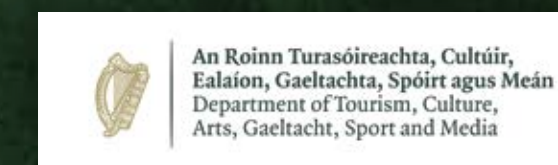




LIAM LYNCH

An Illustrated Biography 1892 – 1923

*An Online Exhibition Commissioned by Limerick Museum
Researched and Curated by Craig Copley Brown*



General Liam Lynch.
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LIAM LYNCH

An Illustrated Biography 1892 – 1923

The struggle for Irish independence during the early twentieth century brought many political and military figures onto the public stage, both locally, and internationally. One key figure during this period was Liam Lynch, who served as Chief of Staff of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) between 9 April 1922 and 10 April 1923. Lynch was a strong advocate for the use of militarism in the campaign for Irish independence and opposed the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921. This exhibition will examine Lynch's life, from his formative years in rural Counties Limerick and Cork, to

his political maturation, military involvement in the republican movement, and his subsequent death on 10 April 1923, at the age of thirty.

This exhibition is part of the Limerick City and County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme, which is organised by Limerick City and County Library Service and funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative.

**An Online Exhibition Commissioned by Limerick Museum
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**General LIAM LYNCH (Chief of Staff, I.R.A.),
Killed in Action at Knockfallen, Co. Tipperary, April 10, 1923.**

General Liam Lynch.

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The Struggle for Irish Independence in the Early Twentieth Century

Over the centuries the island of Ireland, and its people, have occupied a unique position on the global stage. As the most westerly point of the European community, and the nearest neighbour of Great Britain, Ireland was viewed as having important strategic and economic advantages. The complexities arising out of this position have seen Ireland move from a turbulent relationship with Britain through military campaigns in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, to the changing landscape in the nineteenth century of the Act of Union, Catholic emancipation, and the Great Famine. In the early twentieth century, the question of Irish independence, while present throughout the previous centuries, began to diversify, with some groups striving for a diplomatic solution, while others saw the path of armed rebellion as the only solution. The 1916 rebellion in Dublin, seen as perhaps the greatest catalyst of modern Irish republicanism and the struggle for independence, forced many to consider the means with which Ireland could move towards greater independence from Britain. The rising ultimately began to force people to consider the merits or lack thereof if Ireland was to gain independence from the rest of Britain. It became clear in

its aftermath that Irish independence, and the establishment of an Irish Republic, would only be achievable through the use of force.

Over this period, Ireland developed different, and distinct senses of nationhood and patrimony. Irish culture, particularly in the Gaelic sense, became an important part of the debate surrounding Irish independence. The establishment of organisations in the later part of the nineteenth century such as the Gaelic League, the GAA, the Irish Literary Society, and Feis Ceoil, all contributed to a greater sense of national identity, one which had been marginalised for many years.

The case of Liam Lynch, within the context of the Irish struggle for independence in the early twentieth century, is a fascinating example of how a culmination of centuries of political ideology and rebellion reached its climax. Influenced by generations of Irish rebels before him, Lynch has been popularly viewed as one of the foremost figures in the political and military struggle for Irish independence.

The Irish Republic Flag, flown over the GPO in Dublin during the Easter Rising, 1916.
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A group of nine Limerick Irish Volunteers at Killonan, Easter 1916
© Limerick Museum. Δ



A Royal Welch Fusiliers band, led by mascot, marching across Mathew Bridge, Limerick, November 1920
© Limerick Museum. ▷



The aftermath of the Easter Rising in Dublin, 1916.
Public domain, Wikimedia Commons. ◀



Liam Lynch, his Early Life and Upbringing

William Fanaghan Lynch was born on 20 November 1892 to Jeremiah Lynch and Mary Lynch (née Kelly) in the townland of Barnagurraha, near Anglesboro in Co. Limerick. His father, Jeremiah, was a farmer, following in the footsteps of many of his Lynch ancestors in the area. Liam was the fifth child in a family of seven children: six boys, and one girl. He attended the local national school in Anglesboro from the age of four and continued his education there until October 1909. Soon after leaving school, he began an apprenticeship in Mr P. O'Neill's hardware store in nearby Mitchelstown. According to the 1911 census, the then 18-year-old Liam was still described as a scholar, while his older brothers were listed as farmer's sons, presumably after having taken on some farming roles from their father. Liam's apparent lack of involvement in the family farm suggests that he was destined for other climes.

