

# Autographs A Civil War Memoir

By Neil Sharkey

My father John Sharkey was born in 44 Gladstone Street Clonmel in 1900. Some years before that his father had established a watchmaking and jewellery business at that address. This had prospered and the family came from very modest origins to what could be described as being members of the emerging Catholic middle class. My father was educated in England but like many young men of the period was caught up in the heady events post 1916. He joined Sinn Fein initially and was subsequently enrolled as a volunteer in Clonmel in 1919. He served at first as Company Intelligence Officer, and by 1922 was Intelligence Officer of the Third Tipperary Brigade. He was closely associated with Dinny Lacy, Dan Breen and the others of the period and, in addition to his intelligence duties, took numerous photographs of the people and actions of the those times. Many of these were reprinted in the Tipperary Historical Journal (1995).

After the *de facto* ending of the Civil War my father was arrested in July 1923. He had been hiding in the house of Frank Loughman who later was a long serving Fianna Fail TD for Tipperary South. He was held originally in Kilkenny jail but like thousands of other 'soldiers of the legion of the rearguard' ended up in the big 'Tintown' internment camp in the Curragh, Co. Kildare.

An autograph book that my father kept during the period of his internment has survived and it is this that is the main subject of this article. Nowadays such books are synonymous with obtaining signatures of the famous or those of the so-called 'celebrities'. In this earlier period autograph books were something that your friends or acquaintances signed and wrote in usually with some kind of dedication or comment.

My father must have asked to have the blank book sent on to him as there are no entries other than those involved in Tintown. It is a small (A5) leather bound book with pink, blue and white unlined pages with gold-leaf edges. Inside the front cover there is a sticker '*J Sharkey, Jeweller and Optician, Clonmel – The House for Kodak Supplies*'

On the first page in my father's handwriting is 'John Sharkey, Glencar, Clonmel' which was the family home after his marriage in the 1930s. The entries then follow.

The spread of dates for the entries are from early October 1923 to April 1924. The majority of these are clustered around October, the period of the hunger strike, another cluster is dated on the days leading up to Christmas Day of 1923 with the balance in January and February 1924 ending in a solitary April 1924 entry.

Of the hundred or so entries eighteen are name only with the balance having dedications of one sort or another. As can be seen the greatest number have patriotic or 'the cause' references. The names of recently dead comrades or well-known individuals –

Liam Mellows, Dinny Lacy, MacSweeney, Pearse and others – are invoked. Other themes are the hunger strike of October – which my father always said collapsed after 12-15 days. There is a large poetry or humorous section, some dealing with the boredom of imprisonment. Finally, there are a few in Irish although many more have some Irish reference such as names or dates in Irish.

Another entry of interest is the layout sketch of the members of No. 18 Hut, Camp 3.

What does this survival on Civil War internment tell us or is there any merit in publishing it? I suggest that it gives an insight into the character and minds of an all-Ireland cross section of those involved in the historic happenings of the period. It conveys very well the feeling of despair and discouragement at the defeat of what they considered a just cause. Finally, the list of names and addresses is a database of sorts and by its publication may afford the possibility that relatives and families can benefit from a small insight into the lives of those who in their day served the cause of Ireland as they saw it.

***Neil Sharkey, Ellagh, Headford, Co. Galway***



Water colour of Curragh scene entitled:  
*From the range side of the fence. 'Sunset on the Curragh' WJH*

Tintown 1, Curragh Co. Kildare  
23rd December, 1923  
**Joseph Stynes**, Phibsboro, Dublin.

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*Tá Gráinne Mhaol at teacht thar sáile  
Óglaig ármnta léi mar gárda  
Gaidheal féin gan Franncaigh, gan  
Spáinnnaigh  
Is a rúagauig ar na Gallaibh  
(Pádraic MacPiarasaig)*

**Pádraog Ó Cathain**  
Baillé an Stáin  
10 Deireadh Fogmhar 1923

---

No. 2 Hut,  
No. 3 Camp  
Tintown.  
13th October, 1923

*Tis better to go down in honour  
Than to live in shame*  
**S Ua Docartaigh.**

---

*In loving memory of my dear comrade  
**Staff Capt. Joe Healy**  
4th Western Division. Killed June 1923  
He died that Ireland might be free.*

**Joe Evans**  
2nd Brigade, 4th Western Division

---

No. 2 Hut,  
No. 3 Camp,  
Tintown.  
14th October, 1923.

