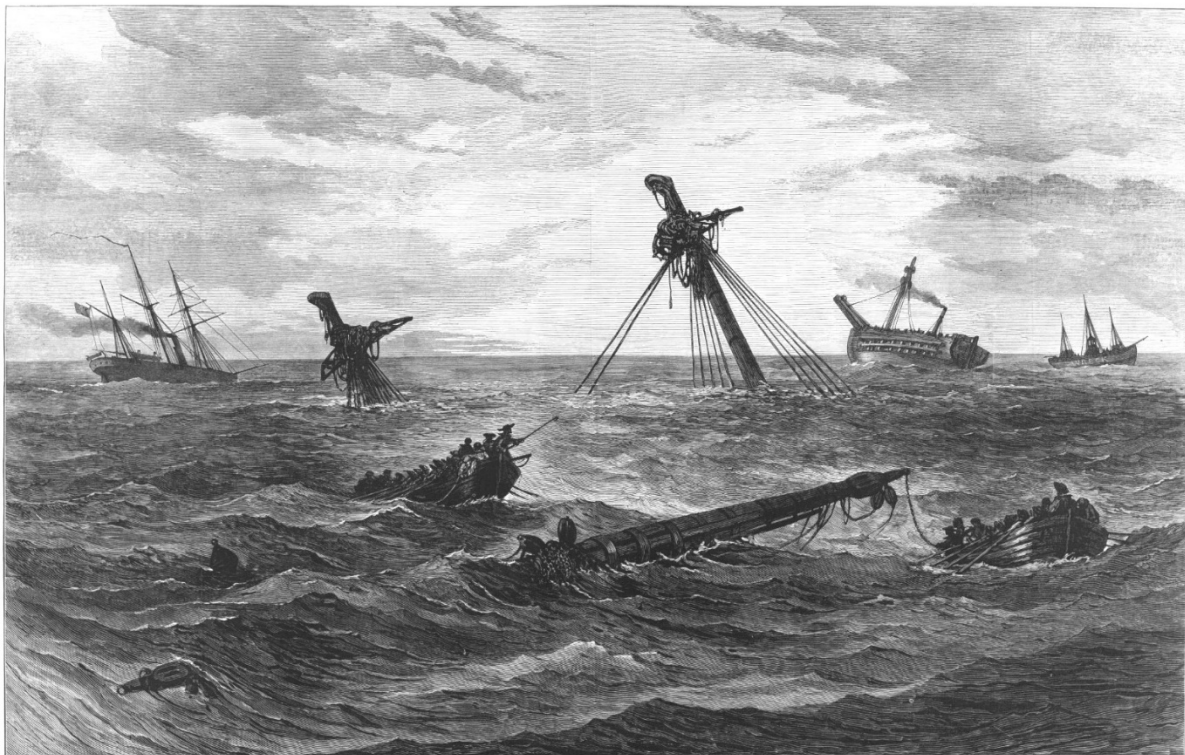
HMS Revenge at Queenstown firing a salute for the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 1878



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britomart-class_gunboat#Ships

<https://www.corkshipwrecks.net/Royalnavyshipslist.html>

Tim served from January 1, 1873, to June 31, 1881, and received a "Very Good" character rating each year.



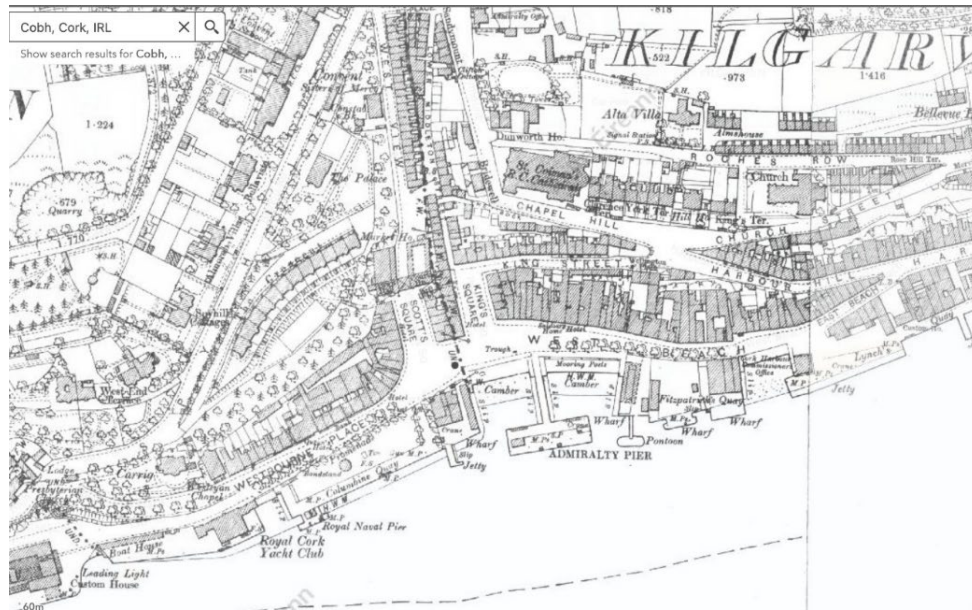
OPERATIONS AT THE WRECK OF H.M.S. VANGUARD: TOWING THE FOREYARD ADRIPT.

HMS Orwell is on the left, standing guard on the wreck of the HMS Vanguard in 1880. There were attempts to salvage the guns from the wreck.

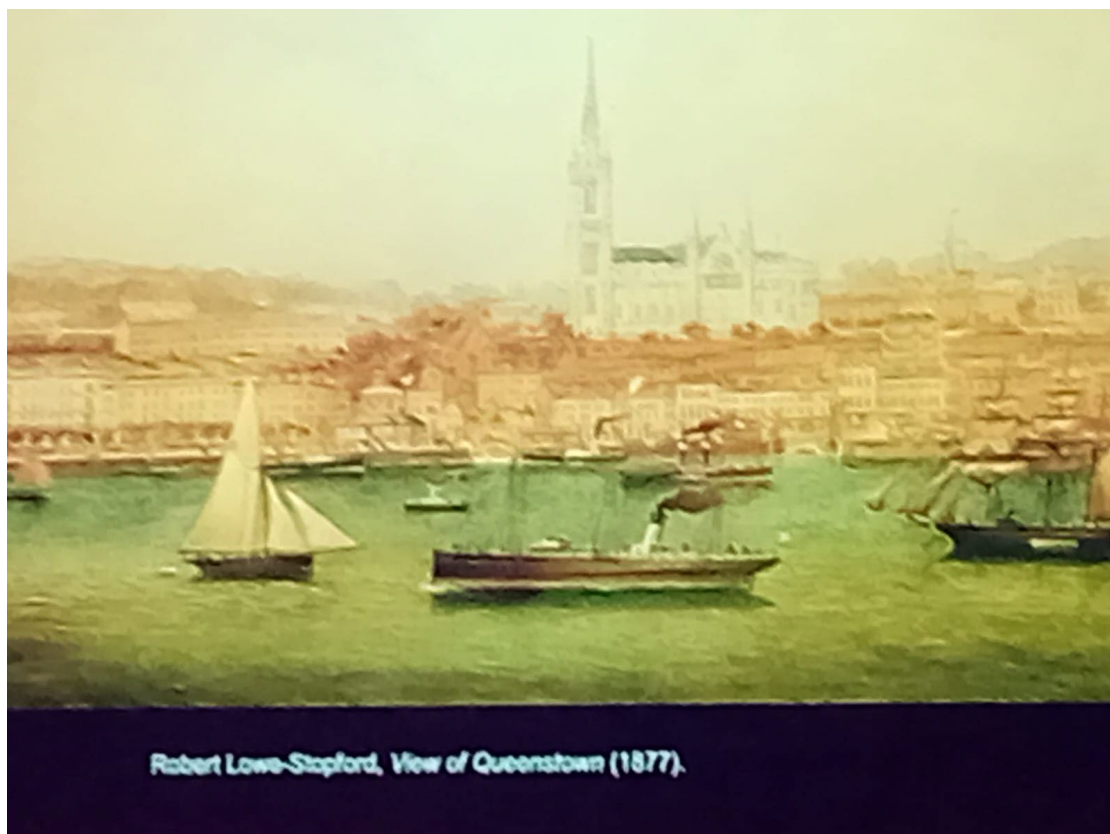
Tim lived with his son Cornelius and his new wife Ellen in the Mall from 1901 to 1911. After Catherine's death in 1878, Tim likely remarried to care for his children. We hope his marriage was happy and Ellen was a good stepmother.

Timothy passed away on January 5, 1922.





Map of Queenstown
Showing Scott's Square



Robert Lowe-Stepford, View of Queenstown (1877).

Steeple on Cathedral was imagined by the artist

Micheal O'Connell was a sailmaker and Timothy O'Sullivan was at sea when this was painted



Patsy (36) and Mary (23) were married in a chapel in Queenstown (Cobh) on April 30th, 1895

1895. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of <i>Queenstown</i> in the Registrar's District of <i>Queenstown</i> in the Union of <i>CORR</i> in the County of <i>CORR</i>								
No. (1.)	When Married. (2.)	Name and Surname. (3.)	Age. (4.)	Condition. (5.)	Rank or Profession. (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7.)	Father's Name and Surname. (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9.)
44	April 30th 1895	Patrick O'Connell	Full	Bachelor	Sail-maker	East Hill	Michael O'Connell (deceased)	Sail-maker
		Mary O'Sullivan	Full	Spinster	Servant	Scott's Square	Timothy O'Sullivan	Usual Servant
Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of <i>Queenstown</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, <i>Jeremiah Murphy</i> Adu								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ <i>Patrick O'Connell</i> <i>Mary O'Sullivan</i>			in the Presence of us, { <i>Philip Millerick</i> <i>Mary Jane Higgins</i>			

When Mary married, she was living and working as a servant at a residence or shop in Scott's Square (renamed Casement Sq). Her sister, Ellie had emigrated to the US and married Jack Houston.

At the time of the wedding, Mary's father, **Timothy O'Sullivan**, was a retired naval pensioner. The witnesses included Philip Millerick, likely a friend, and Mary Jane Higgins, possibly a relative. Although Mary and Patsy lived in town, their families originated from the nearby townland of Ballymore.

Patsy resided on East Hill at that time. His father, **Michael**, who had worked as a sailmaker, was deceased.



East Hill

It is likely Micheal worked as a sailmaker at Ring's which was at the Holy Ground area in Queenstown, sail ships would come with sails to be repaired. It is also likely that his son Patsy, started his apprenticeship there, before moving to join the Naval shipyard in Queestown.

The 1901 census

The 1901 census shows that the married couple, Patsy and Mary, had two children: James (Michael), aged 6, and **John (Jack)**, aged 3. Patrick (Patsy) was 43 years old, and Mary was 29 years old. Patsy (Patrick) was still employed as a sailmaker while his wife was no longer employed.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. /

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

No.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.		SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb, Blind, Imbecile or idiot, or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Years on last birthday.	Months in last year.						
1	Patrick	O'Connell	Head of Family	R. Catholic	read & write	43		M	Sailmaker	married	Argenteuil, Co. Cork		
2	Mary	O'Connell	Wife	do	do	29		F		do	do		
3	James	O'Connell	Son	do	do	6		M	do	do	do		
4	John	O'Connell	Son	do	do	3		M	do	do	do		

https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Cork/Queenstown_Urban_No_1/Sea_View_Place/1138385/

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

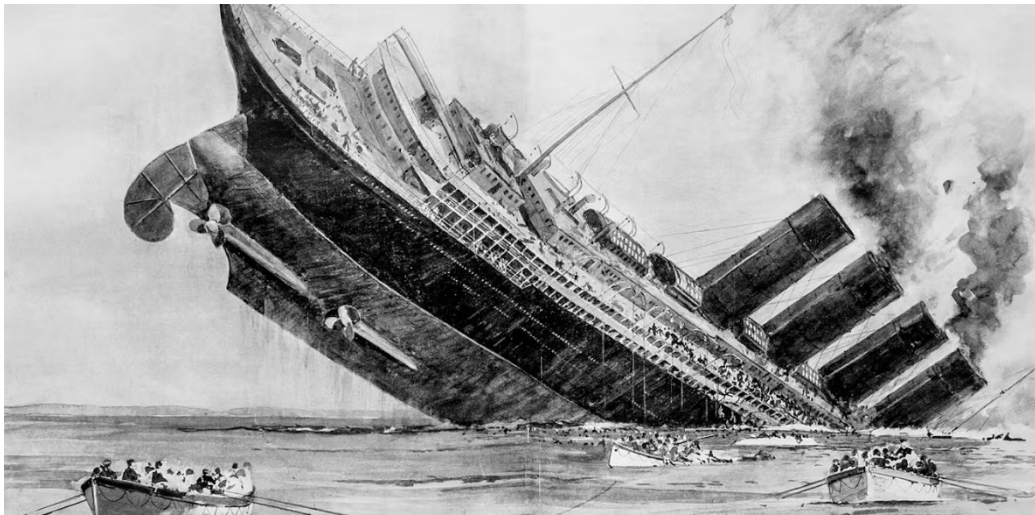
Patrick O'Connell (Signature of Head of Family).

Patrick (Patsy) O'Connell's signature

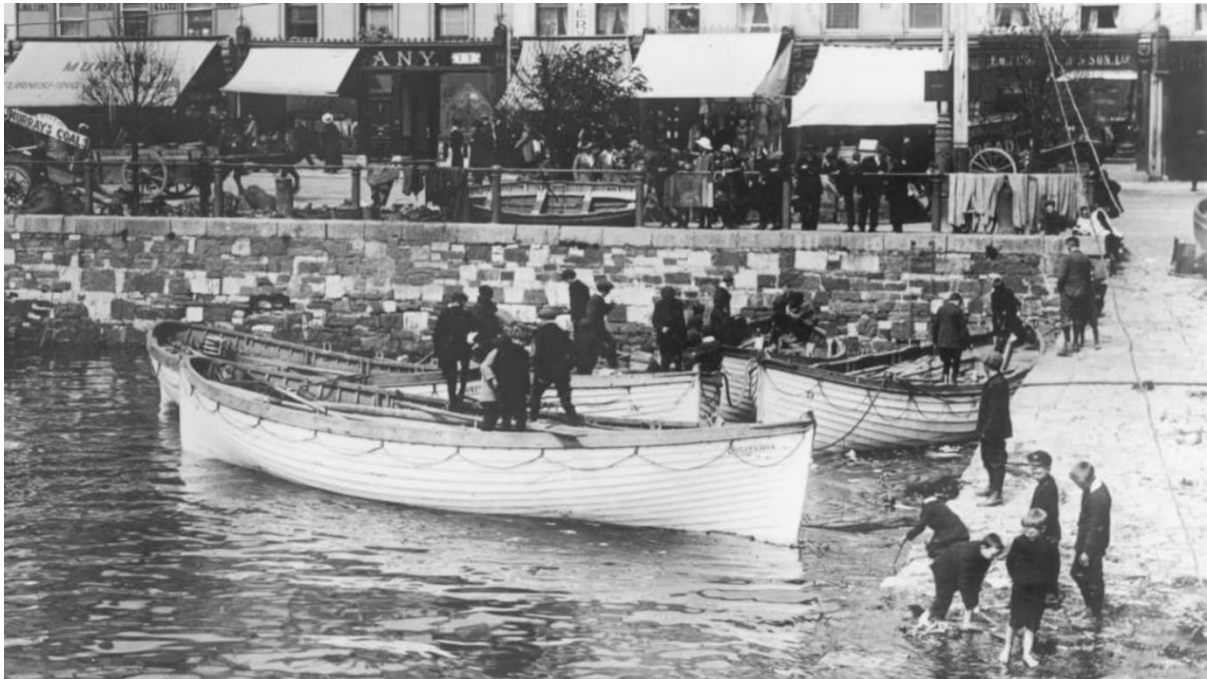
Their residence at 2 Sea View accommodated five families, totaling 19 individuals across at least 13 rooms. Patsy and Mary occupied a two-room apartment with their two young sons. The house was categorized as a fourth-class dwelling.



Titanic Passengers and the Titanic at Cobh



On the afternoon of 7 May 1915, a German U-boat torpedoed *Lusitania* 11 miles (18 km) off Kinsale. The damage caused her to sink in 18 minutes, killing 1,197 passengers and crew including 140 Irish people, 767 survived and were brought to Queenstown. Hundreds of bodies washed ashore, but most were never found.



Ill-fated: Lusitania lifeboats in Cobh.

War of Independence

Jack left school to become an apprentice engineer at the Royal naval dockyards at Haulbowline like many teenage boys in Cobh did. At 16, he joined John Redmond's Volunteers in 1914. After the split, he joined the Irish Volunteers with his brother Michael, Patrick Whelan, Michael Leahy, and James (Seamus) Fitzgerald in March 1915. Jack recalled attending a Volunteer parade in Cork on St. Patrick's Day 17th March 1915, with about twenty-five others from the Cobh company. Maurice McCarthy was President of the company at that time. Patrick (Paddy) Whelan lived at 16 East Hill and was an apprentice boiler maker at the dockyards.

