

PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRISON OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

PRISON OFFICER

Issue 12 - Spring 2018



**Prison Officers try all modes of transport
to get to work during Storm Emma**

EDITORIAL



Colleagues,

Welcome to the spring 2018 edition of the Prison Officer Newsletter. The front page of this newsletter illustrates the measures that Prison Officers took to get to work during Storm Emma.

Red Weather Alert Recognition

Great credit is due to all members that made it into work during the very difficult conditions arising from Storm Emma. For this example of dedication and professionalism a decision was made by the General Council Staff Panel to list all issues relating to Red Weather Alerts for the attention of the Civil Service General Council. This matter was raised at the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 28th March 2018, in order to pursue a protocol for all staff affected. In tandem with this approach we have a claim prepared for submission if this protocol is unsuccessful. Our outgoing President, Mr Stephen Delaney, raised the matter of the Gardai securing two days special leave at our Annual Delegate Conference outlining to the Minister that we should receive terms no less favourable. We remain confident that this matter will be resolved including issues relating to Staff who attended for work when Red Weather Alerts are in operation. It is very important that

a protocol is put in place so everyone is aware of where they stand in the future when these unusual events are taking place.

Rent Allowance inclusion into pay

On the first of March this year the rent allowance was amalgamated into pay. There was also arrears of rent allowance and operational allowance included in that cheque. The Prison Service are presently working on the arrears of annualised hours due since the 1st of July last year. This represents a massive step forward for our Union in that it eliminates an area of vulnerability that could be exploited if/when the next downturn happens. As explained last year following national pay talks the inclusion of rent allowance into pay also reflects a substantial body of work that involved our interaction with other unions and the sharing of information with our colleagues in the Fire Service and the Gardai stretching all the way back to a Labour Court decision in 2014. Our Unions efforts in securing this significant award should not be underestimated and underlines the forward thinking that is a cornerstone of our organisation. A few naysayers are only too glad to give the credit to others for this achievement but sadly management have always had their supporters within our ranks but thankfully they are still easily spotted.

Justice Departmental Council

We are still putting through claims in relation to the various pieces of work that require recognition. These are being processed in the normal fashion and their progress is relayed at every NEC. The claims currently progressing are ACO Detail, Environmental allowance for OSG Dog Handlers in Portlaoise/ Midlands, Service Officer Allowance in Limerick and the Red Weather Alert Recognition mentioned above.

Sick Leave

There was a new sick leave circular introduced on 31st March 2018 (Circular 05/2018) following engagement with the Public Services Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. There have been some improvements to the Critical Illness Protocol (CIP) in relation to guidance on the application of management discretion in the granting of the CIP as well as extending the relevant period covering paid sick leave under the protocol. These changes are welcome as it firstly standardises the items for consideration by management in exercising discretion for granting CIP and also extends the 12 month relevant period to when

the officer returns to work. Also it allows 'ordinary' sick to be counted during this period where previously it was solely for the illness that CIP had been granted for.

Overcrowding and the Training Unit

We are again at another period of overcrowding unfortunately. The constant blight on our working lives for 20 years has returned. It appears that the job of bringing mattresses to cells and warehousing prisoners is upon us again. Meanwhile the Training Unit remains closed. It is for this reason that Stephen also raised the reopening of the Training Unit at our Conference and highlighted to the Minister the challenges and difficulties faced by Prison Staff when dealing with the many problems associated with overcrowding.

Eugene Garrigan and Susan McEvoy RIP

In this newsletter you will find an obituary for our colleague Eugene Garrigan Wheatfield Prison. Since the last issue of the Prison Officer magazine Susan McEvoy, Mountjoy, has also passed away. A minute's silence was held for both Eugene and Susan at the National Executive Council Meeting held on the 30th January 2018. Both were staunch supporters of our union and we are all poorer for their absence.

Annual Mass

The annual remembrance mass for deceased members, former members

and families of the Irish Prison Service was held on the 12th April 2018 in St. Joseph's Church, Phibsboro. There are a number of photographs inside that show the honour guard and many of those that could attend this year.

Branch News

I thank the Branches that have contributed to this newsletter in particular Arbour Hill who submitted a historical article. I would however encourage more Branches to submit articles for inclusion in the Prison Officer magazine. Please pass on your articles through your Branch Secretary. I would also encourage members to submit articles, photos and anything of interest to be included in the summer edition of the magazine.

A Farewell to Stevo

Stephen is stepping down from his role as President and is also retiring from the Prison Service after nearly 32 years of service.

He led our organisation through some of its most difficult days when the economy crashed and also as Assistant General Secretary he was one of the lead negotiators culminating in the Annualised Hours agreement. He was tutored from an early age by his father, Stephen Snr, who was both President and General Secretary in his time. In later years he was assisted by his brother Tom who is now our General Treasurer.

Stephen has a wealth of knowledge around the Conciliation and

Arbitration scheme that served this union well. Sometimes too well as when he put in a claim for a tuck shop allowance in a prison that didn't have a tuck shop!!!

Stephen's greatest attribute though is that he has an easy friendly way about him that belies his desire to do a good turn wherever he can. In a time when it is all too easy to be cynical Stephen always tried to find a way to satisfy all stakeholders sometimes putting himself in harm's way on issues that were not of his design in a heartfelt effort to do the right thing by you our members.

We will miss him and we wish him a long and happy retirement. We may even get a drink from him before he goes!

Website and Email Access to POA Information

I cannot stress the importance for Members to sign up for information access. Any member who wishes to sign up for Website and Email Access please email admin@poa.ie and an username and password for the Members Section will be issued and your personal email address will be added to the 1,300 other Members who regularly receive updates from Headquarters. The website is now mobile friendly for quick and easy access on your smartphone.

Paul Purcell Editor

Áras an Uachtaráin 1st May 2018, the unveiling of a sculpture to commemorate the 1913 Lockout of Dublin Workers

"The Irish people will only be free, when they own everything from the plough to the stars" James Connolly.

Dublin 1913

In 1913 Dublin lacked a real industrial base and work was generally of a casual nature with poor union organisation and slave wages. A third of the city's teeming population inhabited the city's tenement slums.

Workers united and gathered to form a new union the Irish Transport and General workers Union and from its beginning the new union enunciated in its rule book a wide programme of industrial and political agitation to change society in the interests of the Irish working class.

The Bosses organised and the crunch came on 15th August, 1913 when William Martin Murphy offered the workers in the Independent's dispatch department the choice of Union or job. The now confident employers issued the infamous 'document', locking out any worker that refused to sign a pledge to disown the ITGWU

On Sunday, 31 August, the police attacked a crowd gathered to hear Larkin address them in O'Connell Street. The meeting had been banned by the authorities. Scores were injured in the baton charge and British public opinion was shocked at the scenes.

