

Ned Daly remembered: 75 years after Rising

By MARTIN BYRNES

ON MONDAY we told you about Tom Clarke, the 1916 leader, and the third figure on the War of Independence memorial on Sarsfield Bridge.

We wrote how he had been imprisoned in England for terrorism and, on his release after fifteen years, was made a freeman of the city of Limerick by the then mayor, John Daly. And we told you how he was executed in the aftermath of the Easter Rising with two native-born Limerickmen, Ned Daly and Con Colbert, the other two on the monument.

Now, 75 years later, Con Colbert has the railway station named in his honour (since 1966), and a street in his native Athea, as well as a couple of GAA fields.

Ironically, Ned Daly has just one building named after him - one which may soon be sold.

The head office of the Mid Western Health Board in Catherine Street is formally called "Commandant Edward Daly House", a fact which is recorded neither on the outside of the building itself nor on any of the stationery emanating from it.

And if, as seems increasingly likely, the Health Board sells off its downtown property and decamps to (probably) St Joseph's in Mulgrave Street which is now more than half empty, even the semblance of an ongoing tribute to Ned Daly will have disappeared.

So, today we answer the question begged by all of this - who was Ned Daly and what did he do?

And, believe it or not, if a closed-shop union rule had not been applied against him, he might never have left Limerick and would certainly not have found himself fighting the British on the streets of Dublin.

Ned Daly was born in the Patrick Street area a hundred years ago, youngest of ten children and the only boy, on February 25th 1891. His father had died just before the boy was born.

Christened John Edward, he was known to all as Ned.

The John Daly who was to become mayor a few years later was his uncle and stepped in to raise the family, becoming effectively father to Ned. A careful upbringing with all of the Victorian middle class values instilled.

The boy went to Presentation Convent juniors, Sexton Street, and then around the corner to CBS.

A bookworm he was not, even though he had a good brain.

At fifteen, he was sent to Leamy's Academy to learn bookkeeping to fit him to take over John Daly's prosperous bakery in due course. Again, his aversion to study was evident.

However, John Daly persevered and determined that the boy would learn by experience and moved to start him at the lower rung of the ladder - a workman baker.

Then the unions stepped in.

There was an agreement,

unthinkable today, that only the sons of bakers could learn the bakers' trade. The boy could not start - future owner-manager or not.

So, John Daly was forced to send the boy off to a technical school in Glasgow in 1907.

A year later he returned, ill. The suggestion was that a bakery would be bad for his health.

So the lad was sent to Spaight's as a clerk until he was nineteen, when he left to help John Daly run his thriving business.

In 1912 he went to Dublin to work firstly with Brooks Thomas and later with May Roberts, the Westmoreland Street druggists.

He stayed in that job until a few weeks before the Rising of 1916 when he was ordered by Sean MacDiarmada to help prepare for the revolution attempt to come.

So, what did he do during the Rising?

The following is an extract from an article by Maj Gen P J Hally, which analyses the Daly command:

"The orders for the 1st Battalion under Commandant Daly were to occupy an area of the city bounded on the west by a line from the Mendicity Institute to Cabra, with instructions to link up with the 5th Battalion in North County Dublin.

"Broadstone railway station, then the terminus of the Great Western Railway, and the North Dublin Union (a St Camillus-like building) were to be occupied but, due to the low strength that mobilised on Easter Monday, Commandant Daly very rightly, modified his plans by concentrating in a smaller area.

"They occupied and held the Four Courts with outposts along Church Street and adjoining streets ...

"Daly established his HQ in St John's Convent in Brunswick Street and later, on the Tuesday, moved it to the Father Matthew Hall in Church Street and, on the Friday, was forced to move it to the Four Courts.

"Volunteers from this unit also manned positions covering barricades on the North Circular Road and the Cabra Road, but were forced to evacuate on the Thursday because of British artillery action. This loss caused Daly to attempt the capture of Broadstone railway station, but they failed to take it."

"They did, however, capture the Bridewell police station and a military barracks in their area called Linenhall Barracks. Because of a shortage of volunteers and a fear that the British would capture Linenhall Barracks, the volunteers

armoured car to ferry their troops to forward positions. It became a nightmare battle for both sides, fought in the narrow streets, and finally, their main positions intact, the volunteers only surrendered on orders from Pearse."