The Lusitania sank on May 7th, 1915. The surviving passengers were brought ashore at Cobh.



Lusitania Survivors

Easter 1916

The Cobh Volunteer company was activated for Easter 1916. Michael, Jim (Seamus), Fitzgerald, Paddy Whelan, and the Volunteers traveled to Cork. Jack left Cobh later that night and cycled to the city. On Easter Sunday 1916 the Volunteers boarded a train to Macroom. Jack joined a cycling group of about thirty individuals. Upon reaching Inniscarra, he returned to Cork due to exhaustion from the previous night's ride and lack of sleep. Jack arrived back at the Volunteer Hall in Sheares Street on Easter Sunday, and was present when others returned from Macroom on Easter Monday. Michael reported that Tomás MacCurtain instructed him to position himself near the hall to snipe at any approaching enemy soldiers. On Easter Tuesday morning, they traveled back home to Cobh. They knew nothing about the Dublin Easter rising until they arrived back in Cobh.

Michael said that Irish Volunteer officers Michael Leahy, Seamus Fitzgerald and O'Brien and others were subsequently arrested by the authorities. Michael was harassed and forced to leave his job at the Naval Dockyards in Haulbowline, Cork. The Volunteers had to reorganize after 1916. Jack rejoined the Cobh Volunteer company around August 1916. In March 1917, Michael went to sea and did not return until 1920. Their younger brother, Tim (15), became a member of Na Fianna Éireann in 1917. He served as a Lieutenant until 1919.

They had few weapons, mostly revolvers and a rifle or two from ex-British soldiers during World War I. Training continued until the conscription crisis of 1918, which brought many recruits and led to a second company in Cobh. When the crisis ended, the law was passed but was never put in effect, volunteer numbers declined, returning to one company.

Arms Raids

In April 1918, Jack joined a raid on O'Keeffe's Gunsmiths' shop in Cobh. At 11pm, they climbed a wall with a ladder, entered through a window, and took some .22 rifles, shotguns, and assorted ammunition. They left without waking the occupants. Daithi O'Brien led the raid as Captain of Cobh company, while Mick Leahy, the former captain, was the battalion O/C.

In February 1919 at Carrignafoy, Cobh, Daithi O'Brien led Jack and six volunteers in ambushing a British Army guard near a railway station. Armed with revolvers, they quickly disarmed an NCO and three soldiers, seizing their rifles and escaping.

In October 1919, Jack, Daithi O'Brien, and two Cobh Volunteers attended a hurling match in Cork. On their return train to Cobh, they entered a carriage with three soldiers carrying rifles. O'Brien signaled to jump the soldiers at his cue. They befriended the soldiers, even singing army tunes. At Carrigaloe, two miles from Cobh, O'Brien gave the signal, they disarmed the soldiers and jumped off the train escaping across Cobh Island.

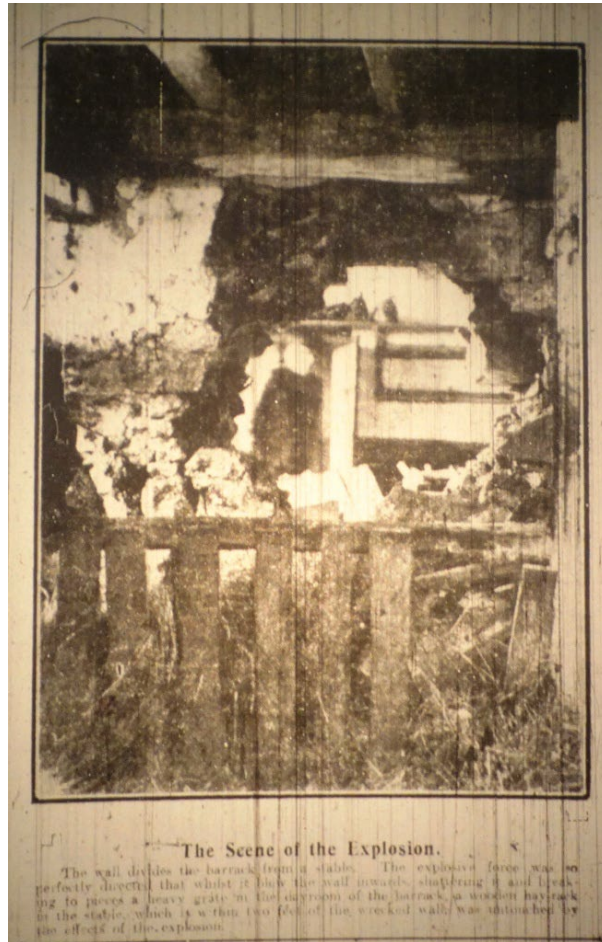
Raid on Carrigtwohill RIC Barracks

On January 3rd, 1920, he took part in the operation on Carrigtwohill R.I.C. barracks as the company quartermaster. Jack commandeered a van for the mission and was involved in attacking the barracks. Jack brought Leahy, Daithi O'Brien, Tom O'Shea and three others (amongst the latter were James Aherne and Maurice Moore, both of whom lost their lives at Clonmult) to Carrigtwohill. They were all armed with rifles, and arrived in the village about 10 p.m.



The Carrigtwohill RIC Barracks

Jack was in a position behind a wall at the back of the barracks when the attack was opened, about 11 p.m. Daithi O'Brien of Cobh was with him. Mick Leahy, the O/C, and Tom O'Shea of Cobh were in a hayshed, a few yards away from then. At the first burst of rifle fire from the Volunteers, the police sent up Verey lights (Flares) and returned fire. O'Brien and Jack directed their aim on the loopholes in the steel shutters on the barrack windows. This went on for a considerable time, when John Moore of Cobh inserted gelignite in holes made in the gable end of the barracks and blew a breach in the wall of the building.



The hole the volunteers blew up and went through

Diarmuid Hurley, O/C, Midleton company, and Jos Aherne of Midleton then entered the barracks through the breach and called on the garrison to surrender. They came down the stairs, with their hands up. When Jack entered the barracks, he saw the police, numbering eight or nine, in the act of surrendering. The barracks was then entered by more of the volunteers and carefully searched for arms and ammunition. The rifles of the garrison, some revolvers and a large quantity of ammunition were captured and taken to a safe destination by Volunteers who were detailed for the job. Jack returned to Cobh early on the morning of the January 4th, 1920.



The Carrigtwohill Guards - January 3rd, 1920

Following Carrigtwohill, there were intensive raids by police and military. Daithi O'Brien and two prominent Cobh Volunteers, named Stack, were arrested. Jack was appointed O/C, Cobh company, on the arrest of O'Brien. He was 22 years old.



Report on the Carrigtwohill raid

This operation is regarded as the first successful capture of an RIC barracks by the IRA during the war and considerably boosted IRA morale by demonstrating their growing capability to attack and seize RIC strongholds.

Bunker Hill

On February 29, 1920, a small group of British military personnel were stationed at Rushbrooke dockyard in Cobh. Jack planned to ambush them on their return journey to Cobh. They lay in wait at Bunker's Hill, on the western outskirts of Cobh. They ambushed a corporal and three soldiers. Jack disarmed the corporal and two privates. Private William Henry Newman (aged 20) of the 51st Battalion, Sherwood Foresters Regiment was shot as he tried to get away. He 'was shot in the neck behind the ear' and died of his wounds at the military hospital in Queenstown. He belonged to the Sherwood Foresters Regiment stationed at Belmont Hutments in Queenstown. Bishop Robert Browne of Cloyne vehemently denounced Newman's murder from the pulpit of his cathedral on 1 March 1920 at a weekly meeting of the Holy Family Confraternity. He declared that the 'desperate men' who had carried out crime were 'riveting our chains the faster and laying up against themselves a terrible vengeance on the great accounting day for trampling underfoot the law of God'. Private Newman was buried in Nottingham General Cemetery. It is not known who shot Private Newman, but Jack became a wanted man.

Gaol Time

Sometime in the middle of March 1920, Jack's home in Cobh was raided by R.I.C. and military. He was arrested and brought to Cork Gaol. He lost his job due to the arrest. He was there some time, without being tried, when he was served with an internment order and brought in a British destroyer, with other Republican prisoners, to Belfast. After 6 weeks in Belfast gaol, he was put aboard a cruiser named Dunedin and brought to Fishguard.



HMS Dunedin <https://navymuseum.co.nz/explore/by-collections/ships/dunedin-d-class-cruiser/>

From Fishguard, he was taken, with about twenty-five other prisoners, handcuffed in pairs to Wormwood Scrubbs, outside London. After 12 days on hunger strike, he was hospitalized and moved to Lewes Gaol where Thomas Ashe, Eamonn DeValera and Harry Boland had been imprisoned. He was released around late June 1920. This photo shows him, Seamus Fitzgerald and Dinny Galvin recuperating.



Group of hunger strikers at Lewes Jail England 1919 in convalescence including Seamus Fitzgerald, Jack O'Connell, Dinny Galvin (Comdt Gen O/C N Cork Col 1921, Killed accidental bomb explosion 1922.)

Lord French

In July 1920, Lord French, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, visited the Admiral in Cobh. Jack and the volunteers had devised a plan to ambush him as he departed from the Admiralty buildings. However, Lord French avoided the ambush by taking an alternative exit route, returning to his waiting destroyer in the harbor via an unexpected car and escort path.

Cork City

When Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork, was arrested on 12th August, amongst the papers found on him by the British authorities was a letter written to him by Jim Fitzgerald, one of the Cobh Volunteers, in which a reference was made to Jack taking part in the disarming of soldiers at Bunkers Hill, Cobh, earlier in the year. The chaplain, who was attending Terence MacSwiney in prison, got to hear of this, and sent a word to some members of the Cork Volunteers who passed the information on to Jack. Jack cleared out of Midleton at once and went into Cork where he got a job with the Cork Harbour Commissioners. James Aherne of Cobh joined him. That was in late September 1920

Mick Leahy, the 4th battalion O/C, was commissioned by headquarters to go to Italy to purchase arms, and it was arranged that Jim Aherne and Jack would follow him, when word was received that the ship with the arms was ready to leave for Ireland;

Jim and Jack were to act as engineers on the ship during its voyage from Italy. Leahy left Cork in December 1920, and as they had no word from him by the end of January 1921, Jim Aherne and Jack got fed up waiting. He contacted his friend Seamus Fitzgerald in Cobh, who directed them to join the Active Service Unit (ASU, also known as a flying column) of volunteers in Clonmult.

Jack and James Aherne left Cork and joined the flying column of the 4 Battalion, 1 Cork Brigade around the 15th of February 1921, at a disused farmhouse at Garrylaurence, Clonmult about 12km north of Midleton.

The Clonmult Ambush



Members of 4 Battalion, 1 Cork Brigade, IRA Flying Column (ASU) photographed on 19 February 1921 (the day before the Clonmult attack). L-R: Michal Desmond (killed), Paddy Higgins (survived), James Glavin (killed), Donal Dennehy (killed), Joseph Aherne (not present), Richard Hegarty (killed), Joseph Morrissey (killed), Michael Hallihan (killed) and Maurice Moore (subsequently executed) and Paddy White (not present). Ref: MSP34REF31406, **Patrick Wm Cashman** (pgs 73-74)

On the 6 January 1921 the column had moved into an unoccupied farmhouse near the village of Clonmult, eight kilometres north-east of Midleton. The flying column remained there until the day of the battle.

During the week prior to the battle, the Brigade Adjunct Florrie O'Donoghue tasked the column with attacking a train carrying military personnel at Cobh Junction. The attack was to take place on 22 February.

Early Sunday, the three most senior officers of the ASU left the camp to carry out an inspection of Cobh Junction. They were Commandant Diarmuid O'Hurley, Vice Commandant Joseph Aherne and Captain Patrick Whelan. The remaining ASU men had orders to vacate the farmhouse at 6pm and relocate to new billets at Dooneen, near Leamlara, in anticipation of the attack at Cobh Junction which was due to take place in the coming days. Jack O'Connell was put in charge.

Not long after the three senior officers left the farmhouse, four young IRA members arrived at the farmhouse. They were John Harty (20), Edmund Terry (16), William Garde (18) and his first cousin Robert Walsh (19). It is believed that Walsh, Garde and Terry were there to deliver money collected in their local areas for the IRA arms fund. Harty stated in his application for a service pension that he was joining the flying column that day.

On the afternoon of 20 February there were 21 individuals in total in the camp – 17 members of the flying column, and the four new arrivals (three of whom were only visiting).

Around noon the British military in Victoria Barracks, Cork, received information that members of an flying column had been seen near Clonmult on the previous evening. At 2:15 pm a twenty-seven-man mobile patrol under the command of Lt DF Hook MC was dispatched to investigate. The informer was also brought with them both as a guide and a hostage.

The patrol arrived at Rathorgan Crossroads, near where the flying column was located, at approximately 3:00 pm and broke into three groups. Nine men remained to secure the vehicles. The other two foot patrols set off on their mission and carried out a search of the cottage belonging to the Carey family where they believed the flying column was based, however they found it empty. The informer had mistakenly concluded that this was where the flying column was located. Lt Hook decided to search a second house approximately one kilometer east, the correct location. As they arrived, they saw two members of the flying column collecting water at a nearby well.



Members of 4 Battalion, 1 Cork Brigade, IRA Flying Column (ASU) photographed at Conway's farm near Garryvoe in 1921 sometime before the Clonmult attack. L-R: Daniel Cashman, Michael Desmond (killed at Clonmult), Jack Ahern (died in 1923), Thomas Buckley and James Glavin (killed at Clonmult). Ref: MSP34REF31406, **Patrick Wm Cashman** (pgs 75-76)

The two foot patrols set off again and the ten-man patrol under Lt AR Koe reached the farmhouse unchallenged, because the two sentries detailed to provide advance warning had left their positions and were in the farmhouse. The patrol approached the farmhouse from the south and was covering the only door in the building, there was no back door. Those inside were now trapped. The soldiers opened fire on the men near the well, fatally wounding both. The second eight-man patrol under Lt Hook quickly arrived.

Jack O'Connell, with his bayonet fixed on his rifle, led a breakout from the farmhouse. The men in the house sang "The Soldiers Song". (*Paddy Whelan said that he cried anytime he heard that song since*) He reached a grove of trees and opened fire on a group of soldiers wounding Company Sergeant Major (CSM) Corney. Michael Hallihan, James Aherne and Dick Hegarty followed behind but were all cut down by rifle fire and killed. Diarmuid O'Leary retreated into the house after coming under heavy fire. He was involved in a second attempt to escape from the farmhouse when he was shot in the head and badly wounded. The British Army did not have adequate numbers to capture the house, so Lt Hook sent to Midleton for reinforcements.

Jack tried to get through the military cordon and secure some help locally. Circling the small shed, he went down a 'blind' boreen; near the end of this boreen, he was fired on by an officer. Jack fired back at him and this stopped his firing. Leaving the boreen, he proceeded up a hill, along high ground over the house, and down behind it. While making this circle, he fired on two soldiers who were running in the direction of a crossroads, but without effect. He also noticed a party of five soldiers converging on the house from the north-west. He went to two farmhouses looking for a bicycle, but without success.

He then met two young men who were local Volunteers. He asked them as to the arms in their company and their location. They told him they were kept in a farmhouse near the local graveyard and consisted of seven or eight shotguns. He told one of them to go off immediately, get what help he could and bring the guns to that point. He asked the other to come back up towards the house, to see what was happening. This man showed extreme reluctance, and finally refused to come, but went off with the other chap to collect the arms. He then went back alone in the direction of the house but was fired on by the military going down the boreen. At that point, he turned back and was followed and fired on continuously by two soldiers who had evidently been detailed to get after him.

Another Volunteer, who had a push bicycle, then came on the scene. Jack did not know at the time that he was the captain of the local (Clonmult) company. He told Jack that the flying column of the neighbouring North-East Cork battalion was located somewhere near the village of Ballyroe, six miles to the north, and he

suggested going off and getting help from them. Jack agreed. The flying column did, in fact, get to Clonmult that evening, but too late to be of assistance, as they had to travel on foot. Then they did arrive, the engagement was over.

Jack continued to hover around the wooded ground near the road junction, waiting for the two messengers to return, and dodging the attentions of the two soldiers who were following him. The messengers never came back. He did not even know where the graveyard was. Finally, he saw the thatched roof of the house, occupied by his flying column, ablaze. It was then about 5:30 p.m.

Twenty-four Auxiliary Police with an RIC officer arrived at approximately 5:20 pm. They brought petrol and grenades with them. Lt Hammond used the petrol to set fire to the thatch roof of the farmhouse. Those inside the farmhouse now had the choice of surrendering or being burned to death. The British officer in command guaranteed them their safety if they surrendered.

After throwing their weapons into the burning building, the first nine men came out of the house. John Harty was immediately hit in the face with the butt of a rifle and knocked unconscious. This is likely to have saved his life as the eight other men – Christopher O’Sullivan, David Desmond, Jeremiah Aherne, Liam Aherne, Daniel (Donal) Dennehy, Joseph Morrissey and James Glavin – were shot dead. Paddy Higgins was next in line to be shot but his life was apparently saved by an army officer who put some resemblance of order to the situation.