James Connolly, now co-ordinating industrial matters, drew the port of Dublin shut as 'tight as a drum' and both sides settled for a long attritional war through the winter



with the bosses relying on starvation and the workers on the simple message of 'each for all and all for each.'

The workers also began to defend themselves through the formation of the Irish Citizen Army. Intellectuals and many middle-class sympathisers rallied to the workers' side shocked at the awful conditions and horrified at the pig-headedness of the employers.

In the face of uneven odds the Lock-Out began to crumble in January 1914 as the Building Labourers' Union returned – as many others were to do – without signing the offending document.



PRISON OFFICER



Some stuck it out until May, but in the end the employers could and did claim victory as resistance collapsed. But they lacked the strength to enforce their victory, as the ITGWU survived.

1913 was, in fact, a victory drawn from the jaws of defeat. The trade union and labour movement was soon to become an essential and important part of the new southern Irish State but the battle was not won in 1913, and progress since has been uneven.

The Irish Citizen Army was formed at the height of the Dublin Lockout of 1913 to protect strikers from the police. But three years later it took part, alongside the Irish

Volunteers, in the insurrection of Easter 1916. Its leader James Connolly along with his second, Michael Mallin, executed for their part in the rising.

The ICA has therefore had a special place in left-republican history in Ireland. Connolly's writings gave voice to a socialist-republican tradition that still has adherents today while the Irish Citizen Army's participation in the insurrection apparently confirmed that, as Connolly put it, 'the cause of Labour is the Cause of Ireland'. The ICA were an armed workers' force, who believed in social as well as nation liberation and they also admitted women on equal terms to men.



Áras an Uachtaráin 1st May 2018, the unveiling of a sculpture to commemorate the 1913 Lockout of Dublin Workers



Áras an Uachtaráin 1st May 2018

From our involvement in the commemoration of the 1913 Lockout and the re-enactments of the DMP battle with strikers on Sackville Street (O'Connell Street) and the arrival of the SS Hare from Liverpool to Dublin Port, bringing food parcels to the hungry of Dublin to the formation of the Irish Citizen Army Re-enactment Group and our involvement of the National Commemoration of the Irish Citizen Army involvement in the Rising, during the National Commemorate Events in 2016, members of the Prison Officers' Association have been to the forefront of honouring the men and women who gave so much for Ireland.

On May the 1st the Irish Citizen Army Re-enactment Group were again called to participate in honouring an

Irishman, Sean O'Casey, where the President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina unveiled The Plough and the Stars, an installation in the grounds of Áras an Uachtaráin to commemorate the 1913 Lockout.

To be part of this occasion, standing amongst fellow trade union members in the uniform of the Irish Citizen Army under the flag of the workers the Plough and the Stars was very special for all involved. From the time we were invited to be part of the unveiling, we had set in place a number of plans on what we could do, but like everything, things changed and we had to improvise at the eleventh hour and rally together to make the day special. The weather forecast was for wind and rain, at least the rain stayed away.

After the unveiling the Irish Citizen Army Re-enactment



PRISON OFFICER



Group and invited guests retired to the Douglas Hyde room, where we all were treated to a speech from President Higgins.

But for us it was President Higgins' reference to the POA and the Irish Citizen Army Re-enactment Group, that brought great pride to one and all;

"To the members of the Irish Citizen Army Re-enactment Group, who emerged from the Prison Officers' Association for the centenary of the lockout and who had such an active part in the 1916 commemorations, your presence here today

has enlivened the occasion and our sincere thanks. Go raibh maith agaibh uile."

The President's words and the applause from the gathered audience was amazing.

After we were treated to Kila and Mary Coughlan singing, we adjourned to the Presidential State Rooms for refreshments and photographs with President Higgins and Sabina Higgins, the extended family of Michael Mallin, SIPTU incoming General Secretary Joe Cunningham, Bryan Murray, Colm Cronin and many more.



Áras an Uachtaráin 1st May 2018, the unveiling of a sculpture to commemorate the 1913 Lockout of Dublin Workers

Since 2013, members of the Prison Officers' Association have participated in numerous commemorative events, with many more planned over the next number of years, but our goal is to grow and become part of the 'Living History Tour' bringing the Irish Citizen Army Re-enactment Group around the country with the Battle of Ashbourne 1916 (BOACC) at military and historical events.

Colm McAuley





In Dublin City in 1913

*The boss was rich and the poor were slaves,
The women working and the children hungry,
Then on came Larkin like a mighty wave.*

An Obituary for Officer Eugene Garrigan who sadly passed away in December 2017

Eugene Garrigan served for 28 Years in the Irish Prison Service. His service was marked by his dedication, his integrity, his kindness and compassion and his sense of fairness and justice that always saw him carry out his duties as a Prison Officer in an exemplary manner. He was proud of his role as a Prison Officer, taking particular care of his uniform and he was always determined to represent the service in a professional way.

We remember too his sense of fun, his love of a joke and banter with others that made him such a popular and much loved colleague.

But most of all we remember Eugene's extraordinary capacity for kindness and his concern for those he knew were dealing with some difficulty or problem. Over the years Eugene's would routinely approach colleagues to offer support and advice, or simple words of comfort which were always heartfelt and invaluable to so many of us at times.

Our Staff Welfare Officers have spoken of the numerous times Eugene would approach them to relay his concern for a colleague and ask that they ensure that the person was ok. This exemplified Eugene Garrigan's compassion above all else, a man whose concern for others saw him helping them without the recipient ever being aware of it.

Eugene was very proud of his roots and was a proud Dublin man who loved to see his beloved Dubs do well on the football field. Those who hailed from less successful counties didn't always relish meeting Eugene on a Monday morning, particularly over recent years. We were also aware of his pride in Clondalkin and Round Towers GAA Club and he forged numerous links between Wheatfield and the local community. He organised events at Wheatfield for local pensioners and arranged for Round Towers to host training days for Wheatfield staff.

He also organised tours of Wheatfield for students from his alma mater as he called it, Moyle Park College. Another local institution that he was immensely proud of.

He would also routinely arrange for items made at Wheatfield to be donated to deserving causes in Clondalkin, even organising kindling for pensioners in his neighbourhood. His capacity for kindness and helping others remained a common theme throughout the years that Eugene spent with us.



But nothing defined the man that we knew and loved as much as the extraordinary manner in which he bore his illness. For those of us with him on that fateful morning at Wheatfield when he became ill, little did we know that would be his last day among us there. His courage and dignity and huge determination in the face of an illness that he quickly learned would prove fatal, continues to be an inspiration to us all.

His kindness and concern for others remained undiminished through his illness, even extending to comforting those of us struggling with our own sadness at his situation when we met. He continued to be a brilliant ambassador for the Irish Prison Service and amongst other things helped to arrange fundraising for some of the centres that provided such good care to him over the past two years.