It was during this time as an apprentice that Lynch became interested in organisations like the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Gaelic League. Organisations like these were popularised at the beginning of the twentieth century, having been rooted in the cause for the preservation of Gaelic Irish culture, as well as Ireland's political separation from Britain. The views of these organisations were very much in keeping with those supporting the move for Irish

independence. Liam, along with his brothers Seán and James, was also briefly a member of John Redmond's National Volunteers in 1914, having joined the Mitchelstown division. The Volunteers were one of the main proponents of Home Rule during the beginning of the Great War. This fact is very much at odds with Lynch's later political life, though he later derided his involvement owing to what he claimed was his political immaturity, and the lack of effective republican propaganda in circulation. Through involvement in such causes, Lynch began to develop more nuanced political interests, particularly around the time of the Home Rule debates, and the question of Irish sovereignty in the future.

Throughout his formative years, Liam had a close relationship with his godmother, Hannah Condon. She was a prominent figure in the Anglesboro branch of Cumann na mBan during much of the revolutionary period of the early 1920s. Hannah imparted Liam with many stories of her father's involvement in earlier struggles for Irish independence. Throughout the course of his short life, he maintained regular contact with Hannah, often writing to her about developments and goings on within the IRA. She remarked in later years that Liam had a voracious appetite for reading, particularly political and historical texts.



Gaelic League propaganda from Seachtain na Gaeilge, 1913
Public domain, Wikimedia Commons. ▷



The Lynch household census returns 1911
© National Archives of Ireland (NAI). ▽

Liam Lynch (INDH559A)
© National Library of Ireland (NLI). ◀

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Form A.

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

NAME AND BIRTHDAY	RELATION to Head of Family	BIRTHDAY	EDUCATION	AGE (on Census) and SEX	MARRIAGE, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE	WAGES, &c.	HIGH LANDS, &c.	REMARKS
Lynch, William	Head	1892	None	18	Scholar	None	None	None	Scholar
Mary Lynch	Wife	1860	None	50	None	None	None	None	Wife
James Lynch	Son	1885	None	25	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1880	None	30	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
William Lynch	Son	1875	None	35	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1870	None	40	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Michael Lynch	Son	1865	None	45	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1860	None	50	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1855	None	55	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1850	None	60	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1845	None	65	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1840	None	70	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1835	None	75	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1830	None	80	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1825	None	85	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1820	None	90	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1815	None	95	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer
Thomas Lynch	Son	1810	None	100	Farmer	None	None	None	Farmer

I solemnly certify as required by the Act 32 Vict. VIII. and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Early volunteer involvement and political views

As a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the Gaelic League, Lynch was exposed to different expressions of Irish nationalism and nationhood at an early age. His father Jeremiah, at a similarly youthful age, had been a member of the local Fenians, while Liam's mother, Mary, served for some time as joint secretary of the Ladies' Land League in Ballylanders, Co. Limerick. By 1915, Lynch had moved to Fermoy to continue his work at a local timber merchant's hardware store.

While working there on 2 May 1916, Lynch witnessed the arrest of the Kent brothers, Thomas, Richard, William, and David, who had been involved in local plans as part of a nationwide Easter Rising against the British administration in Ireland. The nationwide plans were scuppered by British intelligence, who had intercepted a shipment of arms into the country via Germany only days before the planned start of the rebellion. The armed rebellion did go ahead in Dublin, with fighting lasting for six days. The Kent brothers, like many republican

Volunteers involved in the planning of the rising, were arrested and tried for armed rebellion. Richard Kent was fatally injured in a stand-off with the RIC, while Thomas was subsequently sentenced to death and was executed by firing squad on 9 May 1916 at Victoria Barracks in Cork. William was acquitted of his charges, while David had his death sentence commuted.