*He who is afraid to die  
Is not fit to live.*

**Eamonn Ó Cinnede**  
Drinaghan, Enniscrone, Co Sligo.

---

*The great Irishman is the  
Irishman of great faith*

**Frank Gallagher**  
Tintown A No 1,  
Curragh.

---

Tintown 1  
23rd December, 1923  
*Xmas eve in Tintown 'One'  
Hope by New Year w'll be gone.*

**P. J. Connell**  
Hut B,  
Bothán 2, Baile Stáin, Deire Foghmair 15

---

*Wert thou all that I wish thee  
Great, glorious and Free  
First flower of the earth  
And first gem of the sea  
I own I would hail thee with happier brow  
But oh – could I love thee more deeply  
than now.*

**Pádraig Ó Conaill**  
Magh-Ealla

---

B Huts Tintown No 1  
Curragh  
December 23/24

*Be it ever so humble  
There's no place like home*

**Mark Sinnott**  
Ballyclerand, Davidstown,  
Enniscorthy,  
Wexford.

---

Bothan a Dó, Campa a Trí, Curragh Deire  
Fobhair 15

*Tis not those who inflict most but  
Those who endure most will conquer  
(Terance MacSweeney)*

**N. Ó Gallachúir**  
An Traith, Bunnahowna, Béal-an-Átha,  
Co. Mhuigeo

In loving memory of Denis Lacy  
killed in action, February 1923,  
in the Glen of Aherlow. RIP

*They've laid him away near his own  
native home*

*That courageous hero so gay  
In his dear native mountains  
no more will he roam*

*His body lies cold in the clay  
Sad were their hearts as they  
closed in his grave*

*And freely the tear drops did fall  
He died for his country –  
how gladly he gave his life –  
that is sweet to us all*

**Seán MacGearalt**  
Dún Mór, Portláirge

---

Hut 18, Tintown Camp 3

*Liberty thou brightest treasure in the crown  
of earthly joys*

*Source of gladness, soul of pleasure,  
all delights towards you are toys,  
None but prisoners like me know the worth  
of liberty.*

*If hell has no fury like a woman's scorn a  
friend turned enemy is almost as  
venomous.*

**Vol. Cionn Mac Murcadha**  
18 Garville Avenue,  
Rathgar, Co. Dublin

---

Hut 2, No 3 Camp,  
Tintown.  
15th October, 1923.

*War and love are both Compeers  
War shed blood and love sheds tears  
War has spears and love has darts  
War breaks heads and love breaks hearts*

**Antoin De Búrca**  
Enniscrone, Co Sligo.

---

*Love many trust few  
Always paddle your own canoe*

24th October, 1923.

**Joseph H Lahiff**  
Flat 18,  
No. 3 Camp,  
Tintown.

---

Tintown  
17th October, 1923.  
No 3

*Think of me when this you see  
An do not prove unkind  
Although -----  
I'll always think of thee*

**M. M. McDermott**  
Offaly No. 1 Brigade

---

Christmas Day in a Stable

1923  
B Hut, Tintown 1

*A prisoner I am,  
and a die-hard I'll be  
'Till the hair of my head  
grows down to my knee.*

**Seán Alward**  
Cashel Road, Co. Tipp  
Clonmel.

---

17th October, 1923.  
Long Hut,  
(Free State for Hay Barn)  
Tin-Town (No. 5)  
*"Where ere I roam My Island home  
Tipperary Hills for me"*

**Seán Alward**  
Batt 5  
3rd Tipp Bgde.

---

**A. M. McDonnell,**  
11280 Tintown, No. 2. 7th January, 1924

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**Gearóid Ó Beolaín,**  
Tintown, No. 2 Camp. 7th January, 1924

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**Eámonn Donnelly,**  
Tintown, No. 2 7th January, 1924

---

**Davis H Robinson,**  
Tintown, No. 2, Curragh, Co. Kildare  
7th January, 1924

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**Labhras Ó Braoin**  
Tiobrad Arainn 9th January, 1924

---

18th October, 1923  
D Coy. Long Hut  
Tintown No. 3

*Tis Past. Who covered with glory  
The Path of the vistor may be  
Yet accursed is the match of That Glory  
That threads oer the hearts of the Free*

**Michéal Mac Peadair,**  
5th Battn. 3rd Tipp Bde.

---

Tintown No 3 Camp  
Long Hut  
18.10.23

*One man cannot resist a  
multitude, nor one army conquer  
countless legions, but not all the  
armies of all the empires of the  
earth can crush the spirit  
of one true man.*

**S. De Búrca**  
Cath a Cúig, Tiobraid Arainn

---

Tintown No. 3 Camp,  
Curragh  
1st Day of Hunger Strike

*Tis not those who inflict most  
But those who can endure most  
Will conquer*

**Pádraig Uá Broin**  
Battn. 2, North Wexford

---

Tintown Camp No. 3  
Curragh  
19th October, 1923

*Tis all very well to be pleasant  
When life flows along like a song  
But the man worth while is the man  
Who can smile  
When everything goes dead wrong*