The remaining five IRA men in the farmhouse had been delayed in leaving as they made necessary arrangements to carry out the wounded and semiconscious Diarmuid O’Leary. This short hold-up probably too saved their lives. Maurice Moore and Patrick O’Sullivan carrying Diarmuid O’Leary followed by Robert Walsh, Edmund Terry and William Garde emerged from the burning farmhouse and were all arrested. Three British soldiers and two policemen were wounded in the engagement.



The battle was now over, twelve members of the flying column were dead, eight were captured and only one had escaped. The site was vacated, and all were taken to Victoria Barracks. The twelve bodies were left at the battle site overnight. The army captured 13 rifles and carbines, 2 shot guns, 12 revolvers, 198 rounds of ammunition, a Mills bomb and 6 bayonets belonging to the flying column.

Following the collapse of the building Jack made his way to Knockraha, a few miles distance. Later that evening, he met Diarmuid Hurley, the column O/C, Jos. Aherne and Paddy Whelan. They were returning from the scene of the proposed ambush at Cobh Junction, and had been informed, enroute, of the disaster at Clonmult. The four of them returned to the tragic scene and found the bodies of their comrades lying, side by side, in a field near the house, their faces covered by canvas.

Paddy Whelan had the dreadful task of identifying the 12 bodies one by one before the four departed to safe houses. Paddy wrote in his Bureau of Military History Witness Statement.

“I undertook the heartbreaking task of uncovering their faces and identifying them, calling out each name consecutively. . . . There were two distinct pauses as I went along the row, as I had great difficulty in naming Liam Aherne (Jos. Aherne’s brother) and Jerry Aherne (first cousin to Jos.). I will not even attempt to describe the mental anguish of [column commandant] Diarmuid Hurley. All four of us—Diarmuid, Jos. [Aherne], Jacko [O’Connell], and myself [Patrick Whelan]—sobbed with a terrible grief and sense of loss at the fate that had befallen our beloved comrades, some four or five of whom had bullet holes in the face, just below their eyes, where they had been shot by the Tans whilst prisoners.”

British forces collected the 12 bodies the following morning and brought them to Victoria Barracks in Cork city. A group of Cumann na mBan members from Middleton traveled to the city and the bodies were finally released into their custody on late Wednesday evening.

Paddy Whelan, Diarmuid Hurley, Joesph Ahern and Jack had spent Monday night in Middleton in Fr. Francis Flannery’s house. On Thursday they attended the funerals. “When the internment had been completed” Hurley drew his gun, signaled to the others to do likewise. They fired three volleys over the grave to honor their fallen friends. They then made a quick getaway out of the graveyard.

The two Cobh men (James Ahern and James Glavin) were buried at the Republican plot at Old Church Cemetery, Ticknock; Dick Hegarty was buried at Ballymacoda Church near Youghal and the remaining nine in the Roman Catholic Church in Middleton.

In March 1921, seven of the prisoners were tried and all pled not guilty. Patrick O’Sullivan, Maurice Moore and Diarmuid O’Leary were sentenced to death. On 28

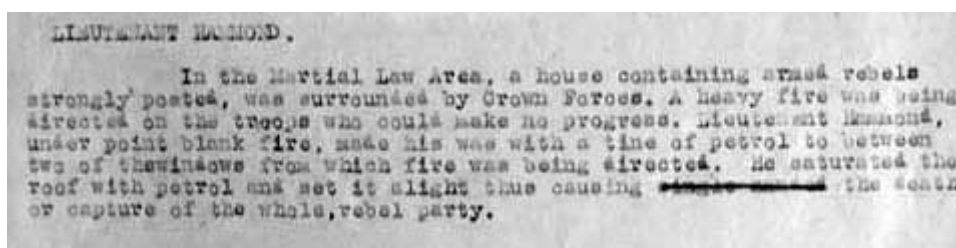
April 1921, Patrick O'Sullivan and Maurice Moore along with two other IRA men from the 2 Cork Brigade were executed. Diarmuid O'Leary's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. The following day the sentences on the four younger prisoners – Terry, Walsh, Garde and Harty – were commuted to life imprisonment.

Patrick Higgins's trial was delayed due to his serious wounds. He was sentenced to death on 17 June, but appeals were made by his legal team, and his life was saved by the signing of the Truce



The 14 members of the column who lost their lives as a result of the Battle of Clonmult

The Brigade Intelligence Officer, Lt Hammond who "at great personal risk" climbed up onto the roof to set the thatched roof of the farmhouse alight was awarded an OBE for this act of bravery.



The response of the 1 Cork Brigade to Clonmult was swift and brutal. British Army officer Geoffrey Compton-Smith, who was in IRA custody, was killed at Donoughmore on 30 April 1921; a former British Army soldier and suspected informer Michael O'Keefe was killed at Carrigwohill on 01 May; two RIC officers (William Albert Smith and John Thomas Webb) were shot dead at Castlemartyr on 01 May; five RIC officers were killed in Midleton on 14 May 1921; two British soldiers

(Bernard Francis and William Parker) were killed at Ramhill near Midleton on the same day; suspected informer David Walsh killed at Doon, Glenville on 16 May and suspected informer Daniel O'Callaghan killed at Carrigwohill on 21 June.

INVESTIGATION OF THE BATTLES OF CORK: A HISTORY OF THE IRISH REVOLUTION

In February 1921 a group of Volunteers were given away by an informer at Clonmult and surrounded by Tans, Auxiliaries and regular troops. After a two-hour fight the thatch on the cottage they were sheltering in was set alight and they surrendered on being promised fair treatment. However when the Volunteers emerged with their hands up the Auxiliaries fell on them 'like wild beasts' and nine were battered to death.⁴² The six who survived, through the intervention of a regular officer, were subsequently executed by order of a court martial. The Cork No. 1 Brigade again seized and shot a hostage, a Major Compton Smith, a man whose character greatly impressed his captors. His last letters were sent to Collins, who wrote to Art O'Brien after Greenwood had made capital out of the shooting in the House of Commons urging him to publicise the fact that Compton Smith in his last letter to his wife said that he had been treated 'far better than Englishmen would treat an Irishman in the same circumstances'.⁴³ His final letter to General Strickland urged that there be no reprisals, and he said that the men who captured him were no murder gang, but men filled with a sense of high duty.

Collins' sister Mary described the morning the Clonmult prisoners were shot in Cork City. Tomas MacCurtain's widow had erected an altar outside the barracks wall and the women, including the mothers of the condemned men, prayed there under the shadow of a tank. They heard a volley and prayed until an ambulance emerged:

and just as we were about to disperse we heard another volley of shots . . . instead of shooting the six they had arranged to kill them one by one. In another 15 minutes there was another volley . . . was again repeated after an interval . . .

I cannot describe the wonderful patience and heroism, almost to the point of elation, displayed by these bereaved mothers. . . . The reaction, no doubt, came later but that day they each felt it a privilege to have raised a son for God and Ireland.⁴⁴

Reaction of a different sort did come that day. Mary Collins-Powell describes hearing that afternoon that:

there had been six British soldiers shot in various parts of the city as reprisals

Ballyedekin Attack

Following the disaster at Clonmult, Diarmuid Hurley, Joseph Aherne, Paddy Whelan, Jack Aherne, Jack O'Connell, Phil Hyde and Dan Cashman kept together as a party and had an odd crack at the enemy whenever the chance offered. One such chance worth recording occurred in the townland of Ballyedekin which is roughly seven miles from the town of Midleton, on the main Midleton-Youghal road. The date was 10th April 1921.

For some time prior to this, they had been experimenting with the making of land mines, one of which they tried out with good effect at Ballyedekin on a convoy of Cameron Highlanders. These mines were made from empty shell cases, picked up by fishermen, after being fired in practice from the British forts guarding Cork harbour, named Fort Carlisle and Fort Camden. The shell casings were filled with explosives and worked with an electrically controlled detonator.

On the morning of 10th April, they brought the mine to a previously selected spot on the road at Ballyedekin and covered it with stones. Attached to the mine was a lead, about a hundred yards long. Jos. Aherne and Diarmuid were down a narrow bye-road, Jos. was to press the switch which would explode the mine, with Diarmuid

beside him to signal when to do so. Paddy Whelan and Jack, both armed with rifles, were on the same side of the main road as Jos. and Diarmuid, but about a hundred yards from where the mine lay. They were on the main roadside, on slightly high ground, and our job was to open fire on the convoy when the explosion took place, to cover the escape of Jos. and 'Diarmuid. There was no question of them having a stand-up fight with the military. They knew they would be vastly superior in numbers. Their goal was to test out the effectiveness of a home-made land mine.

At about 4pm Mick Kearney, who was concealed on high ground – but not in view – signaled the approach of the convoy. As expected, it was a large convey, four lorries, a few Crossley Tenders, all full of military. As the first lorry passed the pile of stone Jos. Pressed the switch and a big explosion occurred stopping the first lorry. Paddy Whelan and Jack opened fire. They had to beat a retreat as the military charged them and fired at them with Lewis guns. They escaped to a farmhouse unscathed.

Death of Diarmuid O'Hurley

On May 28th, 1921, Diarmuid Hurley was killed. A day or so prior to his death, he received information that military had hit up the town of Carrigtwohill without any action being taken by members of the local I.R.A. company. Diarmuid decided to go into Carrigtwohill and investigate the matter himself. He decided to go alone and said so to Paddy Whelan and Jack. Armed with his revolver and a grenade the column commander Diarmuid O'Hurley was killed on 28 May 1921 at Carrigogna near Midleton. Paddy Walsh, another flying column officer, took part in a landmine attack on 31 May in Youghal that killed six British soldiers of the Hampshire Regiment (the same unit who had ambushed the IRA at Clonmult). arrived at a road junction, about a mile from Midleton, when he met a patrol of R.I.C. and Black and Tans at almost point-blank range. Hurley opened fire with his revolver and flung his grenade, after which he jumped a ditch and ran across a field. He had got about a hundred yards from the enemy who opened fire on him. He fell, hit by a bullet in the back, with an exit wound in the stomach. He died where he fell. Later in the day, when the tragic news reached them, they brought his body to Churchtown, (strangely enough, the British did not capture it) where it was interred, temporarily, in a vault of the local graveyard. After the Truce of July 1921, Diarmuid's body was reinterred in the Republican plot in Midleton cemetery, with his comrades who died at Clonmult a few months earlier.

Following the death of Diarmuid Hurley, Jos. Aherne was appointed commandant of the 4th battalion, Cork No. 1 brigade, and Paddy Whelan, vice commandant. Only about six weeks elapsed until the Truce came. During that time, Jack was with Dan Cashman, Jos. Aherne and Paddy Whelan, in the Ballycotton district when the Truce put an end to hostilities. Jack held onto his Mauser C96 (Broomhandle) pistol, a firearm that came from Germany, likely smuggled into Waterford in July 1921. This

shipment, which included Gewehre 98 rifles and Mauser C96 pistols, was illicitly transported by the notorious Derry sea captain and IRA volunteer.

Members of the Fourth Battalion Column, Cork No. 1 Brigade, who survived the Anglo-Irish War. Front row (from left): Captain Paddy Whelan, Volunteers D. Cashman, Jack Ahern, Tom O'Riordan. Back row: Vice-Commandant Joseph Aherne, M. Murnane, Jack O'Connell, T. Buckley.



B. Coy. (23)
 July 11^o 1921.

Coy. 4^o Batt. Cork 1 Bgde. Middleton

- 1 Capt. Philip Hyde. Passage West. Cork. G I L M
- 2 1st Lt. Michael Kearney. Collins Bk. Cork. X O A B C E F G I L M
- 3 2nd Lt. Thomas Lowman. White Rock. Middleton O B C E F G I L M
- 4 do Sean Kelleher. The Rock. Middleton (interned) X O A B C D E F G H I K L M
- 5 Thomas Leonard, main St. Middleton. I K
- 6 John Aborn, Milebush. Corrigtwohill (deceased) X O B C E F H K M N
- 7 Richard O'Neill now U.S.A. I M
- 8 Daniel Cashman, now Dublin. G H I K M
- 9 Michael Buckley, now England. G
- 10 Thomas Buckley, now Gorda, Westport. G I K M N
- 11 James Cagney I M
- 12 John O'Connell, now Major National Army Dublin. X O C G
- 13 Joseph Suhig. I M

Free State Army

Civil War

Jack joined the Provisional Government of Ireland Army on the April 17, 1922, at Beggars Bush Barracks Dublin. He started with a rank as a Captain based on his experience. According to his records "He did a big share in organizing a Battalion of Men from East Cork who remained loyal to GHQ. These men were all brought up to Beggars Bush and fought in the Civil War". As a result, Jack was on the run from the irregular forces in East Cork.



A press photo of soldiers of the newly formed Irish Free State's army at Beggar's Bush barracks, Dublin, February 1922.

He took steps to prevent the irregulars from gutting Youghal Barracks. He commandeered a car with Paddy Higgins and drove to Dublin overnight. They explained to Michael Collins and Gavin Duffy the situation with the result being that the barracks was not handed over to the irregulars.

Set out here date of joining National Army. ⁶ (5) From the 12th day of July, 1921, to the date I joined the National Army, viz.

Set out services here. The Military Services rendered by me were as follows:

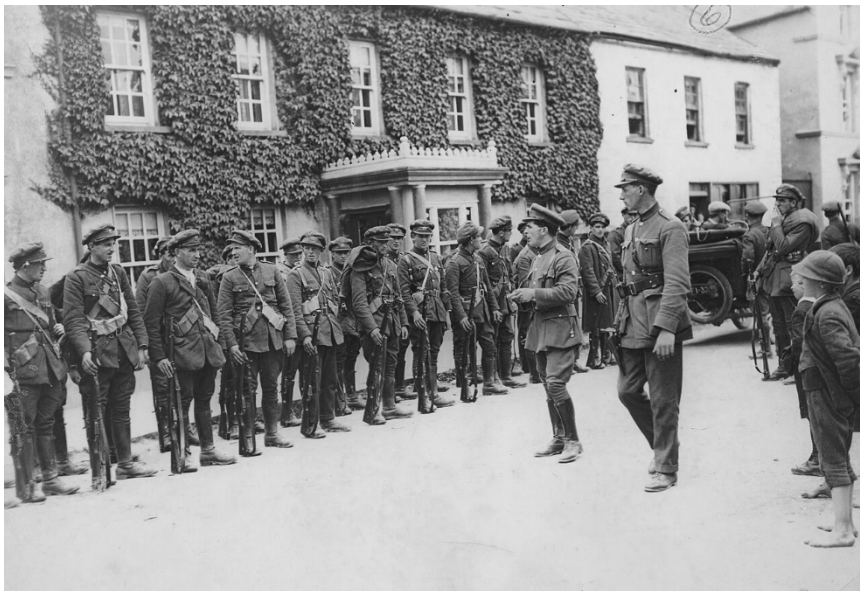
I continued my services with the 4th Battalion until the occasion of the "Split", when I remained loyal to G. H. Q. I helped considerably in organising among the Volunteers for the National Army. As a result, I was "on the run" from the irregular forces. On the occasion of the handing over of Youghal to the irregulars before the "Pact" had been accomplished, I took steps to prevent the irregulars from getting the Barracks. In company with Comdt Higgins, I commandeered a car at Malton and drove by night to Dublin, where we explained the position to the late Gen. Collins, and the then Chief of Staff, Gen. O'Duffy with the result that the Barracks were not handed over on that occasion. I was entirely engaged in recruiting & despatching volunteers to Dublin, until the time I joined the Army

In the case of an applicant who did not ⁶ (6) I joined the National Army on the 14th day of April 1922

In June 1922, anti-treaty forces occupied the Four Courts, leading to a bombardment by the National Army and the destruction of the Public Records Office, marking the start of the Irish Civil War. Jack says he was involved in taking back the Four Courts.



He fought at the Battle of Kilmallock in County Limerick, between 25 July and 5 August 1922. This was a major engagement of the Irish Civil War. The Irish Free State Army advanced from Limerick city, facing entrenched anti-Treaty IRA troops in villages like Bruff, Bruree, and Patrickswell. The battle ended with the anti-Treaty forces retreating and the Free State occupying Kilmallock.



Free State Soldiers lined up for a roll call with local children casting an eye over the proceedings— Bruff Co. Limerick

He fought in the battle for Cork City, August 8, 1922. The Irregulars set fire to the police barracks at Union Quay, Empress Place (now Summerhill), Cornmarket Street and Tuckey Street as well as the Victoria (now Collins) Military Barracks. They also caused vehicles to be dumped into the river and attempted to destroy Brian Boru, Parnell and Parliament Bridges. Anticipating an attack from the south, via the

Douglas Road, they commandeered and barricaded the Provincial Bank premises at the eastern end of the South Mall.