We were heartened by the constant contact he maintained with us all, which in the earlier times

resulted in a tour of virtually every coffee shop in south Dublin. We would also like to thank Our Lady's Hospice at Harold's Cross for their patience in the face of the continuous line of visitors to see Eugene from the Prison Service over his last months.

On behalf of the wider Irish Prison Service, but particularly the Governor and Staff at Wheatfield, we offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to Eugene's family. Our sense of immense loss at his passing is tempered by the wonderful memories we all have of a man whose care and compassion for others will live on far beyond his passing. We said goodbye to a respected and valued colleague but most of all to a kind, caring funny man who we were all proud to call our friend.

May he rest in peace.

The Inaugural Eugene Garrigan Memorial Trophy

On Thursday Feb 22nd 2018 Wheatfield Prison took on Round Towers Clondalkin in the inaugural Eugene Garrigan Memorial Trophy which took place at Round Towers on Monastery Road Clondalkin. Eugene was a much loved officer here in Wheatfield who passed away on December 16th 2017. Eugene had a huge passion for both the GAA and the Prison Service, he was one of the nicest men you could meet, a man who made time for everyone and left a lasting impression on all his colleagues. When sounding out arranging the Annual Eugene Garrigan Memorial Trophy we were met with hugely positive feedback from the staff here in Wheatfield, especially WTO Nicolson, WTO Mullins & WTO Coyne who designed and manufactured the trophy and also to Wheatfield Catering who supplied the after match refreshments. The trophy itself is really a work of art and we couldn't have asked for better than what the lads produced.

Upon our arrival at Round Towers we had a panel of 22 players, captained by Barry O'Hanlon and the group were managed by John Wynne, Gary Kissane, Eamon Niland & Michael O'Brien. As the game threw in we couldn't help but feel a sense for apprehension when we looked at the fitness & youth of The Towers compared to the "Less Fit" jailers team, that being said our guys were determined to win this game out of respect for Eugene.

The 1st half was fairly nip & tuck with Wheatfield leading by two points at half time. The 2nd half was a much livelier affair with The Towers flying out of the blocks and taking command of the

match, however at this point Michael "The Bear in the Square" Dunne took over & with 15mins to go Wheatfield had scored 3 goals and 3 points to take the result beyond Round Towers. The game finished up 3-16 to 2-14 in favour of Wheatfield and to say the lads were proud to bring home

The Eugene Garrigan Memorial Trophy would be an understatement. Thank you to Round Towers who were brilliant hosts and we look forward to defending our trophy in 2019.



THE BARRACKS AND POSTS OF IRELAND

ARBOUR HILL

Company Sergeant E. Tobin, Army HQ.

"The day will come when this desecrated spot will be hallowed ground, consecrated by religion; trod lightly by pensive patriots and decorated by funeral trophies in honour of the dead whose bones lie there in graves that are now neglected and unhonoured."

Reproduction Rights Reserved.

THE desecrated spot was Arbour Hill and the historian Dr. Madden was writing in the wake of the reign of terror which followed the suppression of the 1798 Rising. Those of us, who have witnessed the imposing ceremonial events in recent years at Arbour Hill, while reflecting on the changed situation brought about by a continuous struggle to achieve national independence, can only marvel at the foresight inherent in Dr. Madden's words.

Early History

Before the Royal (now Collins) Barracks was built in 1706, Arbour Hill was a wooded area much frequented by children from surrounding districts. Earlier still, it was a well-known retreat for robbers, and there are accounts of labyrinthine caves beneath the hill, where, it is said, stolen property was hidden. Newspaper reports in 1775 tell how a part of the pavement collapsed, revealing traces of the caves. Years later when the foundations of the prison were being dug, further evidence of the existence of the underground passages came to light.

Little John

There is an interesting sidelight to the history of this area in "Life in Old Dublin," by James Collins, published in 1913. When Robin Hood and his merry men were dispersed in England, some of his followers, including his famous lieutenant, "Little John" made their way to Ireland and settled in the Arbour Hill area where

"Little John" entertained and astonished the natives by his extraordinary prowess in archer). The redoubtable hero is said to have been hanged on the hill, for even in those far-off days it was used as a place of execution of criminals. According to old records, a part of it was referred to as Gibbet Glade. An account also exists of a famous alehouse, called the "Half Moon," which stood on the site.

The Provost Prison

Perhaps it was the nature of the area and its proximity to the Royal Barracks which suggested Arbour Hill as an ideal site for a military hospital and a provost prison, the building of which was completed at the end of 1797. The hospital, which stood on the site of the present St. Brincins, was originally known as Arbour Hill Hospital.

It was rebuilt and renamed the "King George V Hospital" in 1912. The prison and Provost's house stood to the south of the hospital, in the area between the present Detention Barracks and St. Brincin's. Adjacent to the prison, rows of stables enclosed an area known as the forage yard. This yard extended down to the road at the rear of the Royal Barracks. A subway connecting the prison with the barracks led from the bottom of the forage yard and passed underneath the road. The entrances to this tunnel are now bricked up. It should be understood, of course, that the Provost Prison was used for the detention of persons subject to military law. Thus, throughout its history, most of those incarcerated there were either

members of the army or were taken prisoner during periods of martial law.

1798 Rebellion

The Rising of 1798 was put down with a ferocity and ruthlessness seldom paralleled in history. The prowess of the Yoemen was estimated by the number of prisoners and mutilated bodies brought in. The Lord Lieutenant, Cornwallis, writing to the Duke of Portland said that "any man in a brown coat who was found within seven miles of the field of action was butchered without discrimination." Every day saw prisoners brought into the city and it was not unusual to see a procession of carts, in which were piled the mutilated corpses of the peasantry. They were displayed on the pavement at Barrack (now Benburb) Street as trophies, cut and gashed in every part and covered with clotted blood and dirt. All these, and those executed at Arbour Hill, were flung into a mass grave outside the Royal Barracks. The area in which their burial site was situated extended down to the river and was then waste and covered with filth of every description. This unconsecrated burial ground subsequently became known as "Croppie's Acre." It is now mostly covered by the Esplanade and the roadway on the north side of the river. A sensitive young patriot (who five years later suffered execution in Thomas Street) appalled by the atrocities he had witnessed during the 1798 Rebellion, penned the following lines:



PRISON OFFICER — BRANCH NEWS

Arbour Hill

No rising column marks this spot,
Where many a victim lies;
But, Oh! the blood which here has streamed,
To heaven for justice cries.

It claims it on the oppressor's head,
Who joys in human woe,
Who drinks the tears by misery shed,
And mocks them as they flow.

It claims it on the callous judge,
Whose hands in blood are dyed,
Who arms injustice with the sword,
The balance throws aside.

It claims it for its ruined isle,
Her wretched children's grave:
Where withered freedom droops its head,
And man exists a slave.