**James Morrissey**  
Battn 2, Waterford Bde.  
1st Day of hunger Strike

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Tintown Camp  
The Curragh  
19th October, 1923

Hunger strike for unconditional release commenced last night as 12 O clock. The watchword is 'Freedom or Death'. Should it be the former please god we shall live to see it applied to Ireland or perish in our efforts to raise her among the nations of the earth; should it be the latter then we shall only follow the countless thousands of Irish martyrs who sacrificed their lives that the nations might live. Let us remember the immortal lines:

*There's yet a world where souls are free  
Where tyrants taint not nature's bliss  
If only death its opening be  
Ah! Who would live a slave in this?*

Mise do dearbhathair sa cúis

**Eamonn Macbhloscaigh**

---

Tintown No 3 Camp  
Curragh

*Jail is a place of care  
Where no man can thrive  
A touchstone to try a friend  
A grave for man alive  
Sometimes a place of right  
Sometimes a place of wrong  
Sometimes a place-----  
With honest men among.*

**Frank Crowley**

---

Hay Barn  
Tintown, No. 3 Camp  
(5th day of Hunger Strike)  
*2ysur 2ys ub (an eye) thinkur 2ys r me*  
Yours truly  
**Jerome Davin**, Rosegreen  
3rd Tipperary Brigade

---

9th January, 1924.

**Sean Mitten**,  
No. 2, Appian Way, Dublin  
Present address  
Tintown Camp No. 2

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*We are not in this fight for any  
materials profit or comfort but  
because every fine instinct of  
man demands that man may be free.*  
(Terence MacSweeney)

23rd October 1923  
and fifth day of hunger strike for release  
**Frank Crowley**

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Bothán 18  
Baile Stáin, Cill Dara.  
24th October, 1923

**Robt. De Coer** 1454  
I.C.A

1461 Prisoner of the British 1916 Frongoch  
1454 Prisoner of the dupes 1923.

*The fight for freedom once begun  
Though oft baffled is ever one  
If I could grasp the fires of hell in my hands  
I would hurl them in the face of the British  
Empire*

(John Mitchell)

*The cause of Ireland is the cause of  
Labour  
The cause of Labour is the cause of  
Ireland*

(Jim Connolly)

---

Tintown, No, 3 Camp, Curragh  
**Seán Lehane**,  
Scart, Bantry  
12th February, 1924.

---

**Thomas Barry**, Glanworth, Co. Cork  
15th January, 1924.

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*Mas fada and oidhce tíochoaidh an lá  
deiriadh  
Life springs from death and from the  
graves  
of patriot men and women spring living  
nations*

(P.H. Pearse)

**Seosaimh Mac Dailbhead**  
Tintown 3  
Currach Chill Dara.  
25th October, 1923.

*An feachtmainh lá de'n scaile*

---

Seventh day of the hunger strike  
Hut 18, Tintown,  
No. 3 Camp

*To be loyal to his cause is the finest tribute  
that can be paid to any man.*

(T MacSweeney)

**P. Maher** 1060

D-heda

---

B Hut, Tintown, No. 1 Curragh  
Late 18 hut, No. 3 Camp 1

*We're here today  
I wonder will we be gone tomorrow*

**Chas. J Kavanagh**

Ranelagh, Co. Dublin,  
23rd December, 1923.

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*Here is to the grave that's six feet deep  
Where Allen Larkin and O'Brien  
Are asleep if they are asleep I wish  
Them rest with the three leaved  
Shamrock on their breast*

**Seaghan Ó Muinladhle**

Carrowmore, Erris Barnatra  
Ballina, Co. Mayo.

---

Tintown, No. 3 Int. Camp  
Curragh.  
19th December, 1923.

*God! What a world,  
If men in streets and mart  
Felt that some kindship in the human heart  
Which makes them, in the face of flame  
and flood,  
Rise to the meaning of true Brotherhood  
With best wishes for your speedy release  
and a happy and prosperous Christmas  
and New Year*

**Liam Ó Braogáin**

Gaillimh.

---

25th October, 1923

Tintown No. 3

*In the indomitable soul, lies  
The assurance of ultimate victory*  
(T. MacSweeney)

**J. Grogan**, Hut 18

(Seventh day of hunger strike)

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Tintown No. 3

Curragh.

29th November, 1923.

*Failure when sublime is not without  
Its purpose*

**Hugh Cully**

Black Bull,  
Drogheda Co. Louth.

---

Tintown No. 3 Camp

18th October, 1923.