Jack's friend Seamus Fitzgerald was on the anti-treaty side. Seamus was captured during a shootout at Singers Corner. Jack said "If any man puts a bullet in him, they will get a bullet from me"



The Battle of Cork was a major Civil War clash, leading the IRA to switch from conventional to guerrilla warfare. It also preceded Michael Collins's final, tragic visit to his home county.



Jack O'Connell guarding the Cork Examiner Office

Jack led the Free State Army to liberate Cobh. It was largely uneventful, and they were welcomed in. He went to the Bishop's house to pay respects.



Free State Soldiers arrive in Cobh

Jack was promoted to Commandant and Officer in Command of Middleton where he met his future wife, Shelia Cashman, in Middleton.



Permission to leave Midleton to proceed 'any where' by Push Bicycle 1922

Jack ran patrols around East Cork. The irregulars tried to blow up Belvelly Bridge. The Free State Army stopped them in a shootout. The High Road near Leonard's Lodge was the place where they set ambushes. Mick Burke oversaw an ambush there. As the Free state motorcade approached Bruke yelled out "Hold your Fire!" The astonished irregulars let the Free Staters pass. Burke stated that no one should attack the Free Staters if Jack O'Connell is among them.

Jack visited the Hawes Family in Kings Square, Cobh. The Hawes family had provided their home as a safe house during the War of Independence. Jack told Lady Hawes, as she was known, that their house was going to be raided that night and the George O'Reilly, and his Republican friend should move out.

There was clearly respect for Jack in the community. He had joined the Free State Army with the Paddy Whelan, Dan Cashman and Matthew Burke but most of his friends in Cobh were on the Republican side. While they tried to protect each other many of his Cobh peers like Seamus Fitzgerald and Martin Corry were locked up and interned.

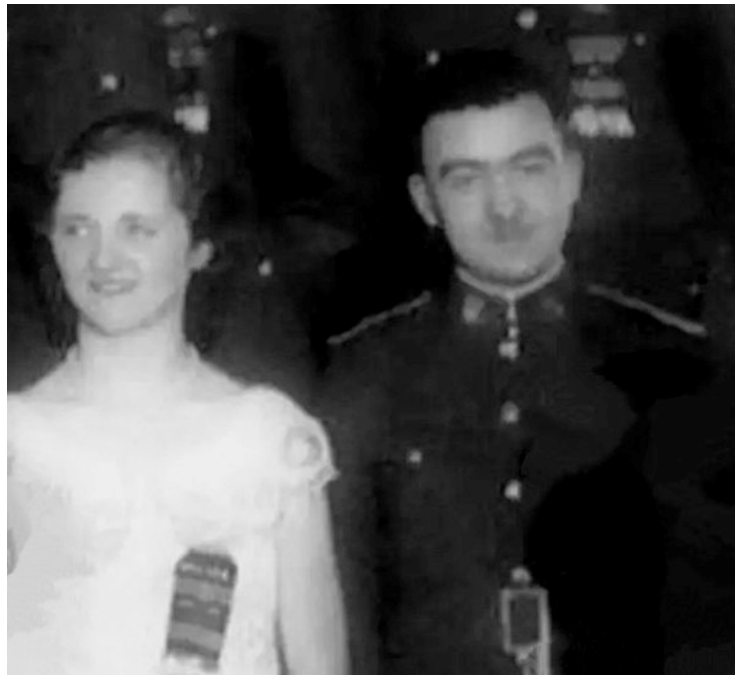
Return of Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs and Men serving at Midleton Post, 1st Southern Division

Return of Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s. and Men serving at Midleton Co. Cork Post 1st Division Midleton Command at Midnight 12th-13th November, 1922

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Regtl. No.	Rank	Corps	NAME		Age	Home Address	No. on Pay Book	Date of Attestation	Place of Attestation	Married or Single	Religion	Next-of-Kin	Name and Address of Next-of-Kin	REMARKS
			Surname	Christian Names										
1	Const.	Cork No. 1	Whelan	Patrick	26	East Hill Cobh. Co. Cork	033 2	19/11/1922	Beggan Bush Dublin	Single	R.C.	Father Mother	Thos Whelan East Hill Cobh. Co. Cork.	In Regt.
2	Const.	Cork No. 1	O'Connell	John	24	Barrymore Avenue Cobh.	033 2	19/11/1922	Beggan Bush Dublin	Single	R.C.	Father	John O'Connell Barrymore Avenue Cobh.	
3	Capt.	Cork No. 1	Cashman	Daniel	21	Main St. Midleton Co. Cork.	2160 2	19/11/1922	Beggan Bush Dublin	Single	R.C.	Father	William Cashman Main St. Midleton	
4	Plt. Lieut.	Cork No. 1	Bourke	Matthew	22	93 Bandon Road Cork	2326 8	30/11/1922	Canagh Camp	Single	R.C.	Mother	Nora Bourke 93 Bandon Rd. Cork.	

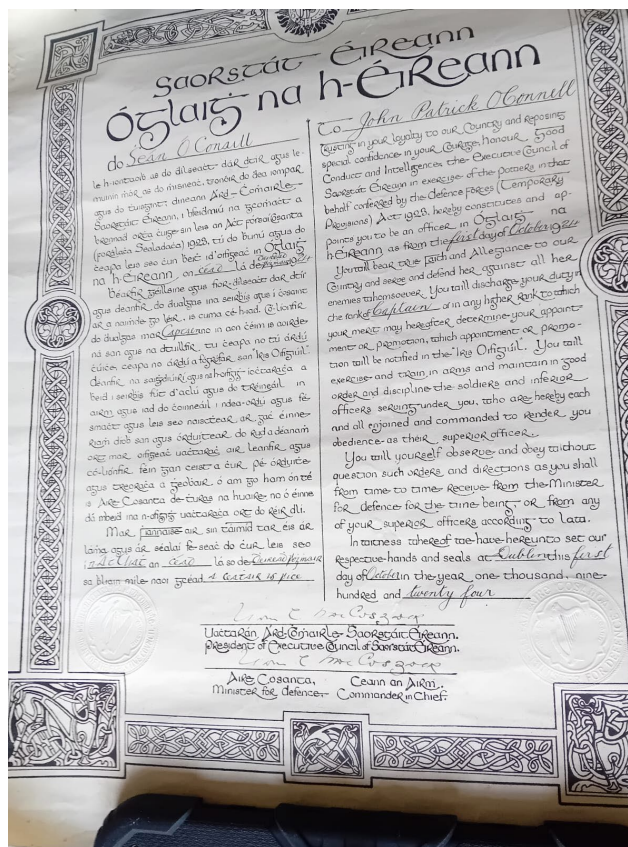
Irish Military Census 1922 – Midleton
 Comdt. John O'Connell age 24, Barrymore Avenue, Cobh Fater John O'Connell
 Capt. Daniel Cashman age 21, Main St Midleton Fater William Cashman

Post Civil War



Jack O'Connell and Shelia O'Connell nee Cashman at an Officers Ball in the Curragh

On 1st October 1924, Jack was appointed Captain in Saorstát Éireann.



Jack and Sheila married on 7th July 1926 at St. Colman's Church, Ballintotis, near Loughaderra lake, between Midleton and Castlemartyr. Jack's father was a sailmaker, while William Cashman was a draper. Jack's brother Dan served as his best man, and Sheila's sister Maureen was her bridesmaid. At the time, Jack was an Army Captain stationed at Collins Barracks in Cork.

First Page. Superintendent Registrar's District of Midleton U5301315

1926. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of Ballintotis in the Registrar's District of Castlemartyr
in the Union of Midleton in the County of Cork

No. (1)	When Married. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Father's Name and Surname. (8)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9)
195	7 th July 1926	John Patrick O'Connell	28	Bachelor	Army Officer	Cork	Patrick O'Connell	Sailmaker
		Sheila Cashman	22	Spinster	B. Comm.	Midleton	William Cashman	Draper

Married in the Roman Catholic Church of Ballintotis according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, R. J. Donnelly C.C.

This Marriage was solemnized between us { Patrick O'Connell } in the Presence of us, { Dan O'Connell }
{ Sheila Cashman } { Maureen Cashman }

R. J. Donnelly Registrar.

Jack O'Connell and Sheila O'Connell marriage certificate

Jack and Sheila raised four children, Patrick (Paddy) Timothy b 1927, Mary, Brendan and Eleanor b 1944. Paddy was born in Dublin, but the children all grew up in Cork, living at the Camp Field attached to, what was now Collin's Barracks, the boys went to nearby CBC and the girls were sent to St Angela's school on St Patrick's Hill.



During the Emergency, Jack spent time in the Curragh, in Dublin, at Bandon Military Barracks and Collins Barracks Cork. Jack presented a lecture at the Curragh on how the Carrigtwohill RIC raid was successful.

Certificate of Graduation
Command and Staff School
The Military College

This is to certify that
on the 8th *Command and Staff Course*
held in the year 1937 / 1938.

Major John P. O'Connell

Passed

The following being the subjects of examination

Combined Tactics; Tactics and Technique
of the Corps and Services; Command,
Staff and Logistics; Military Intelligence;
Methods of Training; Military History;
Leadership.

In testimony whereof, and in exercise of the authority
vested in me under Defence Force Regulations, I hereby
confer upon him this Certificate of Graduation.

Given at Pearse Barracks, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare
this 7th day of March 1939.

Hugh Mac Neill *Major-General.*
Commandant: The Military College

Major John P. O'Connell's Certificate of Graduation, Military College, 8th Command and Staff Course 7th March 1937

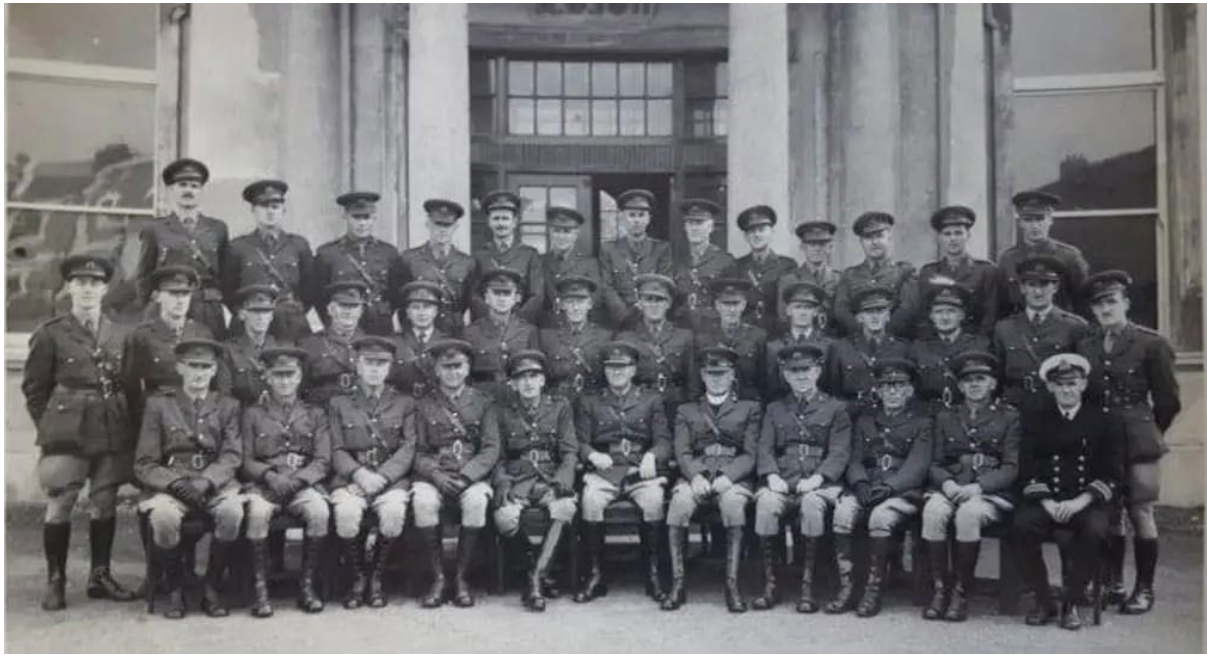


Jack with Frank Aiken, Eamon de Valera and two Defense Forces officers inspect the coastal artillery at Lonehort Battery, Bere Island, 1944. The defense of Ireland's coastal waters was deemed vital to maintaining neutrality during WWII.

A Nazi Luftwaffe Junkers Ju-88 plane was attacked by two Spitfires from RAF Valley, stationed on the island of Anglesey, Wales and shot it down. It made a 'wheels up' landing near Belgooley. It was flying out of Brest, in northern France on a photographic mission; the crew destroyed the aircraft with explosives on landing. They were interned in the Curragh. Jack kept the Luftwaffe flare gun. Jack oversaw the Southern Command Intelligence, as referenced in his certification. Mary O'Connell recalled being told that "her father was a spy".



Certificate of contribution 1939-1945



Jack seated upfront to the left of centre in front of officers in Collins Barracks

Towards the end of his military career Major Jack was suffering from an illness called Padget's Disease, a chronic bone disorder. Officers, who wanted his job, wanted him to retire. He refused to retire. After letters were sent to the Minister of Defense it was decided to promote Jack to Lieutenant-Colonel and then have him retire. The communications suggested that his role in Clonmult was prescient in the decision. The promotion meant he got a much larger pension. Lieutenant-Colonel Jack O'Connell retired from permanent defense forces July 31st, 1947, aged 49, after 25 years of service.



Jack O'Connell in the center with pitch and putt clubs

Jack and his family moved back to Cobh and owned a shop at 2 Casement Square. Paddy and Brendan studied Engineering like their father, Mary pursued a BSc at UCC, and Eleanor studied BComm like her mother.



Jack, Shiela, Mary and Eleanor at Paddy and Una's wedding 1955

Lt. Col. Jack O'Connell died in his home on the 18th of October 1958 of a heart ailment. His funeral had one of the largest corteges seen in east Cork. All the Old IRA, Irish Army leaders, friends and family attended. Michael Leahy and his old comrades of the 4th Battalion fired tribute volley. He is buried in the Holy Rosary Cemetery in Middleton.

FUNERAL OF LT.-COLONEL J. P. O'CONNELL

One of the largest corteges seen in East Cork for many years was witnessed yesterday at the funeral of Lieut.-Col. John P. O'Connell, 2 Roger Casement Square, Cobh, from St. Colman's Cathedral, Cobh, to Holy Rosary Cemetery, Midleton.

Lieut.-Col. O'Connell was the sole survivor of the battle of Clonmult between the I.R.A. and British Forces early in 1920, and many of his colleagues during the fight for Independence were present to pay tribute to his memory. Also present were many officers of the Army, with whom he served after the Truce.

Rev. J. Warren, C.C., Cobh, officiated, assisted by Very Rev. E. Murphy, Adm., Cobh; Rev. J. Dineen, C.C., Douglas; Rev. J. Murphy, C.S., Naval Depot, Haulbowline; Rev. P. Condon, C.C., Buttevant; Rev. V. Cashman, Dublin; Right Rev. Dean E. Fox, P.P., V.F., Midleton, and Rev. J. Coleman, C.C., Mallow.

Military honours were accorded at the last stage of the journey, and old comrades of the 4th Batt. Old I.R.A., under Brig. M. Leahy, fired three volleys, while Cpl. J. Savage, F.C.A., Midleton, sounded the Last Post. The Guard of Honour was under Dr. Seamus Fitzgerald, LL.D.

Chief mourners were:—Mrs. O'Connell (widow); Messrs. Patrick O'Connell, B.E., and Brendan O'Connell, B.E. (sons); Misses Mary and Eleanor O'Connell (daughters); Sergt. D. O'Connell, G.S., Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath; Mrs. Loughyear, Bristol (sister); Mrs. Cashman, Messrs. D. and P. Cashman, Midleton, Mr. M. V. White, Cobh, relatives.

Among those present were:—Col. Sean Collins-Powell, O/C. Southern Command, Lieut.-Col. Wills; Lieut.-Col. P. Blake, O/C. Collins Barracks, Cork; Capt. P. Fitzsimons, do.; Comdt. Gen. Tom Barry; Chief Supt. J. O'Dowd, G.S.; Cork; Major F. O'Donoghue; T. Crofts; Ald. Sean McCarthy, Lord Mayor; Lieut.-Col. P. Shaw; Comdt. J. Kearney; Comdt. F. Creedon; Comdt. Moroney; Comdt. M. Haugh; Comdr. P. Kavanagh; O/C. Naval Depot, Haulbowline; Lieut.-Comdr. F. Godfrey, do.; Lieut.-Comdr. McDonald, do.; Lieut.-Comdr. F. Ahern, do.; Capt. Glendon, Collins Barracks; Messrs. D. O'Neill, Assistant Harbour Engineer; Comdt. M. Harrington, O/C. Spike Island; T. Manley, T.D.; Dr. R. A. Daly, Cork; J. St. Clair Rice, solicitor, Midleton; D. O'Herlihy, C.I.E., Cobh; T. Hynes, Agent M. and L. Bank, Cobh; J. Lawton, Cobh; J. D'Arcy, do.; M. Fitzgerald, do.; Supt. J. L. Murphy, G.S., Cobh.; Sergt. Staunton, G.S., Midleton; Mr. P. O'Mahony, Chairman, Cobh U.D.C.; F. W. Steele; J. Cunningham; J. McCarthy; T. O'Mahony; M. J. Corry, M.C.C., T.D.; D. Casey, U.D.C.; M. J. Dowling, U.D.C.; W. Cox, Midleton; Capt. P. Hannon, W. Galvin (represent-

Background Sheila Cashman

We are fortunate to have the Cashman family tree researched by a cousin of Mary O'Connell who provided us with much of the following information.