Oh! Sacred Justice, free this land
From tyranny abhorred;
Resume thy balance and thy seat,
Resume, but sheathe, thy sword.

No retribution should we seek,
Too long has horror reigned;
By Mercy marked may Freedom rise,
By cruelty unstained.

Nor shall a tyrant's ashes mix,
With those our martyred dead,
This is the place where Erin's sons,
In Erin's cause have bled.

And those who here are laid to rest,
Oh! hallowed be each name;
Their memories are forever blest,
Consigned to endless fame.

Unconsecrated is this ground
Unblessed by holy hands;
No bell here tolls its solemn sound,
No monument here stands.

But here the patriot's tears are shed
The poor man's blessing given:
These consecrate the virtuous dead,
These waft their fame to Heaven.

The author of these verses was—
ROBERT EMMET!

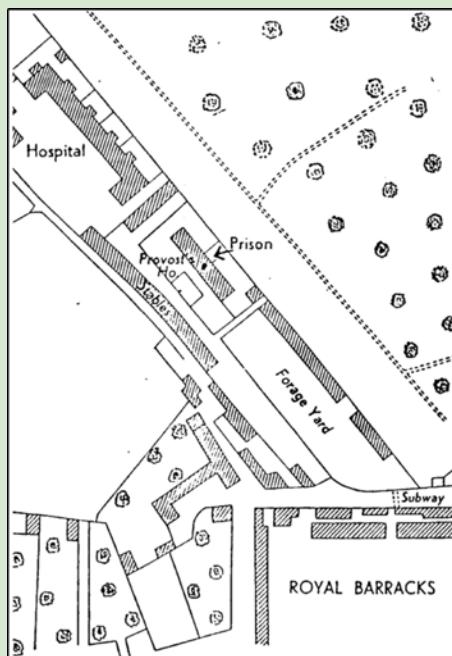
After the defeat of the French under General Humbert, two notable prisoners arrived at Arbour Hill and were court martialed on a charge of treason. They were Bartholomew Teeling and Matthew Tone. Both were sentenced to death and hanged at the prison. Teeling was executed on Monday, 24th September, 1798. Faulkner's Dublin Journal of the

following day reporting the execution said that—"his behavior manifested great unconcern for his miserable situation." On 2nd October, the same paper has this item - "Matthew Tone, convicted of treason in serving with his majesty's enemies was on Saturday last hanged on a gallows at Arbour Hill. He died with great hardihood, cursing the executioner for his awkwardness and avowing his attachment to the French." Both Teeling and Matthew Tone were buried in Croppies Acre.

always will be, clouded in controversy and argument. Whether he was murdered or committed suicide will probably never be known with absolute certainty, but of one thing he is assured - a place in the heart of every true Irishman. It is only fitting that near to where he died there now rest the remains of his successors who proudly avowed the influence and inspiration that Tone had been to them.

After the 1798 period, there appears to have been a falling-off in the number of prisoners in Arbour Hill. Apparently, however, this was not the case across the river in Kilmainham. In 1820, Dr. Trevor, the medical officer at Kilmainham Gaol wrote to the Officer Commanding, Dublin District, seeking accommodation for prisoners awaiting transportation and consequently, the provost prison catered for both military and civilian types for some time after that. The building of a new Detention Barracks, Church and Warden's Quarters was begun in 1845 and so the Arbour Hill we know to-day came into being. The work was completed in 1848 and after that time no record exists of any further admissions to the old provost prison. This old building is now in use as St. Brincin's Hospital NCO's Mess and in consequence of extensive structural alterations, is difficult to associate with the grim dungeon which was so much a part of "the horror of the 1798 period.

Arbour Hill in 1798. Based on the Ordnance



Survey by permission of the Government. Permit No. 817.

Theobald Wolfe Tone

On the 8th November, a prisoner was conveyed from Derry Jail and taken to Dublin Castle. He was dressed in a French uniform, wearing a greatcoat and gold-laced hat and held the rank of Adjutant General of the French Forces in Ireland. This man was Ireland's first and greatest republican, Theobald Wolfe Tone.

St. Brincin's Hospital NCO's Mess shows the present condition of the Provost Prison (right) where Wolfe Tone died and the former Provost's House. The only traces that remain of the former prison can be seen in the white contrasting lower halves of the upper floor windows, the originals being only half the size of the present ones.

Preparatory to being removed to Arbour Hill, he was placed in irons - an action which infuriated Tone. His protestations being unheeded, he ripped off his French uniform, declaring that it would not be disgraced by such indignity.

The question of the trial, sentence and execution of Wolfe Tone has been, and

Fenian Times

During the years 1866/67 the new prison was extensively used by the military authorities for the detention of soldiers arrested, some of them on suspicion only, of being implicated in the Fenian Movement. A group of soldiers from the 85th Regiment, James Kavanagh, Philip Murtha, Michael McCarthy and J. P. O'Brien were amongst the first arrested for Fenian activities. Unfortunately, the curse of all Irish revolutionary movements, the informer, soon made his appearance. McCarthy, to save himself, informed on the others who received long terms of imprisonment.

During a raid on Pilsworth's public house in Thomas Street a number of soldiers were arrested by Colonel Fielding (the Major Sirr of the 1867 period). One of the men taken on that occasion, a Corporal Curry, received a sentence of two years' imprisonment and fifty strokes of the lash. Included in the group arrested in Thomas Street was John Boyle O'Reilly, then serving in the army and a very active Fenian. After a long period of detention in Arbour Hill, O'Reilly was sentenced



cornmarket
group financial services ltd



PRISON OFFICERS'
ASSOCIATION

INCOME CONTINUANCE

It's there when you need it

“

It gives me and my wife security and peace of mind, and helps keep our plans on track for the future.

”

Conor,
Cornmarket Plan Member

Your income is your greatest asset.

Income Continuance gives you a replacement income*, if you get sick and can't work. Protect your future and join the POA Income Continuance Plan today.

Join the POA Income Continuance Plan today!

Call us on (01) 408 6286 or visit cornmarket.ie/poa

*Up to 75% of salary is paid (less any other income which you may be entitled to e.g. half pay, ill Health Early Retirement Payment, temporary Rehabilitation Remuneration, State Illness or Invalidity Benefit) after you have exhausted the deferred period of the plan. Terms and conditions apply. Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A member of the Irish Life Group Ltd. which is part of the Central-West LifeCo Group of companies. Telephone calls may be recorded for quality control and training purposes. Friends First Life Assurance Company plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.



cornmarket
group financial services ltd

Public Sector **Car Insurance**

Get a
€50
Online Discount



When you buy a new policy online and it starts
between 01/03/18 and 31/05/18

(Subject to a minimum premium of €398.16, inclusive of Government Levy).