Witnessing the arrest of the brothers first-hand left a profound and lasting impression on Lynch. From this point on, his views moved from nationalism, which he had associated with through his initial support of the Irish Parliamentary Party and the Home Rule movement, to the staunch republican views of the Irish Volunteers, and the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). These organisations gained strong momentum in the months and years after the Easter Rising and proved crucial in establishing a force with which to challenge the British administration in Ireland. This was the beginning of a journey for Liam Lynch, which would bring him to the very top of the Irish republican movement.

The arrests of Thomas and William Kent in Fermoy, May 1916. Thomas was executed shortly afterwards for armed rebellion arising out of the raid on the Kent home
Public domain, Wikimedia Commons. ▷



Thomas Kent, 1865-1916
Public domain, Wikimedia Commons. ▷

A popular cartoon dating from the period of the third Home Rule bill, featuring Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. The cartoon points to the reluctance of the British establishment to entertain Irish Home Rule.
Public domain, Wikimedia Commons. ▽



Chorus- "OH! HENRY WHERE DID YOU GET THAT CIGAR & WHY ARE YOU SMOKING IT ? YOU'LL CHOKE US ALL."
H.C.B. CAN'T HELP IT, REDMOND SAYS "I MUST SMOKE IT".

Ireland's armed uprising

In the immediate aftermath of the 1916 Rising, Liam Lynch became heavily involved with the Fermoy divisions of the Irish Volunteers, as well as the IRB. Local branches of these organisations did a great deal of recruiting for their cause in many rural areas in the aftermath of the rising, as public emotions ran high, and the appetite for swift political change prevailed. The training, provided to these initial Volunteers, laid the groundwork for the later successes of the IRA campaigns during the War of Independence.

Lynch quickly moved through the ranks of the Volunteers, initially being commissioned as First Lieutenant in the Fermoy Battalion of the Cork no. 2 Brigade, and then later as Adjutant commanding the entire brigade. Although totally lacking in prior military experience, he quickly earned the respect of his comrades through his keen interests in Irish patriotism and history. He was widely regarded as an able strategist, focusing especially on effective leadership, and maintaining strict discipline and readiness amongst Volunteers. Lynch's popularity with officers and other ranks within the movement, led to him being supported to take command of the Cork no. 2 Brigade of the Irish Volunteers, now becoming more commonly known as the IRA, at the outbreak of the Irish War of Independence in 1919.

At this point, Lynch had just under three years of military experience with the Volunteers and was still continuing his employment in Fermoy. Lynch's command of the Cork no. 2 Brigade came at a crucial time, as the IRA realised that the time to strike the British forces in Ireland was upon them. What followed was a particularly brutal chapter in Irish history, the Irish War of Independence.



A British Army checkpoint at Fermoy, c.1919 © Cork Public Museum. Δ

Flag of Castleconnell, Co Limerick, unit of the Irish Volunteers, 1914 – 1921
© Limerick Museum. ▷



Members of Cork No.2 Brigade Flying Column photographed at a training camp at Liscarroll, 1921
© Cork Public Museum. Δ

Republicanism and the War of Independence

The first months of the conflict saw Lynch's stature within the IRA grow, as his knowledge and abilities in the field were put to the test. He was captured at a local IRA officers' meeting in Cork City Hall in August 1920, along with his close comrade Mick Fitzgerald, and Lord Mayor of Cork, Terence MacSwiney. Lynch, at this point having maintained a relatively low profile publicly, provided a false name and was released after several days. MacSwiney and Fitzgerald were both kept in custody, and subsequently died after many weeks on hunger strike.

As the War of Independence dragged on, the IRA increasingly employed guerrilla war tactics, organising Volunteers into flying columns, which moved quickly throughout the countryside between towns and villages. Their aim, as reinforced by Lynch's command, was to carry out swift and effective ambushes on British targets. Much of the initial focus of these groups was to

target RIC barracks, first in rural areas and then in larger towns. Lynch, having worked for a time in Fermoy, a prominent garrison town, clearly understood the significance and importance of targeting these essential parts of the British administration's network in Ireland.