William Cashman (1760) married **Mary Connell** from Ladysbridge. They had four children, William m x Cullinane, John m x Dunlea, Mary m Tom Stack and **Patrick**. Patrick (Old Court/later Ballyvinney) married **x Moore** and it is probable that Patrick moved to Main St Midleton as a draper, shop keeper. This couple had at least two surviving children, Katherine m x Ronan, and **Daniel (Dan)** who was born probably in 1840.

Dan married Maria (Minnie) Sheehy in Midleton on 8th August 1871, Daniel's father Patrick, listed as a shopkeeper, was deceased as was Minnie's father, also Patrick, a merchant, was also deceased.

1871. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Midleton in the Registrar's District of Similkotoon
in the Union of Midleton in the County of Wex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
537	August 8 th 1871	Daniel Cashman	full age	Bachelor	Draper	Midleton	Patrick Cashman deceased	Shopkeeper
		Maria Sheehy	20 years	Spinster	—	Midleton	Patrick Sheehy deceased	Merchant

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Midleton according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, by me,
John Fitzpatrick P.P.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, } Daniel Cashman } in the Presence of us, } John Moore
} Maria Sheehy } } Michael O'Sullivan

1871. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Midleton in the Registrar's District of Similkotoon

Interestingly, on their marriage cert it states that Minnie was age 20 at the time of her marriage. Subsequently, for the Census 1901, it states that she is 46 and Census 1911 states she is 56, this would suggest that she was born 1854/5. If these ages are correct, this would indicate that she may have been about 17 when she married Dan.

There is a possibility that Minnie's parents were Patrick and Elisabeth Donovan, married in the parish of Imogeela in Dungourney. Her father was deceased before she married.

Dan and Minnie had three children Elizabeth, Patrick and **William** (b 1875). William was the youngest of the three and it is likely that at this stage, Daniel (Dan) had the Draper's shop on Main St Midleton. We do not know if his father, **Patrick**, had been a shopkeeper at the same premises.

Month December 1875	William male	Daniel Cashman Main Street Draper	Mary Cashman formerly Shenry	Dan Cashman Father Main Street	Fourth January 1875	Michael Lawton Registrar
Thirtieth		John	Mary			

Birth Certificate William Cashman 1875

Dan died in 1880 after an illness, he was just 40 yrs old and left Minnie, a widow with three young children. William was just 5 when his father died.

Twelve M.L. 268	1880	Daniel Cashman Draper	Married	40	Shenry Draper	Pneumonia Several Months Prob-ably Some weeks Certified	Honny Minnie Present at Death	Fourth September 1880	Michael Lawton Registrar
-----------------	------	-----------------------------	---------	----	------------------	---	----------------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

In his will, Daniel left the Cashman Drapers premises Main St Midleton to his wife Minnie, and their three children, the children were due to come into their inheritance when the youngest child, William reached 21 years. Midleton was a busy market town at the time.

A few years later, in 1884, **Minnie** remarried, this is probably not surprising, she was a young widow with three young children. Michael Lynch had been managing the draper shop during Daniel's illness and after his death. He was possibly resident in the shop.

Michael and Minnie's wedding took place in Cork's St Patrick's Church, it is possible that the wedding caused some controversy in the town.

1884 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of <u>St. Patrick</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>No. 1</u> in the Union of <u>Cork</u> in the County of <u>City of Cork</u>								Marriage No. <u>42</u> Registered by me, this <u>21st</u> day of <u>December</u> 18 <u>84</u> <u>A. Cunningham</u> Deputy Registrar.
No. (1)	Wives Matriel. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Father's Name and Surname. (8)	
72	Seventy Eight October 1884	Michael Lynch Mary Cashman	30 23 1/2	Single Widow	Draper Draper	Midleton Co. Cork Midleton Co. Cork	Jermiah Lynch Patrick Shenry	
Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of <u>St. Patrick</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, <u>Dennis Lynch & Co.</u>								Marriage
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Michael Lynch</u> <u>Mary Cashman</u>		in the Presence of us,		<u>Dennis Lynch</u> <u>Leatherman</u>		
1884 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of <u>St. Patrick</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>No. 1</u> in the Union of <u>Cork</u> in the County of <u>City of Cork</u>								

Micheal Lynch and Minnie had a son, Jermiah born 1889, a 1/2 brother to our great grandfather William Cashman.

Superintendent Registrar's District Middleton Registrar's District Middleton No. 1

BIRTHS Registered in the District of Middleton No. 1 in the Union of Middleton
in the County of Cork

No. (1.)	Date and Place of Birth. (2.)	Name (if any). (3.)	Sex. (4.)	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father. (5.)	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother. (6.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (7.)	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant. (8.)	When Registered. (9.)	Signature of Registrar. (10.)	Special Note if added after Registration of Birth, and Date. (11.)
194	18 89 Sixteenth March Middletown	Jeremiah Joseph	Male	Michael Lynch Main Street Middletown	Mary Lynch formerly Cassidy formerly Sheehy	Shopkeeper	Michael Lynch Father Main Street Middletown	County Wick May 18 89	P. J. O'Brien Registrar.	

https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1889/02471/1917687.pdf

From documents shared with us by Billy Mason, it appears that Michael Lynch renewed the lease on the Cashman Drapery shop from Viscount Middleton, the term for the lease was 60 years (29th Sept 1889 – 1949) at £36 p.a.

Daniel Cashman and John Moore, presumably uncles or cousins of our great, great grandfather Daniel, were the legal executors of his will. When they became aware that Michael Lynch had breached the terms of the will, they required him to sign a deposition which stated:

Daniel Cashman, deceased 1st September 1880, had a will dated 19th August 1880 which bequeathed his property to J Moore and D Cashman to carry on the business. In relation to the property lease part of the estate, Michael Lynch has no claim to the lease and hands it back to J Moore and D Cashman.

The next document related to this is dated 11th June 1897, this is when William, the youngest of the three children, reached 21.

The document states:

*The term of the Trusteeship is now complete as William is 21 years of age. The duty of J Moore and D Cashman is complete. The estate is given back in ¼ shares to Michael Lynch (husband of Mary Cashman), Elizabeth, Patrick and **William** Cashman.*

At this stage Elizabeth was married to x Kinsella, Patrick later emigrated to USA and died there, our great grandfather, **William** married **Ellen Cotter** the following year, 1898, the same year Jack O'Connell was born.

First Page. Superintendent Registrar's District of *Midleton* 05794350

1898 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of *Ballintotis* in the Registrar's District of *Cork* 337
in the Union of *Midleton* in the County of *Cork*.

No. (1.)	When Married. (2.)	Name and Surname. (3.)	Age. (4.)	Condition. (5.)	Rank or Profession. (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7.)	Father's Name and Surname. (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9.)
89	24 th April 1898.	William Cashman	Full	Bachelor	Proper	Midleton	Daniel Cashman	Proper
		Ellen Cotter	Full	Spinster	Milliner	Midleton	Richard Cotter	Farmer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of *Ballintotis* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, *William Anon Hutch P.P.*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *William Cashman* } in the Presence of us, { *Maurice Curran* }
{ *Ellen Cotter* } { *Nora Gorman* }



Ballintotis Church (near Midleton)

Both William and Ellen Cotter's fathers were diseased at the time of the marriage. Ellen's mother Julia (nee O'Connell) was probably present, along with her sisters Norah and Margaret and her brother Richard.

Ellen's parents, Richard Cotter and Julia Connell were married in 1860, Ellen had at least two sisters Nora and Margaret Cotter. They were good aunts to the Cashman children.

William (known as 'The Boss') and Ellen had four children, **Shiela (Julia)** b 1899, Dan, Richard, Mary Maureen (Maur), our Uncle Paddy.

1899	February	Julia	Female	William Cashman Main St Midleton	Ellen Cashman formerly Cotton	Draper	Maria Keefe Wasserscheit at Birth Midleton	Thirty first March 1899	P. J. S. P. Rice Registrar.
------	----------	-------	--------	---	--	--------	---	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

again not to be written

Sheila Cashman's Birth Record 1899



Flooding Main Street Midleton 1895, 1911, 1920

The flash flooding of Midleton left many homes deluged, the depth of the flooding reached five or six feet, the cellars on Main Street began to fill with water.

This would have impacted the Cashman's draper's shop.

The 1901 Census

In 1901, William and Ellen Cashman were living at 93 Main Street Midleton. William's brother Patrick is staying with them, working as a commercial clerk in the drapery business. This is before he emigrated to the US. At this stage, William and Ellen have two children, Julia (Sheila) age 2 and baby Daniel (4 months). They also had a servant, probably required as William and Ellen were managing the drapery shop.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. 93

MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

NAME and SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
William Cashman	Head of Family	R. Catholic	Read + write	25	M.	Draper	Married, Co. Cork	Co. Cork	English	
Ellen Cashman	Wife	R. Catholic	Read + write	28	F.		Married, Co. Cork	Co. Cork	English	
Julia Cashman	Daughter	R. Catholic	Cannot read	2	F.		Not Married, Co. Cork	Co. Cork	English	
Daniel Cashman	Son	R. Catholic	Cannot read	4	M.		Not Married, Co. Cork	Co. Cork	English	
Patrick Cashman	Son	R. Catholic	Read + write	27	M.	Compositor	Not Married, Co. Cork	Co. Cork	English	
Annah Scully	Servant	R. Catholic	Read + write	44	F.	General Servant	Not Married, Co. Cork	Co. Cork	English	

<https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai000558401/>

Unfortunately, William and Ellen child, Richard born in 1902 died at 13 months of age from pneumonia.

NAME and SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
Richard Cashman	Child			13	M.	Child of a draper		Co. Cork		

Pneumonia 10 days at death
Exhaustion at death
12 hours Certified
Father present at death
December 1903
W. J. P. J.
J. B. P. J.
Registrar.

At this time, Michael and Mary (Minnie) Lynch were at the drapery shop 23 Main Street Midleton, (previously Cashman's). This was a busy premises with five clerks and three milliners residing there. Also, there was one domestic servant and 12 year old Jerome, Micheal and Mary's son.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. 23

MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

NAME and SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
1 Michael Lynch	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	43	M.	Draper	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
2 Mary Lynch	Wife	Do	Do	46	F.		Married	Co. Kerry	English	
3 Jerome Lynch	Son	Do	Do	12	M.	Scholar	Not Married	Co. Kerry	English	
4 Patrick McFadden	Servant	Do	Do	28	M.	Clerk	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
5 William Dwyer	Servant	Do	Do	23	M.	Clerk	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
6 Ann Down	Servant	Do	Do	20	M.	Clerk	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
7 Thomas Clark	Servant	Do	Do	17	M.	Clerk	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
8 James Walsh	Servant	Do	Do	16	M.	Clerk	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
9 Annie McFadden	Servant	Do	Do	30	F.	Milliner	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
10 Violet Dwyer	Servant	Do	Do	17	F.	Milliner	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
11 Anne Cahill	Servant	Do	Do	16	F.	Milliner	Married	Co. Kerry	English	
12 Annah Murphy	Servant	Do	Do	26	F.	Milliner	Married	Co. Kerry	English	

The 1911 Census

By 1911, William and Mary had their four living children, Julia (Sheila) age 12, Dan age 10, Mary (Maur) age 7 and Patrick (Paddy) age 5. There are two shop assistants and one domestic servant living with them at 93 Main Street Midleton.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A.
No. on Form B. 29

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (not Birthdays) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.		
				Male.	Female.		Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Single," or "Single."	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.					
Christian Name.	Surname.			Insert Age opposite each name—the Age of Males in column 6, and the Age of Females in column 7.			State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of—							
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
William	Caplan	Head	None Catholic	has read	25		Draper	Married					Irish	
Mary	Caplan	Wife	None Catholic	has read		27		Widowed	13	5	14		Irish	
Julia	Caplan	Daughter	None Catholic	has read		12	Draper	Single					Irish	
Dan	Caplan	Son	None Catholic	has read		10	Draper	Single					Irish	
Mary	Caplan	Daughter	None Catholic	has read		7	Draper	Single					Irish	
Patrick	Caplan	Son	None Catholic	has read		5	Draper	Single					Irish	
Michael	Caplan	Son	None Catholic	has read		22	Draper	Single					Irish	
Mary	Caplan	Daughter	None Catholic	has read		18	Draper	Single					Irish	
John	Caplan	Son	None Catholic	has read		17	Draper	Single					Irish	

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 18 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

William Caplan, Signature of Head of Family.

Resident at No 23 Main St Midleton, are Michael and Mary Lynch, their son Jerome age 22 was now working in the Drapery business. In addition, there are three milliners, two additional drapers and one domestic servant.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A.
No. on Form B. 23

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (not Birthdays) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.		
				Male.	Female.		Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Single," or "Single."	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.					
Christian Name.	Surname.			Insert Age opposite each name—the Age of Males in column 6, and the Age of Females in column 7.			State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of—							
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Michael	Lynch	Head	None Catholic	has read	53		Draper	Married					Irish	
Mary	Lynch	Wife	None Catholic	has read		56		Widowed	26	2	1		Irish	
Michael	Lynch	Son	None Catholic	has read		32	Draper	Single					Irish	
Lizzie	Lynch	Daughter	None Catholic	has read		26	Draper	Single					Irish	
Michael	Lynch	Son	None Catholic	has read		28	Draper	Single					Irish	
Mary	Lynch	Daughter	None Catholic	has read		20	Draper	Single					Irish	
Mary	Lynch	Servant	None Catholic	has read		24	Domestic	Single					Irish	

Cashman Family

It is interesting, considering the troubling times in Ireland, that the two eldest Cashman's went to college, UCC. Sheila graduated with a B Comm 1920, presumably the decision to study commerce was to help develop the family drapery business. It was said that she went to college was to 'keep an eye' on her brother Dan who was also studying at UCC. We do not know if Dan spent much time at UCC as he stated in his witness statement that he was involved in revolutionary activities from 1917 – 1921.

Sheila probably worked in the shop until she married Jack in 1926 and moved with him to Cork..

Dan later married Marie and moved to Dublin, his Witness Statement is presented above.

Maureen (Maur), who was a great singer, married John Mason a doctor, in Dublin. They raised their family, John, Mary and William (Billy) in England.

1930. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of <u>St. Columba, Fenwood</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>Glasnevin</u> in the Union of <u>Dublin</u> in the County of <u>the City of Dublin</u>								
No. (1)	When Married. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Father's Name and Surname. (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)
114	7th June 1930	John Mason Maureen Cashman	Full age	Bachelor Spinster	M.D. —	Wyndham Sq. Plymouth Main St Meidiston	Oliver Mason William Cashman	Farmer Merchant
Married in the Roman Catholic Church of <u>above</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, <u>James J. FitzPatrick</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, { <u>John Mason</u> <u>Maureen Cashman</u> }			in the Presence of us, { <u>Bryan Coffey</u> <u>Catherine Halliday</u> }					
1930. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of <u>Glasnevin</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>Triglas & Glasnevin</u> in the Union of <u>Dublin</u> in the County of <u>Dublin</u>								

Marriage No. 114
Registered by me, this 7th day of June 1930.
Dain
Registrar.

https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/marriage_returns/marriages_1930/09039/5270846.pdf

Paddy was born in 1906 and was too young to be active in the War of Independence. He may have been in Na Fianna Éireann and he grew up with the events going on around him. Their house was shot at and raided. His older brother Dan active was on the run. It is likely he was used as a runner and watcher for events. He kept all the photos and knew all the stories.

When he was 18 he moved to the US, probably 1924 (he was there during prohibition years 1920-1933) and he worked in Sears Department Store for 23 years.



The Cashman Drapery Shop

Oral history is that, when the lease of premises at 23 Main St was for sale that no one would bid against William so that he could return to his father's shop at No 23 Main Street. We do not know what year this occurred. Micheal Lynch died in 1931 but was not resident at the shop at the time.