*'Tis nobler thus to thus to perish thus to  
wipe away the tears  
With distant call of freedom  
Echoing in their dying ears  
Than to live as fawning minions  
Of a sneering conqueror's race  
With the changing chains of bondage  
Telling of our deep disgrace.*

**Gerald O'Neill**,

3 Tipp Bdg.

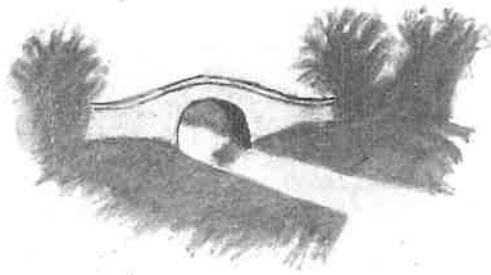
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*It is easier for the slave  
To hug his chains  
Than to try and break them*  
(The O Rahilly)

**Joseph O'Daly**

Hut 18, Camp 3, Tintown  
25th October, 1923.

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*Pencil drawing of typical  
West of Ireland scene.*

**F Crowley, Hut 10 Tintown Curragh**

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Bothán 18 Uimhir 100  
Baile Stain, An Currach  
24 Deireadh Fomhair 1923.

*The fools, the fools, the fools  
They have left us our Fenian dead  
And while Ireland holds any  
One of those graves  
Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.*  
(P.H. Pearse)

**Thomás Ó Céanain**

Sraid Siopa, Droichead Atha  
(Seachtmhar lá de'n sraibbidh)

---

14th December, 1923  
No. 10 Hut, No. 3 Tintown

*O! Solitude where are the charms  
That sages have seen in thy face  
Better dwell in the mid'st of alarms  
Than 'be confined' in this horrible place.*

**P. Fitzgerald,**  
Youghal, Co Cork. *Lest we Forget!*

---

Tintown Camp

*There was an owl that lived in an old oak  
The more he heard the less he spoke  
The less he spoke the more he heard  
So take a lesson from this old bird*

**J. Greene, Dublin**

---

Tintown 3,  
December 1923.

*Sacred causes must needs be always  
At war with the world, Lest by making  
Peace right be wedded to wrong.*

----- to God I love thee  
Dear Erin my native land

**Domhnall Ó Coileán**

---

Tintown No 1  
29th December, 1924.

*Oh! How could man die braver  
Than facing fearful odds  
Like Brughha who died for Ireland  
And the glory of his cause*

**J. Barry, Co. Cork.**

---

Tintown 2,  
Curragh Camp

*"Hail to the mind that plans for a nations  
future fight  
Hail to the heart that dares in the hallowed  
causes of right  
Hail to the hand that strikes when the time  
for strife has come  
Hail to the voice that speaks when slaves  
with fear are dumb."*

**Seamus Brisbane**  
Charleville, Co. Cork.

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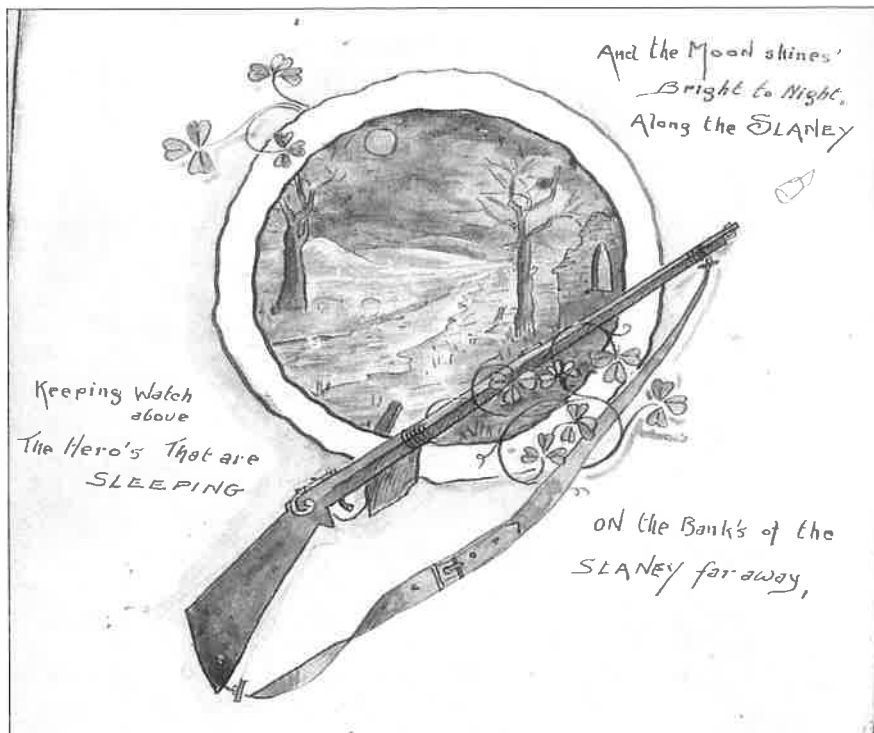
1st November, 1923  
Hut 19.  
14th Day of hunger strike

*Long live the Republic*

**James E. McKeon**  
1 Coy 3rd Batt, Dublin Brigade  
Na Fianna Eireann  
Avondale, 117 Strand Road  
Sandymount, Co. Dublin

---





(A water colour of a river scene with a rifle and shamrocks.)