Available to Public Sector employees and their partners. Underwriter terms and conditions apply.

Visit cornmarket.ie/get-a-quote

*The online discount is only available to new customers taking out a car insurance policy through Cornmarket, underwritten by Allianz, applies in year one only and is inclusive of Government levy. Only one discount can be used with each eligible proposal. Any applicable discounts are applied at quotation stage. We are unable to issue discounts retrospectively. Eligibility criteria, terms and conditions apply. Allianz p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A member of the Irish Life Group Ltd. which is part of the Great-West Lifeco Group of companies.

BRANCH NEWS

ARBOUR HILL (continued)



The late President Kennedy, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, Lieut.-Gen. Sean MacLennin, reading the names on the curb of the 1916 Leaders' grave seem much larger than necessary for the interment of fourteen un-coffined bodies, it must be assumed that it was intended for a much greater number.

to penal servitude for life, subsequently reduced to twenty years and with others who had received similar sentences, transferred to the civil authority and lodged in Millbank Prison in London.

Almost one hundred years later, when Ireland's most distinguished guest of the 20th Century, paid a special visit to Arbour Hill, a strange link was forged. For President John F. Kennedy was an ardent admirer of John Boyle O'Reilly and quoted extensively from his writings.

Before O'Reilly and his fellow prisoners were removed from Arbour Hill, an escape attempt almost succeeded. Incautiously, they divulged the plan to a person dressed as a priest who visited them and so ended their hopes of liberty.

After the Fenian prisoners left Arbour Hill, the following lines were found scratched on the wall of O'Reilly's cell:

*"We have borne with scorn and insult, but the Saxon yet shall feel,
The strength of Irish vengeance and the
points of Irish steel,
The foremost men to strike the foe in
Freedom's glorious war,
Sitali have worn England's scarlet
And the blue of the hussar."*

Taking an incident at random from "Freedom's Glorious War" one's mind leaps to Crossbarry in 1920, when the "Saxon" felt the "points of Irish steel," wielded by an intrepid ex-member of England's armed

forces!

Catholic Prisoners

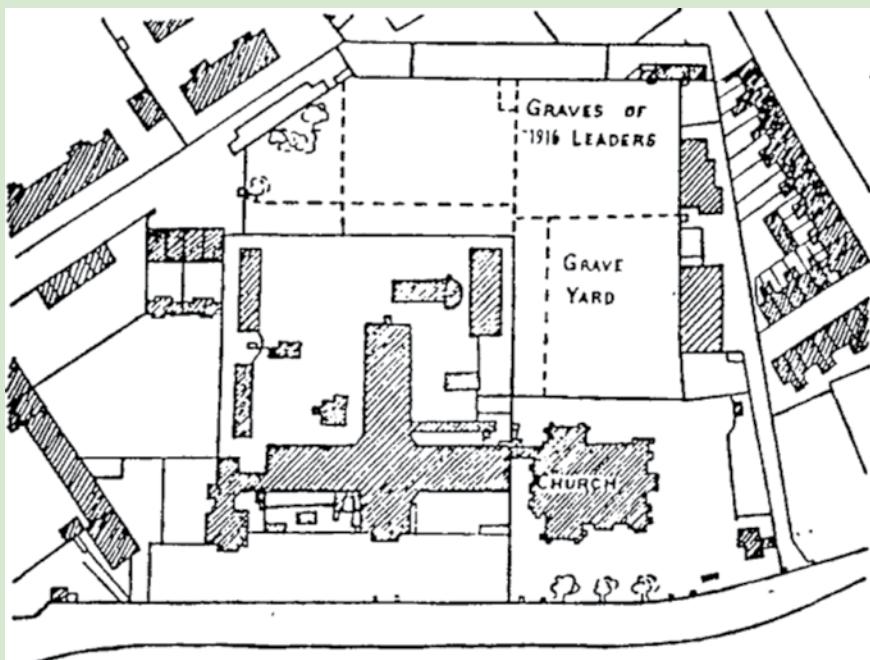
Evidence of a lack of facilities for Catholic services in Arbour Hill is found in correspondence which took place in 1897 between the R.C. Chaplain, Father J. A. Burke and the Officer Commanding, Dublin District. The Chaplain's main complaint was the lack of a chapel. The Church there was of course, the Garrison Protestant Church for the British Army.

Father Burke's letters show his indignation at having to celebrate "The Roman Catholics' most solemn ceremony" in a corridor of the prison. He also complained that no one, other than a prisoner, was made available to serve Mass; that there were no facilities for the laundering of altar linen, etc.

As the correspondence continued, a "softening" began to appear in the official attitude towards Father Burke's needs and a suggestion was made that when the necessary finance could be procured, a Catholic Chapel would be built. The letters (now in the National Library) go no further but Father Burke must have got his way because a structure, which was obviously a small chapel, still stands in the prison yard.

Easter Week

Despite Arbour Hill's long connection with the tragic history of our country since 1798, it is best known to-day because its grounds contain the graves of the leaders executed in 1916. When the Detention Barracks and Church were built in 1848, the grounds were enclosed and laid out in three separate plots. The one immediately in rear of the Church was the Garrison cemetery for deceased soldiers and members of their families. Some of the graves can still be seen, though the majority of the headstones have been moved back to the prison wall. To the north of the graveyard



Based on the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Government. Permit No. 515. This sketch shows the layout of Arbour Hill before the present memorial was built. The dotted lines represent walls or railings subsequently removed.

BRANCH NEWS

ARBOUR HILL (continued)

and separated from it by iron railings, a second plot was allocated as a playground for the children attending two small schools situated in the grounds. Behind the Detention Barracks and adjoining the playground but separated from it by a high wall, the third plot was used as an exercise yard for the prisoners.

On April 30th, 1916 Padraic Pearse was brought to Arbour Hill prison and lodged in a cell. It was in this cell that he confirmed for Richard Mulcahy, an emissary of Thomas Ashe's Fingal men still in action in North County Dublin, that the struggle was over and that the men were to lay down their arms.

On the 3rd May, 1916, a grave was prepared in the north east corner of the exercise yard. That evening, a horse-drawn ambulance brought to Arbour Hill the bodies of three men who had been executed earlier that day at Kilmainham Gaol. The un-coffined bodies were placed in the newly opened grave and covered with quicklime. On succeeding days, the bodies of a further eleven executed men were also buried there. As the dimensions of the mass grave, 28 feet 9 inches x 9 feet

The late President Kennedy, accompanied by the Chief of Staff, Lieut.-Gen. Sean MacLennin, reading the names on the curb of the 1916 Leaders' grave seem much larger than necessary for the interment of fourteen un-coffined bodies, it must be assumed that it was intended for a much greater number.