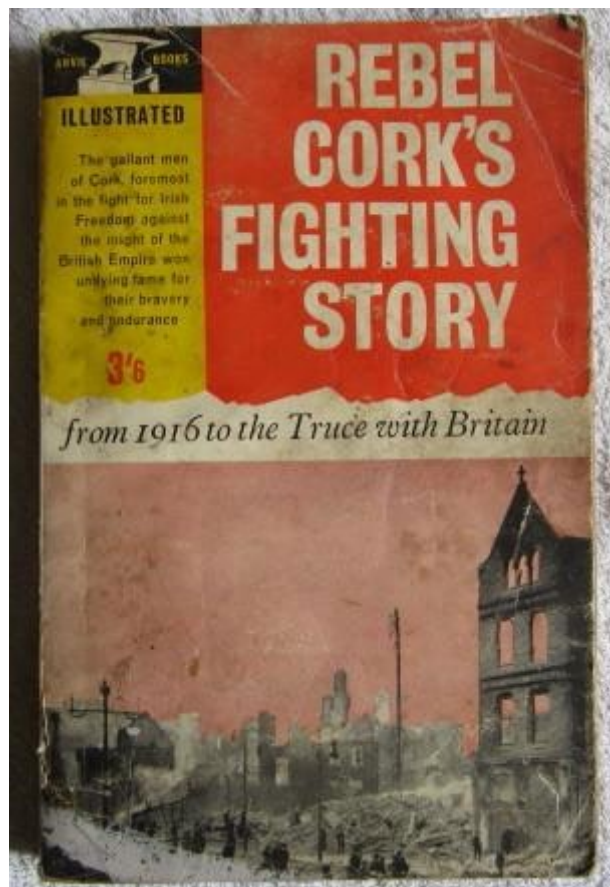


'Daddy, Daddy Cash, Grandma, Aunt Margaret, Aunt Nora, Mammy'

When William died in 1954 and probably before this time, Paddy had returned to help manage the Cashman Drapers shop. He was considered a smart dresser and there were photos of him wearing a smart overcoat, his "American Coat".

Paddy became an authority on the events in East Cork during the War of Independence, He wrote the chapter (18 pages) on "The Operations in East Cork" for the Rebel Cork's Fighting Story 1916 - 21: Told By The Men Who Made It published by The Kerryman (Anvil Press) in 1947.

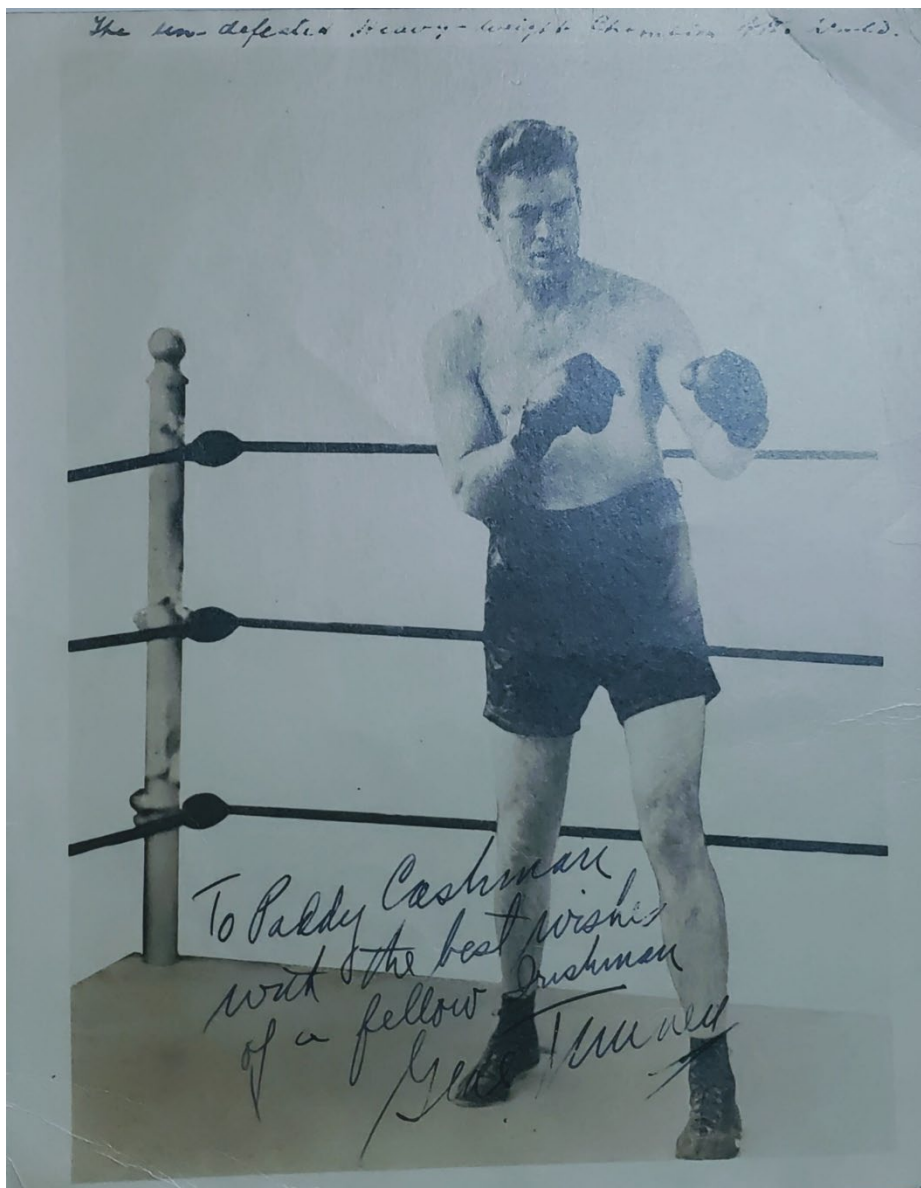
This book told Jack O'Connell's, Dan Cashman's and their comrades' stories. He used his Irish name in the book Padraig O'Ciosain.



DESTRUCTION OF ROSSCARBERY R.I.C. BARRACK	Tim O'Donoghue	163
DARING RESCUE OF SEAN MACSWINEY FROM SPIKE ISLAND	Florence O'Donoghue	167
AUXILIARIES WERE HIT HARD AT RATHCOOLE	Pat Lynch	169
OPERATIONS IN EAST CORK	* Padraig O Ciosain	179
CAMPAIGN IN THE MILLSTREET AREA	Michael O'Riordan	198
A PATRIOT PRIEST OF CORK	Florence O'Donoghue	203
THE HEROIC DEAD OF WEST CORK		207
THE MEN WHO FELL AT UPTON		208

When Paddy retired from the shop in Midleton, he moved into 14 Marian Place, Mardyke in Cork with his sister Sheila and her daughter Mary.

Uncle Paddy told the O'Connell children stories of the War of Independence and East Cork. He brought them to lots of events and relatives. He was a very genial, humorous person. He was known as Uncle Paddy even though he was a granduncle to them. He was a prodigious letter writer and would show us letters he had received from Count John McCormack, a famous Irish American tenor, and World Heavyweight Champion Gene Tunney.



When Jack retired from the army, they returned to Cobh and opened a grocery shop at Casement Sq. Paddy, Mary, Brendan and Eleanor travelled by train to UCC to get their degree. Paddy initially joined the Bank, but after two years he changed and went to UCC with his brother Brendan, they both did Engineering at UCC. Mary did a BSc and Eleanor a B.Comm, like her mother Shiela.

Paddy joined the Slua Muirí (the reserve force of the Irish Naval Service), in Haulbowline and played rugby with Cobh Pirates.





Paddy in Slua Muirí



Brendan



Brendan O’Gorman, Kevin Crowley, Jim McCarthy, Derry Gleeson, Eleanor O’Connell, Ena Crowley, Mary O’Connell, Margie Gleeson, A. Kit (Catherine Lucey), Mummy O (Mary O’Gorman), Lt Col Jack O’Connell, Dad (Paddy O’Connell), Pat (Patricia) McCarthy (Godmother) and Shiela O’Connell at Rhona’s Christening

Missing from photo are Brendan O’Connell (godfather) possibly photographer and Una, mother, who missed out on attending the baptism which at the time was required when newborn just a few days old and mother still recovering in the hospital.

Jack died in 1958 and had a large attendance at his funeral, including army personnel and old IRA comrades from the 4th Battalion of the Old IRA.

His sister, Ellen Loughyear was present. Ellen had moved to England **19xx**, and it must have been very difficult for her as she had two brothers fighting for Irish independence from England, who were on active and imprisoned for their activities. It must have been particularly difficult for Ellen who had married an English man and was living in Bristol, rearing her family.



1957 Four Generations,

Paddy, (Patrick Timothy (PT), Shiela (Julia) O'Connell nee Cashman, her mother Ellen Cashman nee Cotter, baby Pat (John Patrick)



Shiela and Maur



Paddy and Una's wedding 1955



and Kay's wedding 1958

Billy

Marian Place, The Mardyke

After Jack's death, Mary, Eleanor and Sheila moved to Cork. Mary, a biochemist, had initially worked as a teacher in England for a few years. She returned to Cork and got a job in the biochemistry laboratory at St Finbarr's Hospital and transferred to Cork University Hospital in 1980s.

Eleanor is remembered fondly as a fun aunt, Pat remembers being allowed to sit on her motorbike, Rhona remembers being chased around the couch. In 1965, Eleanor was hit by a lorry while riding her motorbike in Johnstown, Kilkenny, where she worked as a teacher. She was just 21 years old. Paddy got the phone call from the police and went over to Mary's to share the tragic news.

Mary welcomed everyone to the flat at 14 Marian Place. Jack's military uniforms were preserved, along with the gramophone and the 78 speed records. Older Cork O'Connell children were dropped off after Sunday Mass. So that Paddy and Una could have some time together. Dublin O'Connell's also visited, as did Maur and Jack Mason. Uncle Paddy moved in upon retiring from the shop in Midleton, passing it on to Billy and Kay Mason and their family.

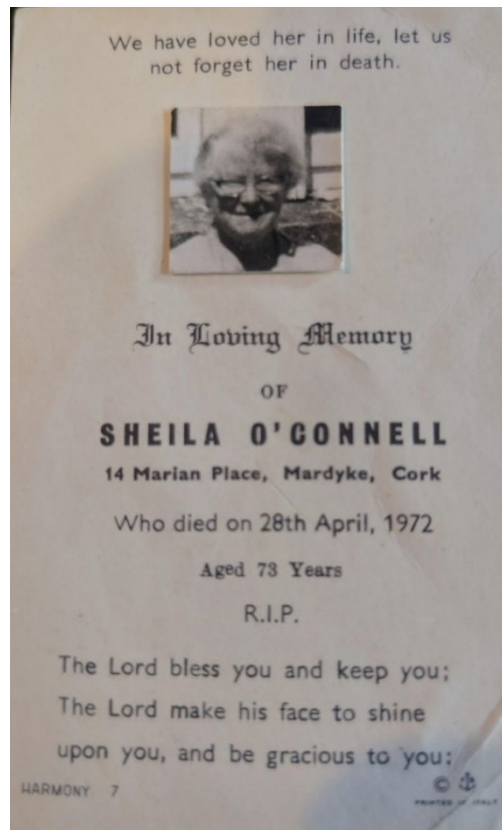
Ballycotton Holidays

Mary rented a house each Summer in Ballycotton. She invited her nephews and nieces to join her. Brendan recalls staying there three times. The first time was in a house near the cliff walk with an outdoor bathroom. The lighthouse light kept him, and Brian awake at night. They played pitch and putt, swam off rocks at Healy's, Mermaids and Barrys, walked to Ballytrasna for beach swims, and fished for mackerel on Ballycotton Pier. The second house was by the Sea Chruich on the way into town and the third was on Main Street. The activities were the same. Sarah, Helen, and Lucy O'Connell also joined them. Dinners usually included Ballycotton potatoes and fresh baked apple pies.



Mary O'Connell





Sheila O'Connell - Mass card

Clonmult Commemorations

Paddy O'Connell brought his children to see the ruined, burnt-out farmhouse near Clonmult village, often while on trips to Ballycotton or to Middleton. In 1971, for the 50th anniversary of the Clonmult Ambush, Mary O'Connell drove Paddy Cashman, Brian (9) and Brendan O'Connell (7) to the event. Brendan recalls that they were introduced to Clonmult survivor Patrick Higgins who had a raspy voice because he had been shot in the neck. Paddy Higgins said to Brian and Brendan that "Your Grandfather was a great man." It meant a lot to us because it means the sole survivor of Clonmult had nothing but admiration for Jack O'Connell where historical revisionists have said otherwise. Paddy and Mary seemed to know everyone at the event.

When Tom O'Neill published *The Battle of Clonmult* in 2006, David and Rhona went to the launch of book at the Clonmult village school hall, there was a display of artifacts, including the revolver that Jack had on the day. This had survived, a woman in Cobh, and friend of Jack, witnessed him planning to throw it into the sea,

she asked him not to, and that she would take it. It was surprising to see it so many years later.

Rhona brought Mary to the presentation and talk about the book in Cobh. There we met an elderly man who knew Jack when he retired to Cobh, the man was ex Canadian Air Force, he said he had many conversations about military matters with Jack and it was clear that he held him in great respect.

Tom O'Neill's revised book on Clonmult was published in 2019. At this stage, preparations were being made for the Centenary in February 2021. Since 2019, Rhona and David attended the memorial at the grave in Midleton for those who died at Clonmult, a wreath is laid every year with family members in attendance.

At the site of the ambush, a local committee, commemorates the event every year. Families affected and locals, who all have stories of that difficult time in East Cork attend. Unfortunately, the centenary for 2021 had to be deferred until 2022 due to Covid.

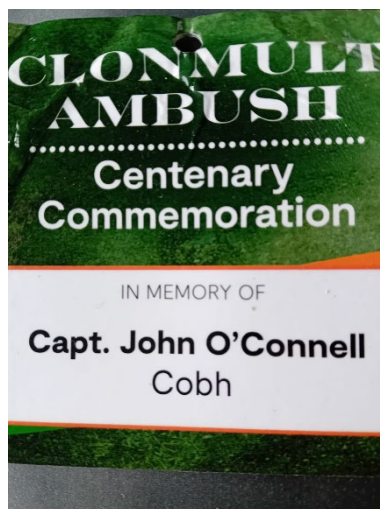
In February 2022, on one of the wettest days of winter, Pat, Rhona, Brian, Brendan, David, Ivor, and Peter visited the memorial site at the farm in Clonmult to commemorate what has been regarded as the IRA's worst defeat. President Micheal Higgins, and Taoiseach Micheal Martin were in attendance. Jack's name is always prominent in the Clonmult story as he survived and escaped from the house. Pat got a 2-handed handshake from President Higgins when he told him he was Jack O'Connell's grandson. Brendan represented the family in placing Jack's commemorative cross on pedestal of crosses remember the men who had been at Clonmult, the site, on 20th February 1921, where twelve were killed by British Forces, seven after they had surrendered, and two of eight who were captured were later executed at Victoria Barracks in Cork.



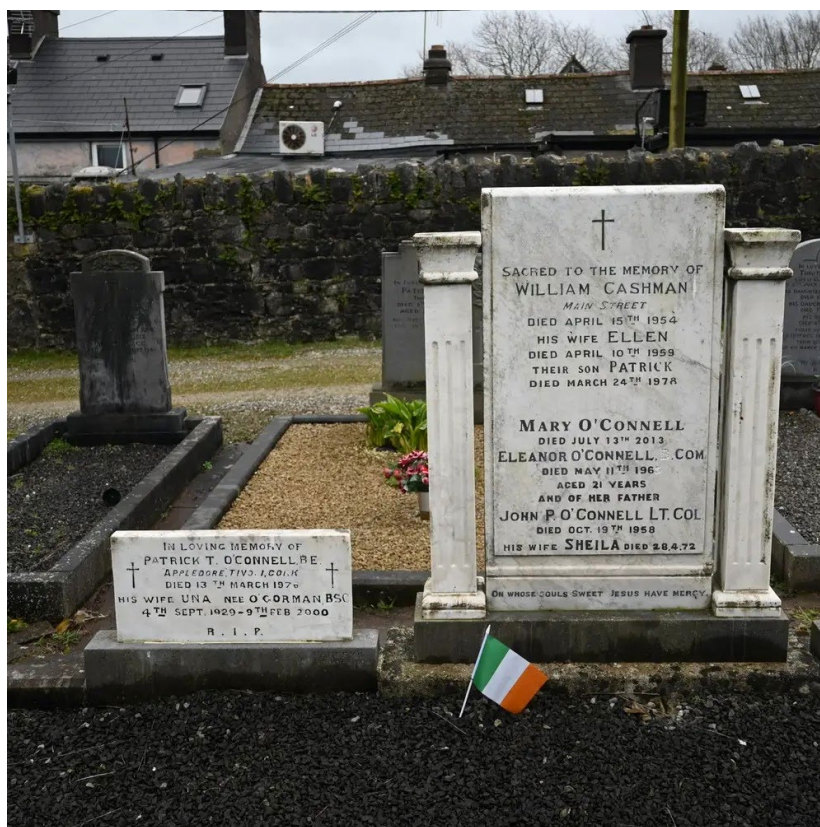
President Micheal Higgins, Clonmult 2022



A commemorative button Brendan made and handed out at Clonmult 2022



Family Grave Holy Rosary Cemetery Midleton



The Family plot (Section A Plot 314) at Holy Rosary Cemetery Saint Mary's Road, Midleton. Note: Una's date is incorrect she passed away in 2001.