*Clú gan tairbhe búan  
Clú gan tairbhe búan  
Is dionéir dén gaoith é  
Rud deireann bean le cluain*

**Pádraig Ó Catháin**, (Ceathairleach)  
Príomh-Ceathair and Poblacta  
Sibeirsa an Saoirstáit  
Baile an Stáin Uimhir a 1  
23-12-1923

**Todd Andrews**, Dublin  
Tintown 2,  
12th January, 1924

Tintown No 1 Camp 23/12/23  
*Men perish, but principles Live.*

**Paddie Doorley**,  
Lacka, Shinrone, Co. Tipp.

Tintown 3 Camp  
3rd October, 1923.

*Ballyseedy's pride I  
Ne'er espied all in my  
Rambling Days*

**Paddy Clifford**,  
Ballymacelligott, Tralee, Kerry.

Tintown No. 3  
30th October, 1923

*We pledge to Ireland our love  
And to England our undying hate  
(English rule in Ireland)*

**Sean Goulding**  
12th Day of Hunger Strike



Hut No. 10  
Tintown Camp, No 3, Curragh.

**Daniel Tynan,**  
B Coy. 1st Batt.,  
Dublin Brigade (No 1)  
Late 'C Wing, Mountjoy

Tintown Camp  
7th Day of hunger strike  
*How can man die bitter  
Thann facing fearful odds  
The ashes of his fathers  
And the temple of his gods*

**Harry Bushe**  
Drangan, Co. Tipp.

No. 18, Hut No. 3, Camp Tintown.  
the 8th day of the Hunger Strike

(This is a drawing of the hut which is a long rectangular building showing the outline of the hut. Drawings to represent the 80 odd beds are lined up all along the two long sides. The name of the occupant of each bunk is written in and, in the majority of cases, written beside is the town or county of origin.)

## LIST OF OCCUPANTS

Blank bunk  
Jas. Duffy, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.  
Alf White, Dublin.  
Bob De Coer, Dublin.  
Jas Carney, Co. Meath.  
J. Masterton, Co. Meath.  
C. P. Burke, Drogheda.  
Jas. (Swill) Morgan, Drogheda.  
Tom Keenau, Drogheda.  
Larry Grogan, Drogheda.  
Paddy Maher, Drogheda.  
Christy Gerrard.  
Charlie Kavanagh.  
Andy Dowling.  
Eddie Duke.  
Donal Collins.  
Joseph Daly.  
Paddy Kelly, Dublin.  
Jimmy Kelly, Dublin.  
Shorty Farrington.  
Micky Dunne, Derry City.  
John Meehan, Kilcar, Co. Donegal.  
Charles McFadden, Gweedore.  
John Doherty, Carrick, Donegal.  
Paddy Jenkinson, Finglas, Co. Dublin.  
Andy Murphy, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.  
McMahon, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.  
John Kealy, Celbridge, Kildare.  
Joe Doyle, Co. Dublin.  
Geo. Foreman, Dublin.  
Jim Finnegan, Dublin.  
Paddy Reilly, Collinstown. Westmeath.  
Henry Fairlough, Drogheda.  
McDermott.  
Peter Leonard, Wicklow.  
Thos. McDermott, Longford.  
Dan Leinahan, Dublin.  
Paddy McCallion, Derry City.  
Andy Glennon.  
Scan Goulding.  
Frank Crawley, Shankill, Bray.  
Patrick Clifford, Kerry.  
Frank Loughman, Clonmel.  
P. J. O'Connell, Cork.  
Joe Kelly, Offaly.  
Sean Leggett, Bray.

Joseph Lahiff, Dublin.  
 John McFeely, Co. Tyrone.  
 Michael Holmes, Glasgow.  
 James McDonald, Dundalk.  
 John Crosbie, Cloggorm, Kilbeggan.  
 Thomas Crosbie, Cloggorm, Kilbeggan.  
 Briney Radcliffe, Ward, Co. Dublin.  
 Joe Carlon, Finglas, Co. Dublin.  
 John O'Hara, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.  
 Tommy Newell, Headford, Co. Galway.  
 Batty Tighe, Enniscrone, Co. Mayo.  
 John Murray, Drogheda.  
 Barney Murray, Drogheda.  
 Michael Morgan, Fieldtown, B'kenny Dro.  
 Leo Fuller, Marsh Road, Drogheda.  
 Jerry A. McConville, Duleek St., Drogheda.  
 John Lynch, Mornington, Co. Meath.  
 Frank Quinn, Milltown, Co. Galway.  
 Tommy Price, Kilasser, Co. Mayo.  
 Paddy Dunne, Dublin.