Order of Interment

The Prison Sergeant-Major, whose duty it was to have the grave prepared for the interments, placed a numbered brick at the head of each of the fourteen men in the order of their burial and kept a corresponding record of the names. To this sympathetic gesture, we are indebted for our knowledge of the Order of Interment of the leaders of the 1916 Insurrection. Reading from the northern wall, they are:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Thomas J. Clarke. | (8) John McBride. |
| (2) Thomas MacDonagh | (9) Con Colbert. |
| (3) P. H. Pearse | (10) Eamonn Ceannt. |
| (4) Edward Daly | (11) Sean Houston. |
| (5) Michael O'Hanrahan | (12) Michael Mallin. |
| (6) William Pearse | (13) James Connolly. |
| (7) Joseph Plunkett. | (14) Sean McDermott. |

Unconsecrated Ground

On the 18th July, 1918, the following paragraph appeared in the daily papers:

BURIAL OF PRISONERS
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

"The following official communique is issued for publication: —It is officially stated that the allegation in the letter from the Bishop of Limerick reported to have been read at the Mansion House Meeting last night to the effect that the executed rebels were denied Christian burial is devoid of foundation."

This statement was published as a result of a survey and investigation made at the time from the British Property Records. These records showed that although the ground in which the graves are situated had been used for some years as the Prisoners' Exercise Yard the site actually formed part of the Arbour Hill Military Cemetery which had been duly dedicated as such and consecrated since 1848.

End of British Administration

In 1922, Arbour Hill was taken over by the National Army. During the subsequent Civil War, some notable prisoners there included our President, Eamon de Valera. A few years ago, President de Valera paid a return visit to Arbour Hill and pointed out the cell occupied by him in those days, No. 113 on the West landing. In the 1940's its doors were again opened to an influx of offenders against special legislation and included amongst those was the ebullient, irrepressible Brendan Behan. The Detention Barracks continued in use as a military prison until 1964. It is now closed, except for a small administrative staff and long may it remain so." Though strongly constructed in the best British tradition, it nevertheless, does not have the dark and awesome atmosphere of some other old British prisons, such as Kilmainham.

Arbour Hill Church

Much restoration and re-decoration was required before the Church was ready for Catholic services. Stations of the Cross, a Communion rail and an organ were provided. The organ incidentally was originally in use in the Hibernian Schools in the Phoenix Park, formerly a military post, but for some years now known as St. Mary's Chest Hospital. The edifice, now named the Church of the Sacred Heart was solemnly consecrated by the Most Reverend Dr. Byrne, Archbishop of Dublin, on Sunday, 13th March, 1927, with full military ceremonial. In the intervening years it has been used extensively in ceremonial events at national level. When the remains of Roger

Casement were repatriated in February, 1965, the coffin lay for some days in the church before interment in Glasnevin.

Arbour Hill church is used extensively in ceremonial events at national level. When the remains of Roger Casement were repatriated in February, 1965, the coffin lay for some days in the church before interment in Glasnevin. Thousands filed past the remains of the patriot on those days in a final tribute.

The choice of Arbour Hill for the lying in state of Casement's remains was a happy one, for he was brought to Arbour Hill Military Prison after his capture at Banna Strand. In it he was stripped naked and subjected to all sorts of humiliations and it was from Arbour Hill that he left on his last journey from his native land to the gallows with an ignominious escort of British troops.

Half a century later his remains left it on their final journey, this time with the fullest pomp and ceremonial that could be afforded by our own Defence Forces. The Church contains a wooden altar which was removed from Kilmainham Gaol where it is believed to have been made by an Irish political prisoner late in the last century. A plaque beside the altar with the inscription in Irish and English reads:

Before this altar in Kilmainham Jail, men and women, who were imprisoned for their patriotism and of whom a number gave their lives for Ireland, assisted at Holy Mass. Among them, before their execution, were leaders of the 1916 Rising.

At this altar also, Joseph Mary Plunkett, one of the seven signatories to the Proclamation of the Republic, was married to Grace Gifford on 3rd May, 1916, the eve of his execution.

Pray for the souls of those who died for Ireland.

There is also in the Church a plaque commemorating officers and men of the Defence Forces who died while serving with the United Nations Forces in the Congo.

Another unusual sight is the old Ann-and Brigade flags which were ceremonially "laid up" in the church some years back. The ceremony connected with the army flag is remarkable for the fact that it is one of the rare occasions on which the National Anthem is played in church. At the Epistle side can be seen a gallery which is linked directly with the Arbour

BRANCH NEWS

ARBOUR HILL (continued)

Hill Detention Barracks.

The Memorial

The first suggestion for a memorial to the executed 1916 leaders came from the poetess, Dora Sigerson. Writing to the Irish High Commissioner in London in 1923, her husband, Mr. Clement Shorter, then living in England, said that it was the wish of his late wife that such a memorial should be erected. In her will, she had bequeathed the sum of £1,000 for the erection of a statue in Glasnevin Cemetery for this purpose. The project came before the Executive Council of the Irish Free State with the result that—it was considered desirable that no action should be taken in the matter at present." Reasons for this policy had apparently nothing to do with the monument itself but had their basis in the delicate political situation of the time.

The first memorial erected in the Church of the Sacred Heart in 1924 took the form of a set of very beautiful stained glass windows erected behind the High Altar and was presented by the Officers and Men of the Dublin District. It was in memory of "all who died in the fight for freedom from 1916 to 1923."

In 1928, the first firm proposal for a memorial at the graves came from the Officer Commanding Dublin District North. Writing to the Adjutant General he said—" I have the honour to submit suggestion that a suitable marble slab or scroll be inserted in the wall by the side of the 1916 leaders grave in Arbour Hill showing the ranks and names of those whose remains are buried there."

The project had the approval of the Adjutant General who in submitting the matter to the Chief of Staff for his approval, suggested that the estimated cost of £30 or £35 could be divided amongst the officers serving in Dublin. The then Chief of Staff, however rejected the whole idea, writing - "I don't see the object of this, considering the existence of the Memorial Window in the Church."

Visiting Hours

In those years the graves were not open to the public, except on the Annual Commemoration Day and this was a source of much complaint. In 1936, however, the grounds were handed over to the care of the Office of Public Works and arrangements were made to permit the public to visit the

graves from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Entry at that time was from Mount Temple Road gate but in the following year, 1937, it was agreed to permit visitors through Arbour Hill Road gate.

On the outbreak of World War II, the military authorities again took over control of the grounds and the gates closed to the public until 1948 when visiting hours were extended from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The present visiting hours are 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

In that year, proposing that the Office of Public Works should again take over the administration of the graves area, the Department of Defence suggested that a suitable memorial should be erected at the grave site. Accordingly, the Assistant Architect of the Office of Public Works was commissioned to prepare a plan for the memorial. In August, 1950, this plan was forwarded to the Department of Defence and after agreement being reached on the final form of the memorial, submitted to the Government. Approval was received in 1951 but it was not until the end of 1955 that the contract for the erection of the memorial was placed, at an estimated cost of £20,000.