Pres. Higgins Clonmult Commemoration Speech

Speech by President Michael D. Higgins Centenary Commemoration of the Clonmult Ambush

Clonmult, Dungourney, Co. Cork, Sunday, 20th February 2022

A Thaoisigh, A Theachtaí Dála, A Cathaoirlaigh and Seanadoirí,
A Mhéara,
A Íonadaithe Poiblí uilig,
A chairde,

For me the photo that is on the cover of the Clonmult Commemorative Journal of 2021 is deeply moving. It is of young men in simple clothes, members of a Flying Column, to which independence was of such importance, that in this state of unpreparedness and inexperience, that in the pursuit of an ideal, they would take on an empire. It is appropriate that we recall their courage, their values, which led to our freedom and independence today.

Traosláim libh uilig – how grateful we should be to the family who host the monument.

From what circumstances were they drawn? If the First Brigade was of the same composition as the Fourth Brigade and its companies, of which my father was a member, it would have drawn widely. The Charleville company had 87 members. When he was First Lieutenant, the Battalion of which he was Intelligence Officer had 450. At this point there were those who were known as the trades, non-inheriting sons, future smallholders; the tragedy of the later Civil War would expose these divisions.

The Clonmult ambush that took place 101 years ago today, most obviously for the farmers who lost members and the community of which they were a part, was an event that carried lasting significance. Beyond such suffering and loss, it was an event with consequences that would play out on both sides during the remainder of the Irish War of Independence. The ambush was the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) greatest loss in the War of Independence, coming, as it did, in the worst week of the campaign and just five days after three IRA men and nine civilians were killed in the disastrous Upton train ambush. Clonmult saw the biggest single loss of lives the IRA suffered in any engagement with British Crown Forces during the entirety of the War of Independence.

From the British perspective, the story of the Clonmult Ambush is notable as it revealed a change in the strategic approach by Crown Forces – the Army, RIC, Auxiliaries and Black and Tans – who had struggled in the aftermath of several IRA victories.

The recently passed Restoration of Order Act now permitted Crown Forces powers of arrest and internment. The toll of killings, the ambushes, raids and acts of sabotage rose steadily during the winter of 1921. The army of an empire that was celebrating what it saw as a success in a World War, from which it appeared stronger, was dealing with what it saw as a guerrilla force that had a hiding place and support within communities.

The Crown Forces, in their targeting of the IRA now adopted a more calculated approach to the War, and their use of intelligence sources enabled them to close in faster than before on the

Volunteers who, as was the case in Clonmult, became surrounded by a force of British Army, Royal Irish Constabulary and Auxiliaries.

The story is well known to you all. IRA Volunteers from the Cork No. 1 Brigade had been occupying an abandoned farmhouse in Clonmult, County Cork, for six weeks. From there they had ranged with their activities across the country targeting British Forces. Their circumstances were, however, exceptional. The house was far from ideal from the perspective of any guerrilla force. For example, there was no back door which would facilitate a quick getaway, and the roof was thatched and thus vulnerable to arson.

Commanding officers had left the 20 or so Volunteers inside the farmhouse and had set out to undertake a reconnaissance of Cobh Junction to plan an ambush. They remained there until the 20th of February 1921, when a detachment from the Hampshire regiment arrived at a neighbouring farmhouse. They saw two IRA men, Michael Desmond and John Joe Joyce, drawing water from a well, and shot them dead.

Soon another eight-man patrol arrived at the house. **Despite the overwhelming force against them, five men, including Captain Jack O'Connell, attempted to escape by fighting their way out of the house. O'Connell was the only one who managed to flee**, and both Mick Hallinan and Dick Hegarty were fatally wounded. The prospects for the rest of the men dwindled further when two truckloads of auxiliary police, 24 men in all, emerged on the scene.

The ensuing attack saw the Crown Forces set fire to the thatch to burn the men out of the house. Defiantly the men inside threw their guns on the fire rather than surrender them. The ammunition reportedly exploded creating a ferocious racket.

What happened next has been described in the historiography as "Kilmichael in reverse" after the famous ambush in November 1920 when 16 auxiliaries were killed, some allegedly after a false surrender. In what can be labelled as an obvious reprisal, seven men were shot without warning by the Auxiliaries, many people believing then, as now, in retaliation for Kilmichael. The Hampshire Regiment claimed the men were shot when they engaged in a false surrender.

The men who were killed included Jeremiah Ahern and his first-cousin Liam Ahern, Donal Dennehy, David Desmond, James Glavin, Joseph Morrissey and Christopher O'Sullivan. The battle that had begun at 4pm had ended within about two hours. Of the eight taken prisoner at Clonmult, two – Maurice Moore and Patrick O'Sullivan – were subsequently hanged.

In retaliation, what could be termed a counter-reprisal, the IRA executed six spies they suspected of being involved with the British authorities. A total of 22 people died in the ambush, the subsequent execution of the IRA Volunteers and the subsequent murders of alleged informers – 14 IRA members, 2 Black and Tans and 6 suspected informers.

The response on the part of the British Forces in Clonmult, that of a reprisal form of violence, had become well established by this point in the War of Independence. The philosophy behind the reprisals, while rooted in the British army's attempting as an Imperial Force to re-assert control, often involved resorting to arbitrary violence, not only against republican activists, but often their surrounding civilian population who were sheltering them perceived to be in collusion with them in their struggle.

An unofficial government policy of reprisals with a community impact had begun in September 1919 in Fermoy, County Cork, when 200 British soldiers looted and burned the main businesses of the town, after one of their soldiers, Private William Jones, the first British Army death in the campaign, had been killed in an armed raid by the local IRA.

The pattern of killings and reprisals escalated in the second half of 1920 and into 1921. Several other reprisals occurred, which had a very deep community effect on all classes, such as the indiscriminate killing of Eileen Quinn, which drew international comment in the House of Commons itself. Eileen Quinn was shot dead while seven months' pregnant as she stood outside her house in County Galway with her three children by her side.

Much of such reprisal-based violence was not sanctioned; indeed, officially sanctioned reprisals did not commence until January 1921, with the burning of seven houses in Midleton, County Cork.

The move by the British forces to target their attacks on co-operative creameries – which were major employers and sources of essential foodstuffs – marked an escalation in both the wider socio-economic impact and the sophistication of reprisal tactics.

The death and destruction unleashed by the War of Independence, illustrates how the forms of violence in conflict imitates what is known and internalised as violence, how violence has a brutalising effect, and produces extremes of further new forms of violence that are no longer within the control of the original instigators, a violence too sometimes characterised by a decidedly economic dimension, and in the case of both the War of Independence and the Civil War, as recent research shows, had a gender component in specific circumstances.

Both guerrilla warfare and reprisals saw a loss of life and widespread destruction of homesteads that extended into the civilian sphere, into the lives of those not directly involved.

Today, we explore this past, not to air inherited grievances or seek justification for injustices perpetrated against us or atrocities inflicted in our name. Contrasting atrocities is futile and, in its being selective, indeed evasive, can be amoral. An act of ethical commemoration requires more. It must respect fact and context and then move on, free to live the present and its new challenges, envisage a future that is inclusive of all. It must be recognised, however painful that it is, and be inclusive. There are areas which up to now have their details hidden.

Another example of difficult recall will be the treatment of the stories of those over 12,000 incarcerated during the Civil War. There are the stories such as those of Joseph Campbell, a story for which we are indebted to Éilean Ní Chuilleanáin of those over 3,000 prisoners at any time in the huts at Tintown. While my Uncle Peter was in the National Army in Renmore, his brother John, my father, was in Hut 3 in Tintown and would be released in December 1923.

We must have that deeper purpose, and it is my suggestion that such purpose should be to gain a clearer understanding of what factually occurred and the different versions as to what was the context, and acknowledging the fullness and difference as to the paths that has led us to where we find ourselves today. We have the opportunity for a generous critical version of ethical memory.

Allowing ourselves to be open to the perspectives of others as to their difference or learned versions or rationalisations provides the possibility of hope to extricate ourselves from the grip of any uncritical, simplistic version of our complex story. It enables a deeper collective understanding that frees us for a shared inclusive future.

There were others, such as how the agricultural labourers were coming to be seen as a threat, not allies, but the forces of Nationalism that emerged from the War of Independence and the tragedy of the Civil War.

I suggest that we will need hospitality of narratives, one that rejects any false amnesia, essential if we wish to pursue an ethical version of remembrance, and commemoration. Such an approach can enable us to grasp together the possibilities for a brighter future together, based on mutual respect, common interests and trust, one that may aid a process of healing for us all as we reflect on these events which gave us our independence but have also marked us so profoundly as a society.

The prize of an inclusive commemoration, authentic as to fact, considerate as to impact, one that becomes emancipatory in its consequences, is now there for us to grasp, one that allows for not only courage but uncomfortable truths to be acknowledged, including forms of violence and exclusion we have or may have avoided.

It is an approach that allows us to envisage lives lived together, characterized by courage, a courage such as that which impelled those we commemorate today to take on what was an enormous confrontation with an empire and its overwhelming military resources, but whose courage in their time and circumstances gave us the space to exercise our independence, gifted us with responsibilities in freedom that we must not neglect, must achieve in new circumstances together.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh agus beir beannacht.

2016 Commemoration Cobh

On a Sunday in April 2016, David and Rhona cycled to Cobh for the commemoration of the Cobh Volunteers who travelled to Volunteer Hall, Sheares St. in Cork on Easter, 1916.

On that Sunday, they were shown where the Volunteers did their training at fields at Ballymore. They were then at the unveiling of a memorial to those involved.

Reflecting on this today, No 3 Casement Sq (previously Scotts Sq) was where Mary O'Sullivan was working when she married Patsy O'Connell. No 2 Casement Square was the grocery store that Jack and Sheila moved to when Jack left the army.



1916 Memorial Cobh Volunteers Casement Square Cobh with Jack and James O'Connell



No 3 Casement Square – Mary O'Sullivan worked here in 1995 when she married Patsy O'Connell



No 2 Casement Sq Jack and Sheila had this as a Grocery store when he retired from the army

Paddy and Una's Story



Paddy in Bahrain 1953



Family wedding David and Tina -Tipperary



Family wedding Briana and Kris 2024 NYC

Addendum

Micheal O'Connell and Mary Lynch raised their family at Kitchen Cove

Kitchen Cove, Queenstown

Source – posted on FB

You may boast of your glories of dearest old Ireland
I'll sing you a song that's far dearer to me
Of sweet Kitchen Cove to the east end of Queenstown
It lies to the north of the sweet River Lee.
People from all parts come there in Summer
To recruit their health with a pleasant sea breeze
And when they sit down to eat their cold dinner
They are handsomely shaded by tall elm trees.
Now the big field is the next place I'll mention
When lovers go courting it's down there they go
And when the big fleet they come into Cork Harbour
It's there the young colleens go bleaching their clothes
The firs and the daisies all grow in abundance
Mushrooms aplenty you'll pick by the score
And sweeter than all when you get to the bottom
It's then you can gaze on the bold rocky shore.
Go down on the strand, it's a nice place for bathing
Without rocks or stones for to hurt your poor toes
Fine water for drinking far sweeter than porter
And up overhead where the blackberries grow,
It's a neat little bay where the pilot boat anchors
The Lakes of Killarney is nothing to thee
I'm sure you could travel this wide world all over
And the likes of this beautiful bay you won't see.
Go down the high walk of a fine summer's evening
Tis there you will see them all dancing with glee
And Jenkins the fiddler he plays up so gaily
A jig or a reel or a highland schottische
It's grand for to see them all huddled together
Sitting down on the grass when the dance it is done
Each lad with his arms entwined round his darling
Oh Céad mile murther sure this is the fun.
Now still farther on if you are fond of walking
Tis there you will see where the primroses grow
And still farther on is a sight most alarming
The black feathered tribe which they call Frenches Crows.
There is something more which I'm going to tell you
The blackbirds and thrushes sing all the year round
On St Patrick's Day if you want to get shamrock

That dear little plant it is there to be found.
Now to add to its beauty there's two lovely houses
They're built at the end of this nice shady grove
The moment you enter Cork Harbour you'll see them
They lie to the end of the town of sweet Cove
I'll sing you no more of the beauties and grandeur
But if you're fond of scenery take a walk down
You need not be afraid that you will hurt your corns
It's only a quarter of a mile from Queenstown.



Kitchen Cove 2025



2 Sea View 2025 Patsy and Mary possibly living here when Jack born 1898



37 Barrymore Avenue 2025 O'Connell family lived here for many years



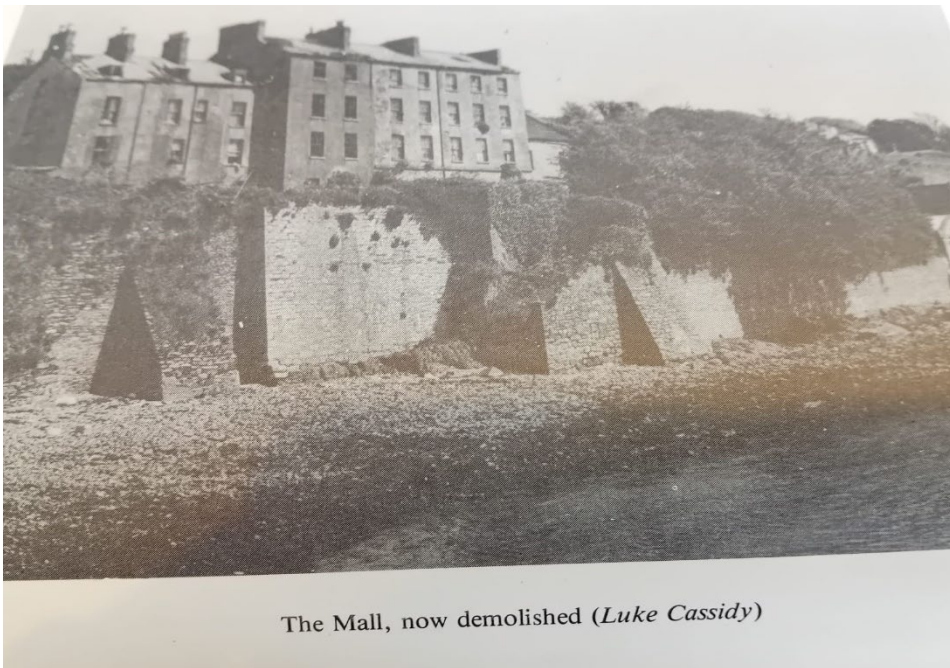
East Hill Cobh – walk O’Connell’s and O’Sullivan’s did everyday



7 East Hill Cobh 2025 Patsy living here when he married 1898



2 Casement Square – Jack and Shiela

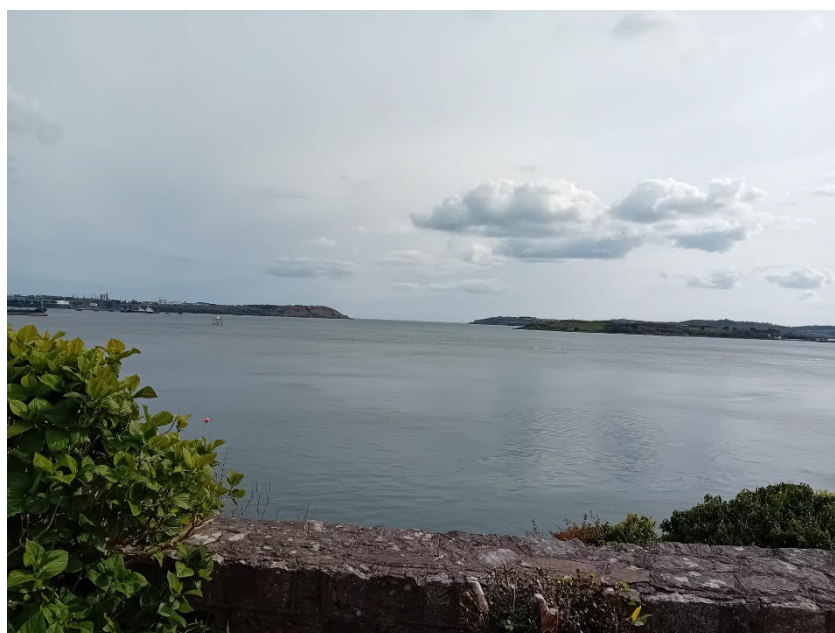


Possible home Tim and Ellen O'Sullivan

Before the O'Connell family moved to Barrymore Avenue, they lived on the East Side of Queenstown, Timothy O'Sullivan gives his address as Kitchen Cove, Patsy, gave his address as East Hill when he got married. Patsy and Mary lived first at 2 Sea View, also on East Hill.