As the IRA underwent more structural reorganisation in the wake of its initial guerrilla warfare success, Lynch was appointed Commander of the 1st Southern Division, which encompassed much of the southern half of Munster. During early 1921, Lynch faced some serious challenges within the Southern Division, as the number of ambushes carried out by Volunteers went in decline and the conflict entered a stalemate. This stalemate was exacerbated by the Crown Forces who had begun to introduce more troops, especially in mobile units, into areas where IRA guerrilla activity had previously succeeded.



Mick Fitzgerald.
*Public domain,
Wikimedia
Commons.* Δ



Terence
MacSwiney
*Public domain,
Wikimedia
Commons.* ◁



King Street (now MacCurtain Street) RIC barracks in Cork City after it was attacked and destroyed by Cork No.1 Brigade IRA on 20 July 1920 © *Cork Public Museum* Δ

The Anglo-Irish Treaty, 1922

After some eighteen months of conflict, and a lingering stalemate, a truce was declared in early July 1921, bringing hostilities between the IRA and the Crown Forces to an end. As Treaty negotiations began in earnest, many of the seasoned republicans who had fought in recent years in the name of the Irish Republic questioned the path which Ireland was beginning to enter down. In order for a Treaty between the two nations to be enacted, many on the Irish side believed that compromise would be necessary. Owing to the pressure from the British negotiators that an 'immediate and terrible war' would be waged in Ireland unless the Treaty was signed, the Irish delegation agreed, and the Anglo-Irish Treaty came into existence on 6 December 1921.