The Architect's plan provided for certain territorial alterations of the area surrounding the grave. The wall between the Exercise Yard and the Playground was removed making one single plot with the grave site now in the centre. Some visitors

to Arbour Hill, expecting to find the graves in a "corner of the prison yard" are confused by the alteration.

The Proclamation

The memorial comprises a curved ashlar wall on which the Proclamation of the Republic is incised in Irish and English with a Cross in the centre. There are three paved terraces connected by broad flights of stone steps and a paved area for the deployment of troops during ceremonial occasions. The grave plot is covered in green sward in a gently curved mound surrounded by a limestone curb on which the names of the leaders are carved in Irish at the head and in English at the foot. Tall trees surround the grave area, ornamental shrubs and flowers decorate the scene and somehow, there is a quiet dignity that is both moving and inspiring. It is a very beautiful memorial.

When the question of a memorial to the executed leaders was being discussed in the 1950's, a body of opinion favoured the retention of the graves area, in the original condition. As one authority put it—" I wished to preserve for future generations the tragic starkness of this burial place in a corner of the prison yard."

Perhaps a strong argument could be made for such a course, but surely there was enough "starkness" in the final hours of the dead patriots. The Irish nation owes them this dignified memorial.



"One of the most unforgettable experiences of my life." — J.F.K.

BRANCH NEWS

ARBOUR HILL (continued)

Golden Jubilee

After completion of the memorial to the executed leaders, it was decided to commemorate all those who gave their lives at the time of the 1916 Insurrection by the erection of a plaque at Arbour Hill.

This plaque, on which is inscribed the names of all those who died, was unveiled by President de Valera on the 24th April, 1966. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that it was not until June 28th, 1963, that the vast majority of the Irish people became aware of Arbour Hill. On that historic day the President of the United States of America, John Fitzgerald Kennedy laid a wreath on the graves of the 1916 leaders. He declared afterwards that the ceremonial and solemnity of the occasion were so inspiring that this visit was one of the most impressive experiences of his life. For Irish people too it had a very special significance.

As the Tricolour was run up to full mast, a Cadet Guard of Honour presented arms and the strains of "Amhran na bhFian" rang out. President Kennedy stood rigidly to attention and Irish hearts glowed with pride. Surely it was at that moment more than any other that Doctor Madden's "day" had at last arrived.

This, then, is the story of Arbour Hill. It is now a shrine secure for all time in the hearts and affections of the Irish people. Every day of the year people visit it. Laughing groups of schoolchildren on C.I.E. educational tours, are hushed into solemnity by the sight of that simple green mound and return to their homes with a memory that will last all their days. Visitors from different lands come to Arbour Hill, some because it is a tourist "must," many to pay their tribute to our patriot dead, and sometimes you'll see a grey-haired veteran who remembers what it was like in those

stirring days half a century ago standing misty-eyed by these graves and uttering a prayer for all those who languished or died behind these walls in loneliness, pain and suffering. From Tone to Pearse they stretch in a line of heroes, some famed, most of them unknown, but all united by the sacrifices they made so that the tears might be wiped away from the face of "Cathleen the daughter of Houlihan."

Acknowledgements:

Special pictures by Flight Sergeant O. Rooney Air Corps.

Line drawings by Sgt. J. Murphy, Army HQ., and Mr. R. Freeman, Ordnance Survey Office.

BRANCH NEWS

CLOVERHILL

Cloverhill has maintained its historic stasis of a transient Jail, this has continued with the ongoing changes among our staff. With the new Regime Management Plan and all the structural changes that will come on stream we will see a number of operational

changes within the prison. As the branch works hard to serve its members, we deal with the many and numerous issues that face us all on a daily basis.

I would like to thank anyone who has

helped or assisted the branch in any way in 2018.

Neil Brady
Branch Secretary.

BRANCH NEWS

CORK

CORK PRISON OFFICERS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Rehearsals are back in full swing preparing for a number of concerts and events we have been invited to over the next couple of months, culminating in May, when we are performing in Children of Lir over two consecutive days in the Opera House. Before that, on 25th March we are in the North Cathedral with Cara O' Sullivan

and Passage West Church Choir. This event is organised by the Social and Health Education Project for their international partners in Nepal who help impoverished communities. We then head to St. Finbarr's Cathedral for two nights in April, Saturday the 7th with the Blessington Choral Choir, with all proceeds going to Penny Dinners and then Thursday the 12th for St. Nicks Brass Band Annual

Concert. In May we have been asked to sing at the gala reception of the Annual Delegate Conference of the INMO which is taking place outside of Dublin for the first time in 20 years. We have also been invited to sing at a couple of weddings so it's another very busy time for us, but extremely enjoyable nonetheless.

Gerry O' Dwyer

Get a great value eir mobile plan today



Do anything, anywhere, with eir mobile



Great news!

We have teamed up with your organisation to offer you an exclusive eir mobile plan not available anywhere else! Right now you can get unlimited calls, texts and 4G data for just €45 a month.

- > **UNLIMITED** calls, texts and 4G data
- > **EU roaming** included
- > **FREE WiFi calling** lets you use your smartphone to text or call over any WiFi network
- > **UNLIMITED social media** including Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, Snapchat & many more



- > **FREE** 7 channel eir sport app with...



€45
a month
24 month contract

eir
exclusive
offer



PLUS sign up today and get €50 off selected smartphones. Even better, bundle eir broadband, home phone & mobile for €100 off a smartphone instead!

Don't need a phone? We have a great range of SIM Only plans from as little as €20 a month.

Hurry! This exclusive offer ends soon

Call 1800 303 724

Quote 'Business17' when you call eir

Already an eir mobile customer? Get amazing value when you add broadband or TV to your bundle. Call eir on **1800 303 451** today.

Yours sincerely
The **eir** team



As Ireland's largest communications network, we're confident our mobile network will deliver powerful coverage wherever you are. However, if you're not completely happy with our mobile network, you can cancel your mobile contract within 30 days of joining and simply walk away. You just pay for what you used and if your plan included a new phone, we'll take it back and refund you too. No penalties. No hassle. No risk.



For full terms and conditions, including fair usage policy click [here](#)

eir is a trading name of circom Limited, Registered as a Branch in Ireland Number 90/874, Incorporated in Jersey Number 116339. Branch address: 1 Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road, Dublin 8, D08 A9RT. VAT registration IE 328643MNH

This email was sent by: eir, 1 Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road, Dublin 8, D08 A9RT, Ireland

[View online](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



Annual Mass 2018

The Annual Mass for deceased members and retired members of the Prison Service took place on Thursday 12th April 2018 at 8.15pm in St. Joseph's Church, Berkeley Road, Phibsboro. Once again it was a great success due to the participation of the Pipe Band, Guard of Honour and the Colour Party.