"From a military point of view, the occupation of this area was sound. The movements of British troops from the Royal Barracks was seriously interfered with and large forces were tied down in this area all week."

"House-to-house fighting, strong barricade defences and intelligent use of snipers inflicted serious losses on the British and imposed a serious delay on their overall attack plans."

"A big British military effort was put into clearing this area and they had not yet succeeded when Daly, in

obedience to higher orders, surrendered, marched his troops in perfect order to O'Connell Street and laid down his arms."

"In my opinion, Daly showed excellent military skill by concentrating his force when he knew his small mobilisation strength; by organising local attack to retake ground lost; by establishing strong points such as Reilly's pub at the corner of North King Street and Church Street, mutually supported by fire from other posts such as Jameson's Malt House."

"To sum up, this was an excellent area - well held and well defended."

So, you have it! Ned Daly met his death by firing squad on Thursday, 4th May at Kilmalinham Gaol.

Cranberries ready to go

A YOUNG and newly established Limerick band are about to make it big - very big. The Cranberries have had rave reviews for gigs across the water and have been signed to Island Records, a music stable they share with megastars U2.

"Something quite magnificent and startling" was the verdict of music's magazine bible NME.

Fronted by Ballybricken woman Dolores O'Riordan, the twenty year old has wowed critics with her voice and ability. Ironically, she had little interest in commercial music before landing the job as singer with the

band, a job she heard about from a fellow student. Dolores is a past pupil of the Scoil A (*Lán Gaellige*) in Laurel Hill Convent. And prior to the band's signing up with Island, she had promised her parents to go to college within a year if the notoriously fickle music scene did not take off for them. Instead, it's an unconventional life ahead for the young band, who are due to release a four-track EP next week and an album in the New Year.

Ms O'Riordan is also the principal songwriter for The Cranberries, and draws a lot of her inspiration from home and family, even writing one in Irish for her grandfather.

Shannon Rescue misses Lottery for third time

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

MEMBERS of Limerick District Marine Search and Rescue who personally guaranteed £10,000 to purchase a new boat, have had their application for lottery funding turned down for the third time.

The decision was sharply criticised by Mr Ger Fahy PRO and founder member of the unit, this Wednesday. "The demands on our services have increased steadily since we were founded in 1986. And with the Treaty 300 celebrations, this year, has been a particularly busy one."

"Our members are providing a voluntary service and as well as that they have paid up to £1,000 out of their own pockets to equip themselves."

"We do not shirk our responsibilities. We go out in all weathers. Both the Gardaí and the Fire Brigade would vouch for that. In the last week alone we have retrieved two bodies," he said.

"We are doing the work that a government body should be doing. And I think we did merit consideration for inclusion in this year's grants," he said.

Because of their pressing financial needs, Mr Fahy



A short sharp shower caused something of a traffic jam at a shopping centre exit at the weekend.