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Tintown, No. 3 Camp.  
 Tenth day of hunger strike

*I do not know nor can I tell how this fall  
 came about  
 But one thing that I do know well I'm anx-  
 ious to get out  
 I know those clouds will break some day  
 though dark they now appear  
 And when this hunger strike is o'er yours  
 truly won't be here.*

**M. Creavan**, Laffansbridge,  
 3rd Tipp Bge. 28/10/23

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Tintown No. 3 Camp

**Matt Ryan** is my name  
 Fethard is my Station  
 Cloneen is my native place  
 And Heaven my expectation.

10th day of hunger strike.

**Matt Ryan**, Cloneen, Clonmel,  
 28th October, 1923

---

**Patrick McCallion**

Tin Town No 3, Curragh  
 Good Luck. 7th November, 1923

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Tintown Camp, 28th October  
 Tenth day of hunger strike

*Remember me when this you see  
 Remember me when far away  
 And don't forget when far away  
 And don't forget the hunger strike in  
 Tintown*

**Richard Purcell,**

Breanarmore, Nine Mile House,  
 Carrick-on-Suir.

---

23rd December, 1923

No. 1 Camp, Tintown

*Live clean. Fight clean  
 And play the game*

**A. Grennan**, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

---

*An Seadh lá gan biadh*

**Séamus Ó Riain,**

Tintown No. 3  
 24th October, 1923

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Tintown 2.  
 21st January, 1924.

*He fought the fight  
 For Ireland's Right  
 By Slaney's Rolling Tide*

**Phil Lennon's Name is known to fame  
 Through Ireland far and wide.**

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Tintown, Hut 18, 1  
 st November, 1923, Late 19 Hut

*Trees may wither  
 Flowers will die  
 Friends may forget you  
 But never will I.*

**W Magee**, 55 Fontenoy St., Dublin

---

No. 3

**Francis Carthy.**

23rd December, 1923.

No. 3 Camp

Tintown, Curragh - 14th November, 1923

*You know your enemy  
Beware of your friend***Paddy O'Malley**, Hut 19St. Kevins, 7 Iona Drive, Glasnevin  
Hut 18, Camp 3, Tintown.  
28th October, 1923*I think of all your long dark throlls  
Your mylers brave and true  
And dark apart the tears that start  
We must not sigh for you dear land  
We must not sigh for you.***James Morgan**, Lestoke, Drogheda.**Seosaimh Ó Concubhair**

(Joe O Connor)

Tintown camp, 8th January, 1924.

**Maitiú Ó Ceallaigh**

Tintown Camp, 8th January, 1924.

1st November, 1923. Tintown No. 3

*'Tis better to go down In honour  
Than live a life of shame.***Paddy Hoban**No. 92 Hut 19, Tintown No. 3  
Curragh, Co. Kildare.**Paddy Hoban**, 26 Parnell St., Dublin.*He comes from Enniscorthy  
He's feared by all the people  
There's nothing safe that's near him  
But the cock upon the steeple***Myle Roban.***'Tis better to dwell in freedoms hall  
In the cold damp cell by smoldering wall  
Than to bow the head or bend the knee  
In the highest place of slavery*

1st November 1923

**James Hannigan**,Hut 19, Tintown No. 3, Curragh..  
6 Gardiner Row, Dublin.

1st November, 1923

*Friends of Ireland are few.***John Duff**,No. 798 Hut 19, Tintown 33  
Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare.

40 Lr. Dominick St., Dublin.

9th January, 1924

**Joseph McHenry**, Hut 10

Tintown II, Curragh.

Tintown No. 1 Camp,  
23rd December, 1923Give Champagne to your real friends  
And real pain to your sham friends**Mícheál Flannery**,

Shinrone, Co. Tipp.

**Frank Loughman**, 1944

[unexplained]

Tintown No. 1

29th December, 1923

*When I am dead  
And in my grave  
And all my bones  
are rotten  
This little book  
Will tell the tale  
When I am quite  
forgotten.***D. Duggan**, Bandon, Co. Cork.

Tintown No. 3, No 16 Hut  
21st December, 1923

*Heres to the man with the torn coat  
And has not the money to mend it  
But to hell with the man that  
Has got the money and has not  
The heart to spend it.*

**W. Kinahan**, Moate, Co. Westmeath.

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*We are here to answer for them  
We have followed where they led  
To obey our Rebel Leaders  
To avenge the murdered dead.*

**Michael McMahon**, Tralee.

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Hut 18, Camp 3, Tintown, Curragh.