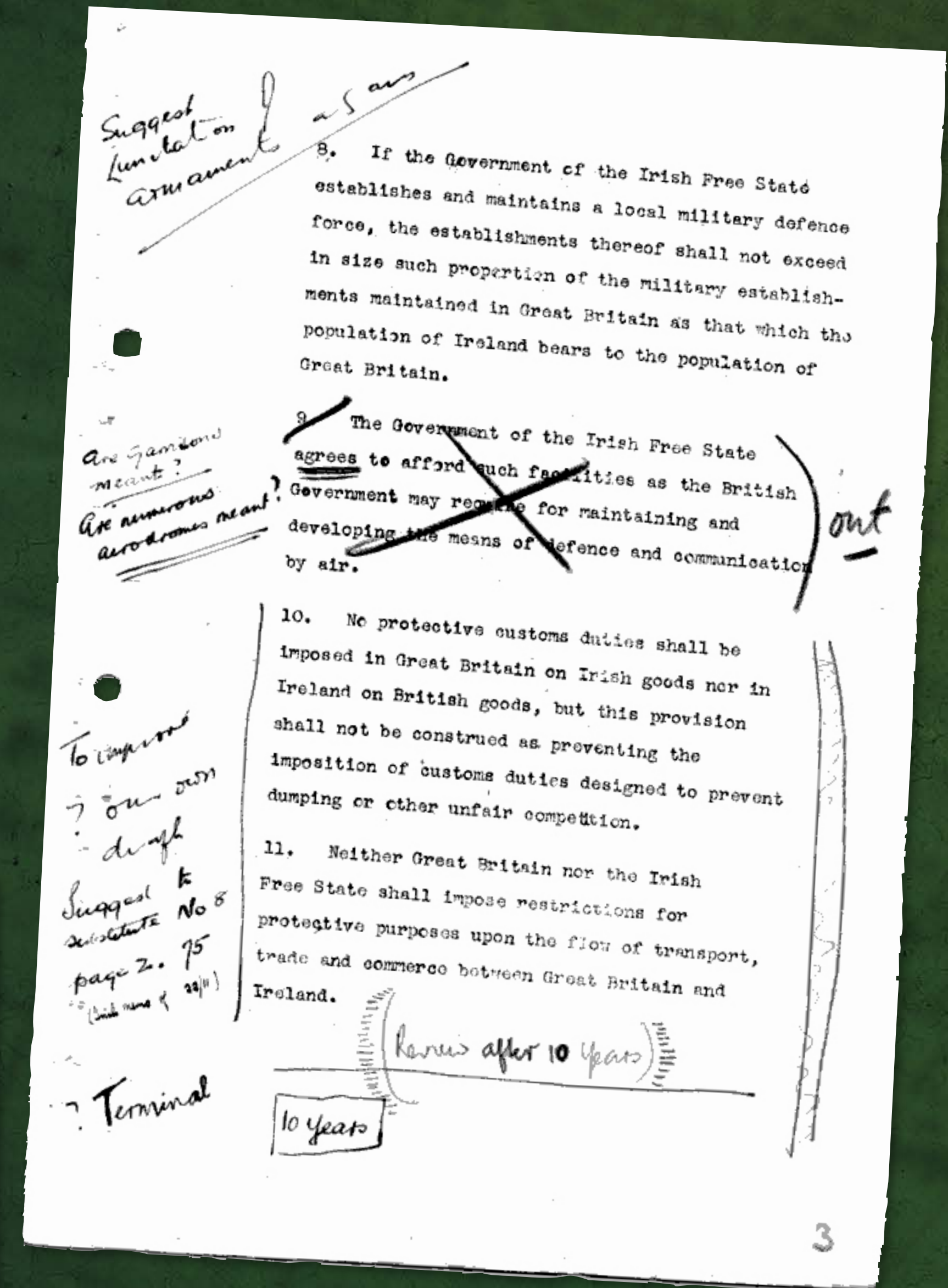


A prayer vigil takes place in London during the Anglo-Irish peace conference, July 1921. *Public domain, Wikimedia Commons.* Δ

Lynch, like between 70 to 75 per cent of his fellow IRA members', was opposed to the signing of the Treaty, as it undermined the Republic proclaimed during the Easter Rising in 1916. The Treaty meant that Ireland received dominion status, within the jurisdiction of the British Empire. For Lynch, this flew in the face of what he had fought for and believed, after many years of conflict. He believed that unity was as important now as ever, as he sought to consolidate IRA Volunteers, and prevent pro and anti-Treaty factions from emerging under his command. This would inevitably prove impossible. He believed that even if the people of Ireland accepted the Treaty, the IRA would not be committed to it, and would instead continue in their allegiance to the Irish Republic proclaimed in 1916.



Liam Lynch, seated fourth from left in the front row, at a meeting of the army convention, 9 April 1922. *Clonakilty Museum, Co. Cork, Wikimedia Commons.* Δ



Page from a draft of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, annotated by Arthur Griffith during deliberations in London, c.1921. *Public domain, Wikimedia Commons.* Δ

The Irish Civil War, 1922 – 1923

The political balance in Ireland after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, became utterly chaotic, to say the least. As two clear factions emerged, the prospect of a civil war became frighteningly real. This fear was realised in the final days of June 1922, when violent confrontations between pro and anti-Treaty soldiers in Dublin, broke into all out civil war, after the shelling of the Four Courts in Dublin. Since 13 April, anti-Treaty IRA had occupied the Four Courts in an act of defiance, establishing their new headquarters there. This move was initially flagged as a logistical necessity, but it quickly became clear that it was intended to antagonise the pro-Treaty side.

Lynch, as the recently elected chief of staff of the IRA, was stationed for a time within the Four Courts, as he sought to overcome the enormous challenges facing his side. He anticipated that he and his men stationed there would eventually be attacked. In the early hours of 28 June 1922, Lynch was awoken by Liam Deasy, his second-in-command, who informed him that the Irish Free State's new National Army had indeed begun shelling the Four Courts with large artillery pieces, borrowed from the British. This attack had been sanctioned by the upper echelons of the Provisional Government, who had come under increasing pressure from the British