I must thank in particular the Mountjoy and Cloverhill combined Guard of Honour/Colour Party and the Pipe Band for their professionalism and expertise in making the Annual Mass the focus of so many serving and retired members who attend the Annual Mass year on year to pay tribute to the deceased members, retired members and their families. I would like to thank Mal O'Sullivan Mountjoy, Paul Brennan Arbour Hill, Kevin O'Neill, Pat Cosgrove (Pipe Band) and the Cloverhill Guard of Honour Committee in organising the combined personnel from their Prisons to attend the Annual Mass.

The focus of the Annual Mass is to honour those serving, retired and family members who have sadly passed away in the last year. This year I was again delighted that the West Dublin Campus Choir attended the Annual Mass and I would like to thank Noreen Keary for organising the choir. Photographs of the West Dublin Campus Choir are featured in this magazine and they were excellent with their range of songs and hymns.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who participated on the night including all of the aforementioned, retired members, serving members and in particular Bishop Eamonn Walsh who again was the main celebrant. I would also like to thank and acknowledge Fr. Sean Duggan Cloverhill for his excellent

cooperation and assistance in making the Annual Mass a memorable occasion.

The weather on the night was fresh and cool. Numbers attending were down on previous years but those who did attend, in particular the many retired members and local residents who came out to see the Colour Party, Pipe Band and the Guard of Honour were treated to a fine display. As the names of our departed members, retired members and relatives were read out by Mr. Stephen Delaney President Prison Officers' Association a candle was placed in front of the altar in memory of those who passed away since last year's Annual Mass. The sight of these candles is a reminder of those who have passed away since last year's Mass but are not forgotten.





**Great rates to make
you abbey on Car, Home
and Travel Insurance**

To receive a quote, call

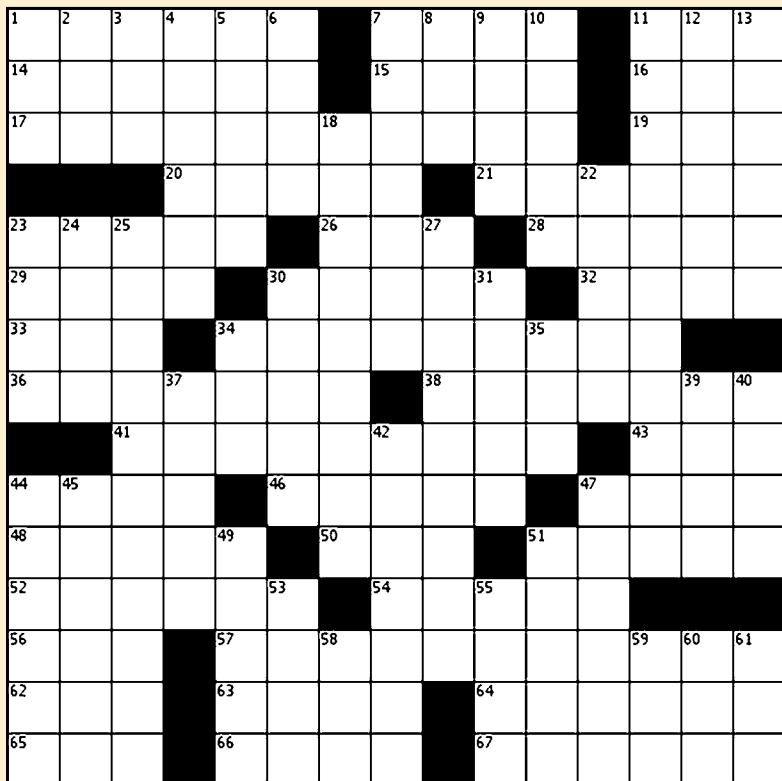
1890 808 666

or visit www.abbeyunionstar.ie

Prestige Underwriting Services (Ireland) Limited
trading as Abbey Insurance is regulated by the
Central Bank of Ireland.

BRAIN EXERCISES

CROSSWORD



Please send completed
Crossword Entries by
29th June 2018 to

The Editor,
Prison Officer Magazine,
18, Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.

5 prizes of €25 will be
awarded to winning
entries.

ACROSS

1. Kind of helicopter
7. "Voila"
11. Where the world is flat
14. Setting for Shields, once
15. Eleventh largest lake in the world
16. Lance in the Los Angeles judicial system
17. Speech at a major high school dance?
19. Frequent hot tub comments
20. Introductory discourse
21. Rathbone role
23. Slew, in slang
26. Fleur-de-
28. Thomas of "The Age of Reason"
29. Knot in wool

DOWN

30. Support a church, in a way
32. Calls to a shepherd
33. Matter you mine
34. Produced
36. Ski mask feature
38. Became more complex
41. Many a "Lord of the Rings" extra (with "New")
43. In need of salt?
44. Gush out
46. Supports for laths
47. One of the back forty
48. About-face, for one
50. Before, once
51. Prefix meaning "false"
52. Sissy's role
54. What pampas don't have
56. Distinguished wall covering

57. Switch parties at a protest?

62. Org. recommending brushing
63. Pinocchio type
64. Bangs, pops, clacks, e.g.
65. Male child
66. Lid affliction (Var.)
67. Half or fast condition

DOWN

1. Matterhorn, e.g.
2. _____ excellence
3. A long time follower
4. Make someone do something
5. Amass
6. Prefix with skeleton, scope or spore
7. Little house wrecker

8. Exist

9. Word with satellite or side
10. Memorable moralist
11. Words of wisdom from Little Havana?
12. Greek goddess born armed for battle
13. Sheriff's groups
18. Trace the shape of
22. Shirt insert
23. Orchestras tune to this
24. Intense rage
25. Police command when arresting a nymph?
27. They end paper trails
30. Lets the cat out of the bag
31. Place for hornet nests, often
34. Make a little _____ long way
35. Rocky hill

SUDOKU

1				6	8		
	8				5		
2				4	3		
		3			7	2	4
	1	7			2	9	
	6						3
8	5				6	2	
		4	2		3		
						1	

Please send completed Sudoku Entries by Friday 29th June 2018 to

The Editor
Prison Officer Magazine,

18, Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

5 prizes of €25 will be awarded to the winning entries.

CHRISTMAS WINNERS

CROSSWORD WINNERS

Brian Martin (Cork) €25

Paul Geraghty (Loughan House) €25

SUDOKU WINNERS

John Sheridan (Loughan House) €25

Olive O Connor (Limerick) €25

Conor Fennessy (Wheatfield) €25

Tom Prior (Wheatfield) €25

Greg Flanagan (Arbour Hill) €25

PRIZES KINDLY SPONSORED BY AXA INSURANCE