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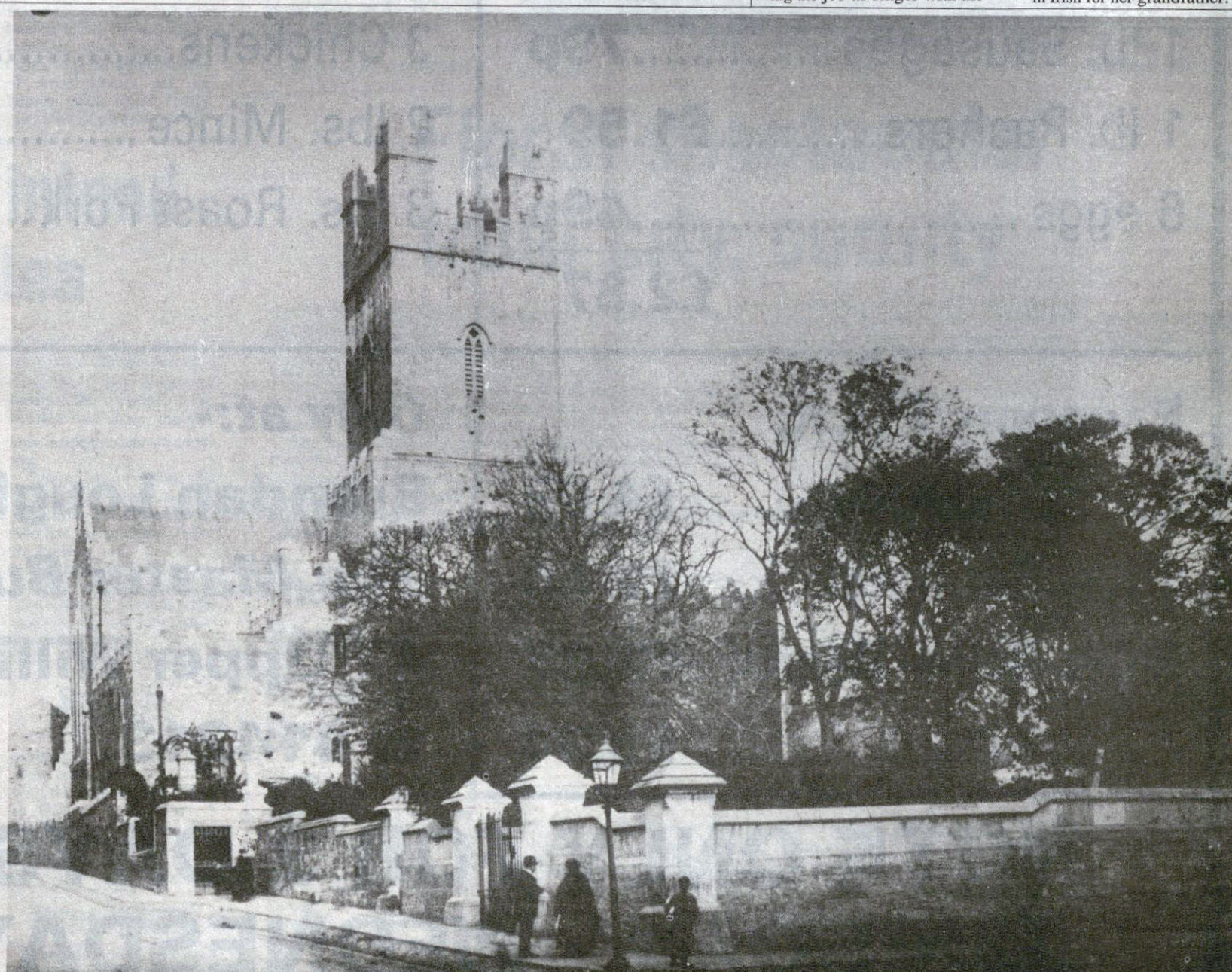


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This picture is a hundred years old and shows a very recognisable St Mary's Cathedral. But it shows more. It shows two gates which no longer exist. The smaller, covered gate can still be made out, but there is no sign of the large gate beside the man and woman in picture. That gate was blocked off in the early years of this century - but the piers were left in place. Those are the piers which have been relocated by Civic Trust to a point on the extreme right of picture to provide a new East Gate, an access from Merchant's Quay.

Retrial is requested

Limerick Trades Council are backing a call for an appeal or re-trial for Peter Pringle, a man jailed in 1980 for his part in the shooting dead of a garda.

He is serving a 40 year sentence, and contends that he would not have been convicted by a jury.

Pringle, from Galway, was arrested two weeks after the shooting dead of Garda Henry Byrne during a bank raid in Roscommon on July 7, 1980. He was convicted when fibres found in a getaway car matched the fibres of his jersey.

Pringle wrote to Limerick Trades Council from Portlaoise Prison, calling on them to support his call for an appeal.

"All I ask is for a full and fair trial. All I seek is justice, and the restoration of my rights," he wrote.

After circulating his letter, the council decided to back his call for a re-examination of the case.

Waste Disposal

Cllr John Ryan was informed by Mayor Kemmy at City Council that a special meeting will be held to discuss waste disposal before the end of October.

Plans for restaurant

Plans for a restaurant on the first floor of the old Franciscan Hall Sarsfield Street, maybe inspected at City Hall.

The applicant is Mr Hameed Majid, 8 Norbiton Hill, Raheen.