*They call me Jack of all trades  
For master of none am I  
Yet who can whittle a stick so well  
Or mimic the seagulls cry  
I'll shoe you a horse like a regular smith  
I'll ride you a horse as well  
I'll talk like a conjurer, sing you a song  
Or teach all your babies to spell!*

*They call me Jack of all Trades  
For master of none am I  
Yet I am the happiest happy-go-lucky  
Who ever lived under the sky!*

645 Maryboro Prison,  
3353 Tintown Internment Camp.

**C.P. Burke**, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

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8th April, 1923

*You should stay in jail  
You got so fat and strong  
You looked like another man  
Drinking water so long*

[Unsigned]

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Tintown No. 3, 2nd December, 1923  
**Hugh Crilly**, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

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19th December, 1923  
No. 3 Camp, Tintown, The Curragh.

*If a pair of red lips  
Were upturned to your own  
And no one to gossip about it  
Would you pray for endurance  
To leave them alone  
Maybe you would . . .  
. . . But I doubt it.*

**Jim Murphy**, Cork City.  
Hut 18.

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Tintown, No. 1 Camp,  
Curragh, Co. Kildare.

**Joe Denis Leonard**,  
No. 10, Eyre Street, Galway City.

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Tin Town No. 1.  
Curragh, Co. Kildare.  
23rd December, 1923

Soldiers of Liberty, Legion of the Rearguard:  
The Republic can no longer be defended  
successfully by your arms. Do not let sorrow  
overwhelm you. Your efforts and the  
sacrifices of your dead comrades in this  
forlorn hope will surely bear fruit. You have  
saved this nation's honour and kept open  
the road to independence.

May God guard every one of you and give  
to our country, in all times of need, sons  
who will love her as dearly and devotedly as you

E. De Valera,  
To all Volunteers. 24 May 1923

**Frank \_\_\_\_\_**, Waterford

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Mí na Nodhlaigh, 23, 1923, Tintown No. 1.

*Last night I left No 3 Camp  
For just one hundred yards tramp  
And I am still on the road  
Slowly marching home; but  
I cannot say yet when  
I shall arrive at my own  
Destination –  
I expect to be home yet.  
Mise le meas mór*

**Ó Ionáin,**  
Ros Mhic Treoin, Loch Garmáin

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**Seán Ó Concubhair,**  
'Blimey'  
Tintown No. 1, Late 3 Camp  
Sunday, December 23rd, 1923.

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**Séorsa Óg Ó Pluingcéad,**  
9th January, . 1-24  
Tintown No2 Camp

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**Tommy Ryan,**  
3rd Tipp. Bde.,  
486 Hut 5 Tintown No2 Camp  
Jan 10th 1923 (?)

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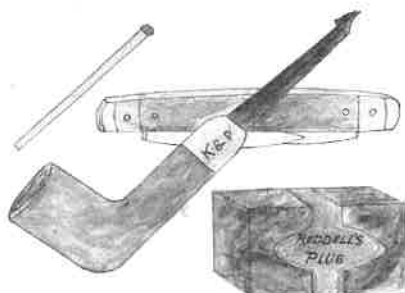
Liam Mellows Last Message

*My comrades in Mountjoy  
May god give you courage  
Fortitude and wisdom  
To suffer and endure all  
For Irelands sake*

An Poblacht Abú

**Jim Kelly,** Ardee Street, Dublin City.

*TINTOWN II CAMP  
5/2/24*



*THE PRISONER'S  
FRIEND*

*Myles Roban*

Tintown 2 Camp, 5th February, 1924

**Myles Roban**

---

20th December, 1923  
Tintown No, 3 Camp

*Live Clean, Fight Clean  
An play the game*

(Liam Lynch)

**Jas. Carroll,**  
Ross House, Birr, Co. Tipp.

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# Appendix 1

(press cutting in my father's papers)

- The Nationalist July 14th 1923

## Clonmel Internees Escape

**Seven recaptured - One of the number badly injured**  
**- Two unexpected important arrests**

After a welcome period of quiet nights, Clonmel was disturbed in the early hours of this morning in ways now unpleasant, if familiar not so long ago. There were occasional reports of rifle shots, and there were – worse still – loud knockings and assaults with rifle butts in most of the principal streets. These rude disturbances of the sleeping community began at about 2 a.m. and continued, almost without a break, till 7.

Fortunately for the repose of the big majority of the inhabitants the assault on their slumbers was not a simultaneous affair; so that while the Mary Street area first received attention, it was not till 6 a.m., we were most thankful to say, that the uproar spread to Mitchell Street and Parnell Street.

When people were going to work about 8 o'clock it became public knowledge what all the night's hubbub was about.

In the very early hours of the morning over forty Irregulars in military custody at the Emmett Barracks had escaped, and the military authorities were out to recover the (temporarily) lost; hence the domiciliary visits, the armed patrols and the incidental (but happily harmless) discharge of a rifle now and again.