Harbour Queenstown from East Side of town



View from East Hill Cobh 2025

THE BOYS FROM THE COUNTY CORK (lyrics – Jack had a 78 record)

Chorus:

Some of them came from Kerry, some from County Clare
From Dublin, Wicklow, Donegal, and the boys from old Kildare
Some from a land across the sea, from Glasgow and New York
But the boys who beat the Black and Tans were the boys from the county Cork

Verse

You've read in the history's pages the heroes of great fame
The deeds they've done, the battles won and how they won their fame
But the boys who made the history for the Orange, White and Green
Were the boys who died in Dublin town in Nineteen Sixteen

Chorus

Praise the brave battalions who fought the Black and Tans
From Liffey, Noor and Shannon, from Lagan Suir and Bann
Our honor to those volunteers who for duty did report
Yet the best of all the soldiers were the lads of the County Cork

Chorus

Now Cork gave us McSweeney a martyr who did die
And Wicklow gave us Michael Dwyer in the days so long gone by
And Dublin gave us Padric Pearse, McBride and Cathal Brutha
And America gave us DeValera to lead old Ireland through

Chorus

Rifles and revolvers were all that we possessed
A stick or two of gelignite for arms we were hard pressed
Yet we used them gamely 'gainst all that they did sport
And none had so much bravery as the Boys of the County Cork

Chorus

Dan Cashman's Witness Statement

Dan Cashman was related to Jack O'Connell by marriage. It is probable that Jack met Sheila through their close connection to active service unit activities in east Cork.

Daniel Cashman's witness statement details his involvement with the Irish Volunteers and the East Cork Flying Column from 1917 to the Truce in July 1921.

Dan joined the local Volunteer Company in 1917. At that time, the company had about twenty-five men and very few arms.

He was one of the first members of the East Cork Flying Column, which was formed in October 1920 under the command of Diarmuid Hurley of Midleton. The initial column comprised about ten or twelve men, mostly from the Midleton district. They were armed with revolvers, police carbines, and rifles captured from the RIC barracks in Carrigtwohill and the Cameron Highlanders at Mile Bush.

Dan participated in an attack on a lorry of Cameron Highlanders in Churchtown North. Joseph Aherne was in charge in Hurley's absence. The plan involved felling a tree to stop the lorry. Sean Kelleher provided intelligence on the approaching lorries. Phil Hyde, an ex-British Army man, was tasked with shooting the drivers. Cashman's role was to pull the ropes to fell the Tree after Hyde fired. Although the tree was brought down, it only brushed the lorry, and the military drove off under intense fire. Dan recounts the difficulty he and others had extricating themselves from the fallen tree.

After learning that General Strickland was in a staff car heading to Youghal, Dan and others from the Midleton Company, including Joseph and Jer. Aherne and a Desmond brother, planned to ambush him near Carrigtwohill. They used a donkey and cart to block the road. However, Strickland returned to Cork by another route. On their return to Midleton, they encountered British military and had to take cover in a field after being fired upon.

The Column moved to Cloyne and billeted in the house of a local Volunteer named Walsh. On the morning of December 8th, they were warned of approaching British. Hurley ordered them to remain silent until the soldiers attempted entry. When the soldiers broke in, Hurley and Jack Aherne opened fire, causing them to retreat. The Column then retreated to the back yard and, under covering fire from Paddy Whelan and later Jack Aherne, rushed across the road to safety, suffering no casualties.

The Column learned that Black and Tans patrolled Main Street in Midleton nightly. About ten of them, along with some local Volunteers, moved into Midleton to attack this patrol, taking up quarters in a sawmills. Paddy Whelan gathered intelligence on the patrol's strength and disposition. Dan and Jack Aherne were tasked with

targeting the leading pair of Tans. They approached them under the guise of being drunk and opened fire, killing both. Jack Aherne also dealt with the pair behind them. During the engagement, Dan was shot in the chest but was saved by a cigarette case. The enemy patrol was effectively wiped out.

In January 1921, the Column moved to a disused farmhouse outside Clonmult. Dan explained that this location was used as a “headquarters for collecting subscriptions for the Dáil Loan** in the surrounding districts. Collectors brought the subscriptions to their billet, and Diarmuid Hurley checked the monies before they were sent to a man named Cronin in Clonmult village”. Hurley objected to the prolonged stay in Clonmult for this purpose. Dan believed this five to six-week stay contributed significantly to the tragic events of the surprise attack on February 20, 1921, where the Column suffered heavy casualties. Dan and Jack Aherne had left the Column the Friday before and were in Ballinacurra drilling when the attack occurred. They ambushed lorries with military near Midleton that Sunday night, unaware that these lorries contained captured members of the Column. They learned of the Clonmult disaster later that night.

Following the Clonmult attack, Dan, along with Hurley, Joseph and Jack Aherne, Paddy Whelan, Jack O’Connell, and Phil Hyde, continued to carry out harassing attacks on the enemy. Land mine manufacturing began in the Ballinacurra district using empty shell cases picked up by fishermen. Maurice Heaphy made electric detonators. One of these mines was detonated under a military lorry at Ballyedekin in April 1921. As a reprisal, Midleton was shot up and Dan’s home was bombed.

Dan participated in a night attack on Midleton Barracks with others from the Column and Ballinacurra. The attack was primarily for nuisance value. They attempted to place a land mine near the barracks wall but were hindered by barbed wire. They then engaged in continuous rifle fire on the barracks before withdrawing.

An order was received from Brigade Headquarters to shoot British military personnel in uniform on sight, armed or unarmed. In compliance with this order, Dan and Phil Hyde killed two British Marines near Ramhill, Ballinacurra.

Diarmuid Hurley was shot dead in an encounter with an RIC and Black and Tan patrol while proceeding from Midleton to Carrigtwohill. Dan described Hurley as a fearless and strict leader whose death was a significant loss.

After Hurley’s death, Paddy Whelan took command. From then until the Truce on July 11, 1921, their activities mainly involved harassing attacks, sniping, and blocking roads. Dan was in the Ballycotton district when news of the Truce arrived.

[Account of Ambush in Midleton 20th December 1920](#)

Records Cobh

Bridget O'Connell b 1866, Parents Micheal and Mary O'Connell (nee Lynch) Living at Kitchen Cove

336	19 th February 1868 Kitchen Cove	Bridget female	Michael Connell Kitchen Cove	Mary Connell formerly Lynch Sailmaker	Michael Connell Father Kitchen Cove	South Mall March 1868	Register
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https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1868/03447/2265540.pdf

Patsy (Patrick) O'Connell, a sailmaker living at East Hill married Mary O'Sullivan, a servant living at Scotts Sq (later Casement Sq) on 30th April 1895. Present was Mary's father Timothy O'Sullivan. Patsy's father Michael was deceased.

https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/marriage_returns/marriages_1895/10530/5835598.pdf

Their son, John Patrick (Jack) was born 1898. At the time they were living at 1 Sea View, on the East Hill road.

https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1898/02067/1789780.pdf

Patsy (Patrick) O'Connell d Feb 1928 age 62, living Barrymore Avenue Cobh, present his son Patrick. He was a sailmaker. **Note: In the 1901 Census Patsy is 43 which would mean he died aged 70**

52	19 th 28 February Barrymore Cobh U.D	Patrick O'Connell	male	married	62	Sailmaker	Broncho Pneumonia 2 months Cardiac failure Certified	Patrick O'Connell Son present at Death Barrymore Avenue	First March 1928	Margaret Walsh Assistant Registrar.	aged not to be writ
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https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1928/04959/4349321.pdf

He was buried in a family plot in Templarobin Cemetery Ballymore on 26th February

<https://graveyards.skibbheritage.com/Burial.aspx?BurialID=55617>

Mary O'Connell d. Aug 1928, age 54. widow of Patrick O'Connell, living Barrymore Avenue Cobh, present her son Patrick.

95	19 th 28 August Barrymore Cobh U.D	Mary O'Connell	female	widow	54	Widow of Patrick O'Connell Sailmaker	Nephritis 2 months Cardiac failure Certified	Patrick O'Connell Son present at Death Barrymore Avenue	Thirtieth August 1928	Margaret Walsh Assistant Registrar.	ING EDGE - This Man
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https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1928/04950/4345910.pdf

Mary was buried on 11th August in Templero bin cemetery Ballymore

<https://graveyards.skibbheritage.com/Burial.aspx?BurialID=55617>

Family of Mary O'Connell Nee Lynch



Church Baptism Record

Name:	Mary Lynch	Date of Birth:	
Address:		Date of Baptism:	14-Feb-1830
Gender:	Female	Parish/District:	COBH
Father:	John Lynch	County:	Co. Cork
Occupation:		Denomination:	Roman Catholic
Sponsor 1 / Informant 1:	John Donovan	Mother:	Mary Collins
		Sponsor 2 / Informant 2:	Ann Gorman
Notes:	PRIEST: REVD M SCANNELL E		

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Mary Lynch b 14th Feb 1830 Cobh. Parents John Lynch and Mary Collins



Church Marriage Record

Date of Marriage:	01-Dec-1822	County:	Co. Cork
Parish / District:	AGHADA	Husband	Wife
Name:	John Lynch	Mary Collins	
Address:		W Gate	
Denomination:	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	
Occupation:			
Age:			
Status:	Bachelor (Previously unmarried)	Spinster (Previously unmarried)	
Husband's Father	Wife's Father		
Name:	Lynch	Collins	
Address:			
Denomination:			
Occupation:			
Husband's Mother	Wife's Mother		
Name:			
Address:			
Denomination:			
Occupation:			
Witness 1	Witness 2		
Name:	Ellen Morris	Margaret Lellis	
Address:			
Notes:			

Marriage record John Lynch and Mary Collins, married 1st Dec 1830, at W Gate Aghada (might be Whitegate).

Birth registration O'Sullivan

Birth of Con O'Sullivan 1865, his parents are **Timothy O'Sullivan** and **Catherine** (nee **Kelleher**). He is a brother of **Mary O'Sullivan** who later married **Patsy**,

12. 1865	12. 1865	12. 1865	12. 1865	12. 1865	12. 1865	12. 1865	12. 1865	12. 1865
216	Shanty birth August 1864 Bucks Glen	Cornelius Male	Timothy Sullivan Bucks Glen	Catherine Sullivan formerly Kelleher	Cook	X The Clerk of Catherine Sullivan Mother Bucks Glen	Eight September 1864	J. J. Madhu Registrar

https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1864/03600/2327747.pdf

Twins Kate and Mary O'Sullivan b 1878, parents Timothy and Kate O'Sullivan nee Kelleher. Tragically Kate died five days after the twins were born.

BIRTHS Registered in the District of Queenstown No 1 in the Union of COCK
in the County of COCK

No. (1.)	Date and Place of Birth. (2.)	Name (if any). (3.)	Sex. (4.)	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father. (5.)	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother. (6.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (7.)	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant. (8.)	When Registered. (9.)	Signature of Registrar. (10.)	Dist. and No. of Birth. (11.)
107	Fifteenth September at 12.06 P.M. 1878 Middle Cottrells Row	Kate	F	Timothy Sullivan Middle Cottrells Row	Kate Sullivan formerly Kelleher	Cook H.M.S Revenge	Julia ^{nee} Miller Marill Present at Birth Middle Cottrells Row	Twenty fourth September 1878	E. Stratman Deputy Registrar	
108	Fifteenth September at 12.06 P.M. 1878 Middle Cottrells Row	Margaret	F	Timothy Sullivan Middle Cottrells Row	Kate Sullivan formerly Kelleher	Cook H.M.S Revenge	Julia ^{nee} Miller Marill Present at Birth Middle Cottrells Row	Twenty fourth September 1878	E. Stratman Deputy Registrar	

At the time Tim was on naval boat the HMS Revenge, he later remarried.



Church Marriage Record

Date of Marriage:	09-Jun-1849		County:	Co. Cork
Parish / District:	IMOGFELA			
Husband			Wife	
Name:	Patrick	Shahan	Elizabeth	Donovan
Address:	Dungourney			
Denomination:	Roman Catholic		Roman Catholic	
Occupation:				
Age:				
Status:				
Husband's Father			Wife's Father	
Name:	Not Recorded	Shahan	Not Recorded	Donovan
Address:				
Denomination:				
Occupation:				
Husband's Mother			Wife's Mother	
Name:				
Address:				
Denomination:				
Occupation:				
Witness 1			Witness 2	
Name:	Thomas	Donovan	Michael	Donovan
Address:				
Notes:				
E PRIEST: H HANWIGAN				

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Marriage record Patrick Shanan (Sheehy) and Elisabeth Donovan married 19th June 1849, at Imogeela in Dungourney



Church Marriage Record

Date of Marriage:	10-Mar-1860		County:	Co. Cork
Parish / District:	CONNA			
Husband			Wife	
Name:	Richard	Cotter	Julia	Connell
Address:				
Denomination:	Roman Catholic		Roman Catholic	
Occupation:				
Age:				
Status:				
Husband's Father			Wife's Father	
Name:			Connell	
Address:				
Denomination:				
Occupation:				
Husband's Mother			Wife's Mother	
Name:				
Address:				
Denomination:				
Occupation:				
Witness 1			Witness 2	
Name:	Laurence	Moore	Margaret	Connell
Address:				
Notes:				
PRIEST: T BUCKLEY				

Marriage record Richard Cotter and Julia Connell married 10th March Conna, possibly Ellen Cotter's mother and also mother to Nora and Margaret Cotter.

Main Street Midleton 2025

No 23 – Currently vacant premises



No 93 – Currently Bank of Ireland



Midleton Grave



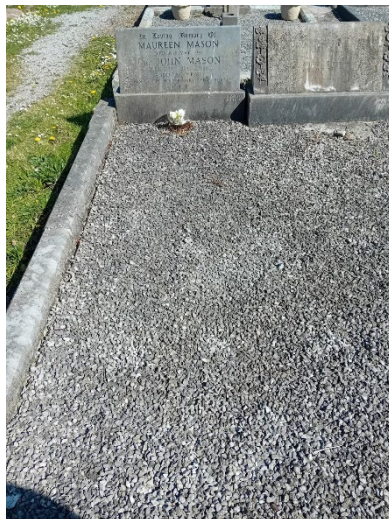
William and Ellen Cashman

Shiela and Jack O'Connell

Mary and Eleanor O'Connell

Paddy Cashman

Paddy and Una O'Connell



Norah and Margaret Cotter

John and Maureen Mason



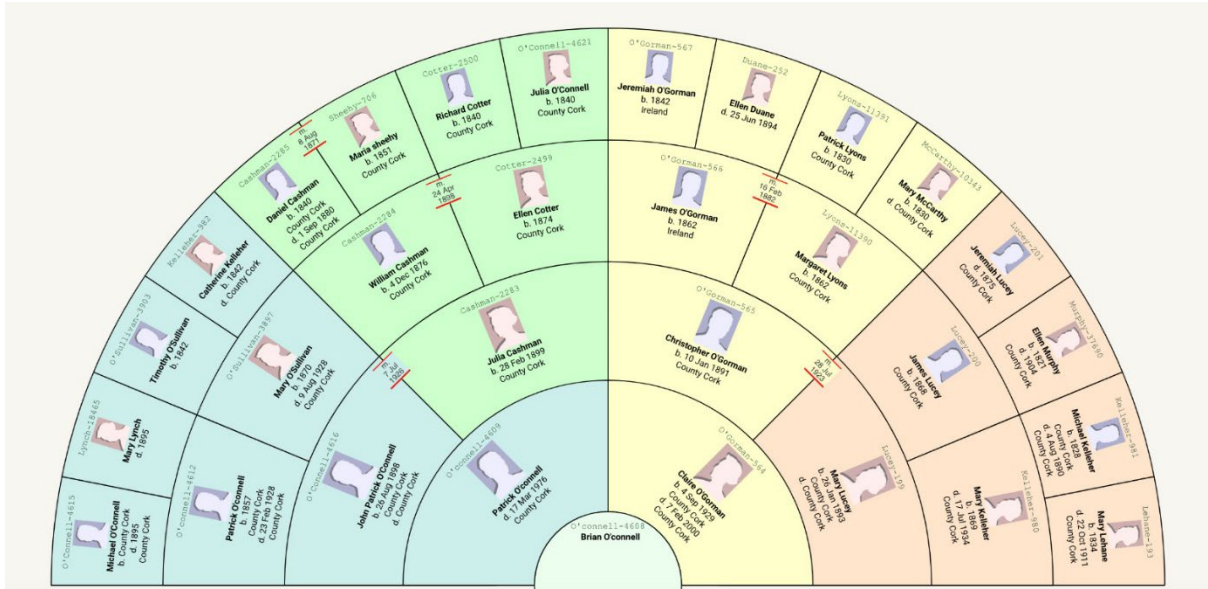
List of Burials Holy Rosary (old) Cemetery Midleton includes:

Norah Cotter	Main St	October 1959
Margaret Cotter	Main St	December 1949
William Cashman	Main St	April 1954
Ellen Cashman	Main St	April 1959
Patrick Cashman	Main St	March 1978
John P. O'Connell		October 1958
Shiela O'Connell		April 1972
Mary O'Connell		July 2013
Eleanor O'Connell	Age 21	May 1965
Patrick T O'Connell		March 1976
Una O'Connell		Feb 2001
Dr John Mason	Age 100	December 1998

Maureen Mason

May 1991

The O'Connell Family Tree



Ballymore Graveyard



Rhona and Brian were told that Patsy and Mary O'Connell are interred in this graveyard. Many headstones are indecipherable.



Ballymore circa 1900



Ballymore 1930s