### **How the escape was effected**

When the first excitement of the chase for the fugitives had passed it was possible to ascertain how their sensational escape had been effected. And however much we may abhor their political – or supposed political – attitude and activities, we cannot refuse something like admiration for the skill, the patience, and the success they achieved in finding a way out.

The prisoners quarters in the Emmett Barracks are at least thirty yards from the timber-yard owned by the representatives of the late Mr. Declan O'Neill, yet this long span was successfully tunnelled without arousing the suspicion of those who were keeping watch and ward over the liberty-loving gentlemen – we mean those whose object was to regain their own freedom even (perhaps) at the expense of the freedom of the rest of us. It was not much of a tunnel they made, except so far as its length was concerned: it was only big enough for a comparatively thin man to pass through it and well-fed as the prisoners have been since their apprehension months ago forty-one of the number were able to wriggle

through to the promise of liberty which the timber-yard afforded.

The escape of the prisoners was soon noticed; the alarm was sounded, and within a very few minutes soldiers were dispatched in every direction to search for the runaways. In the timber-yard six of them were captured, and in Emmett Street John F. Cooney was found with his thigh bone broken and in great pain, having fallen from the boundary wall in an attempt to make good his escape. (Mr. Cooney, who was a battalion engineer of the Irregulars, was promptly removed to Dublin for special treatment.) All night and all day the search for the missing men had been actively pursued, but so far only the seven indicated have been taken.

### Important Arrests

But in the search, two very much and very long desired captures were made, viz. Mr. John Sharkey described as the Intelligence Officer of the '3rd Tipperary Brigade' and John Aylward, an Irregular machine-gunner and 'column leader'. Mr. Sharkey was taken on the premises of Mr. Loughman, chemist, Gladstone Street and Mr. Loughman was also placed under arrest. Mr. Aylward was taken at the residence of his parents in Cashel Road, Clonmel.

The escaping prisoners left behind in their cells their boots and stockings.

## Appendix 2

Jack Sharkey  
No. 113  
D Wing  
Kilkenny Prison

Dear May,

*I did not receive any reply to my letter sent last Friday. I was expecting to hear from someone every day. However I'll hear soon I suppose. I hope all at home are well. I saw in the Nationalist that Albert was home. It's a pity he didn't come sooner. Frank is still here with us. I was expecting him to be released every day – I don't know what they are keeping him for. He is getting on fine however.*

*The main object is to try and keep clean. I would be glad if you could send on another 'cricketshirt, piece of carbolic soap, 1lb of sugar and 1lb of butter. Don't forget to send cigs. often they are a lot scarcer here than in the country. Tell Peg to write – I would write to her. . . .*

LARGE SECTION OF THE LETTER BLOTTED OUT BY BLUE CENSOR'S INK

*I'm wanting so many things that I must write home again this week. It's so bad here to be without a letter as it was when we were away at school. Send also a pencil in the next parcel. Make up the parcel in a wooden or strong cardboard box, as it is the only way of keeping things together. In my last letter I asked for razor, soap etc.*

*Excuse the scribble. I'm writing this under difficult conditions. Don't forget to write soon. Letters and parcels are the only things we look forward to.*

Your loving brother

**Jack.**



## Appendix 3

- *The Nationalist* January 14th 1924, N.L.I.

### More prisoners to be released

More prisoners are to be released at the end of this week or early next week. Those to be released are the prisoners arrested under the Public Safety Act (Powers of arrest and Detention) which expires on the 1st prox. New permanent legislation is in contemplation to deal with offences under the head of what might be called treason. Existing statutes in this respect are obsolete.

## Appendix 4

From the Bureau of Military History,  
Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin.

Research at the Military History Archives showed my father's name on a January 1924 list of those recommended for release – however written in pen against it was 'not recommended'. An earlier list of 18 December 1923 shows that his brother Gerard Sharkey was released that week. His name next appears on a list dated 22 April 1924 headed '*The release of the following prisoners is held up pending a further report from the Civic Guard*'. Finally, on a list of prisoners released on week ending 2 May 1924 he is shown as being released on 28 April 1924. In later years he described a reception committee and a band at Clonmel Rail Station to welcome him and those others released. Alas, the *Nationalist* did not deem it worthy of a mention. Indeed going through the issues of that period it is notable after the truly historic event of the gaining of national independence, how quickly this paper, and others I'm sure, reverted to the local and ordinary. Cattle prices and headlines such as 'death of noted cleric' were once more the stuff of everyday news!

**Acknowledgements:** I should like to acknowledge valuable help from the late Marcus Bourke for reading an early version of the script and for his unfailing encouragement. I thank also the staff of the National Library, the National Archives and most especially Comdt Laing and his staff at the Bureau of Military History. Finally, thanks to Marianne ten Cate for reading and correcting the manuscript.