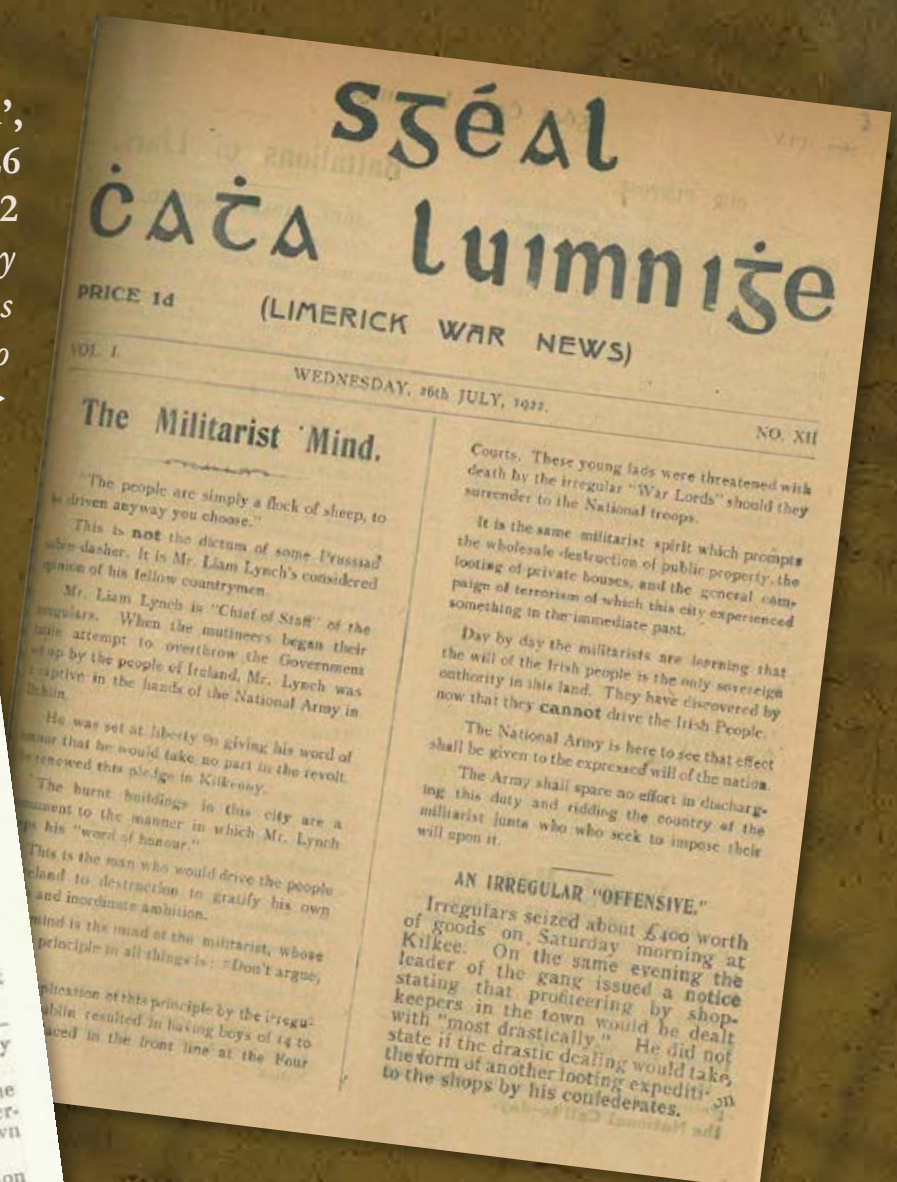
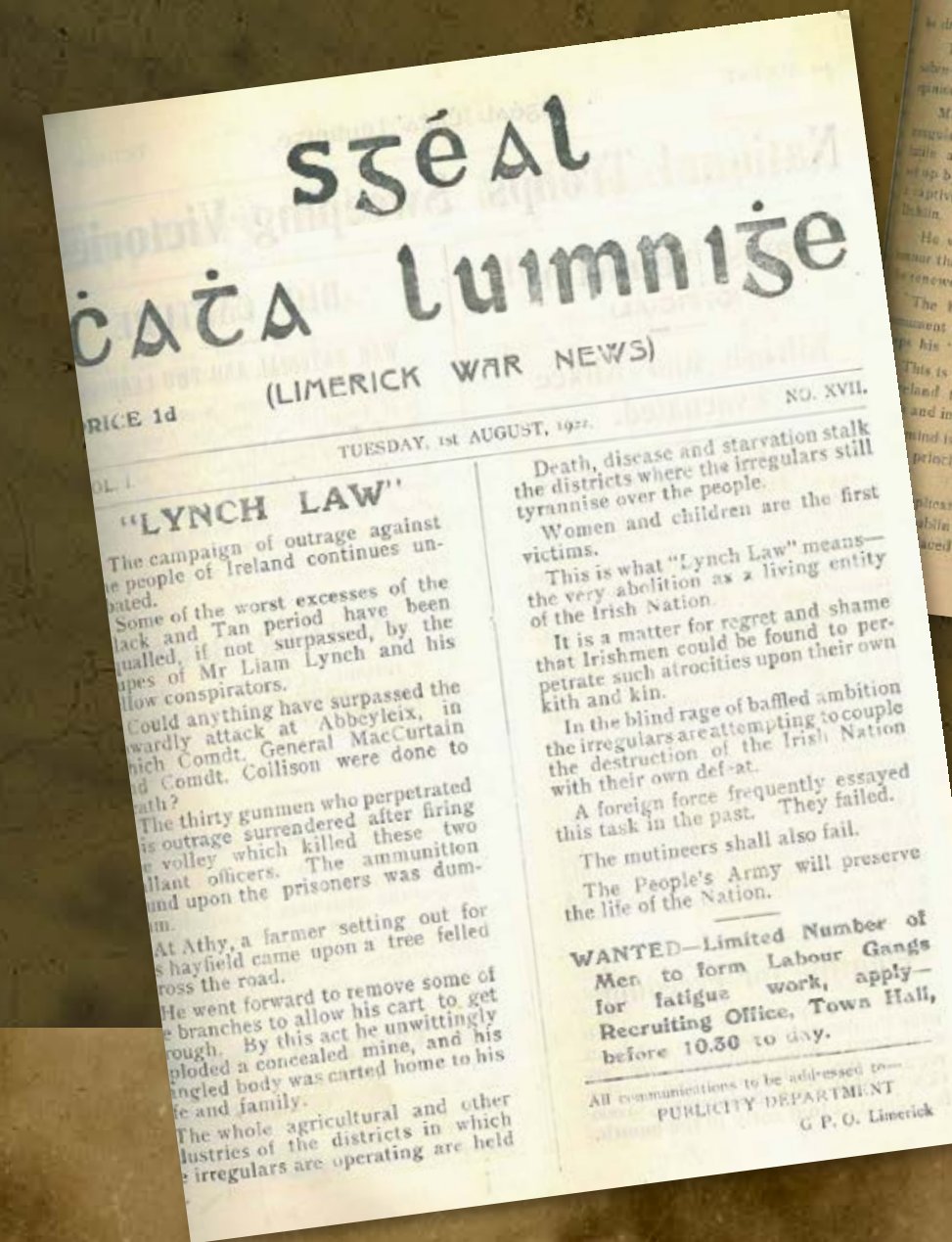
authorities to end hostilities in the country. The British had become increasingly antagonised by the situation in Ireland, especially in light of the assassination of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson by IRA Volunteers in London the previous week.

It is clear from Lynch's actions in the weeks and months after the start of the Civil War, that he was still completely focused on the subjugation of the Irish Free State, and the defence of the Irish Republic by any and all forceful means necessary.

The Four Courts amidst a fierce stand-off between pro, and anti-Treaty soldiers, 30 June 1922, Dublin.
*Public domain,
Wikimedia Commons.* ▶



'Lynch, the militarist mind',
Scéal Chatha Luimnigh, 26
July 1922, vol. 1, no. 12
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library service local studies
department, with thanks to
Dr Seán Gannon. ▶



'Lynch Law', Scéal Chatha Luimnigh,
1 August 1922, vol. 1, no. 17
© Limerick City and County library
service local studies department, with
thanks to Dr Seán Gannon.

The Battle for Limerick, 1922

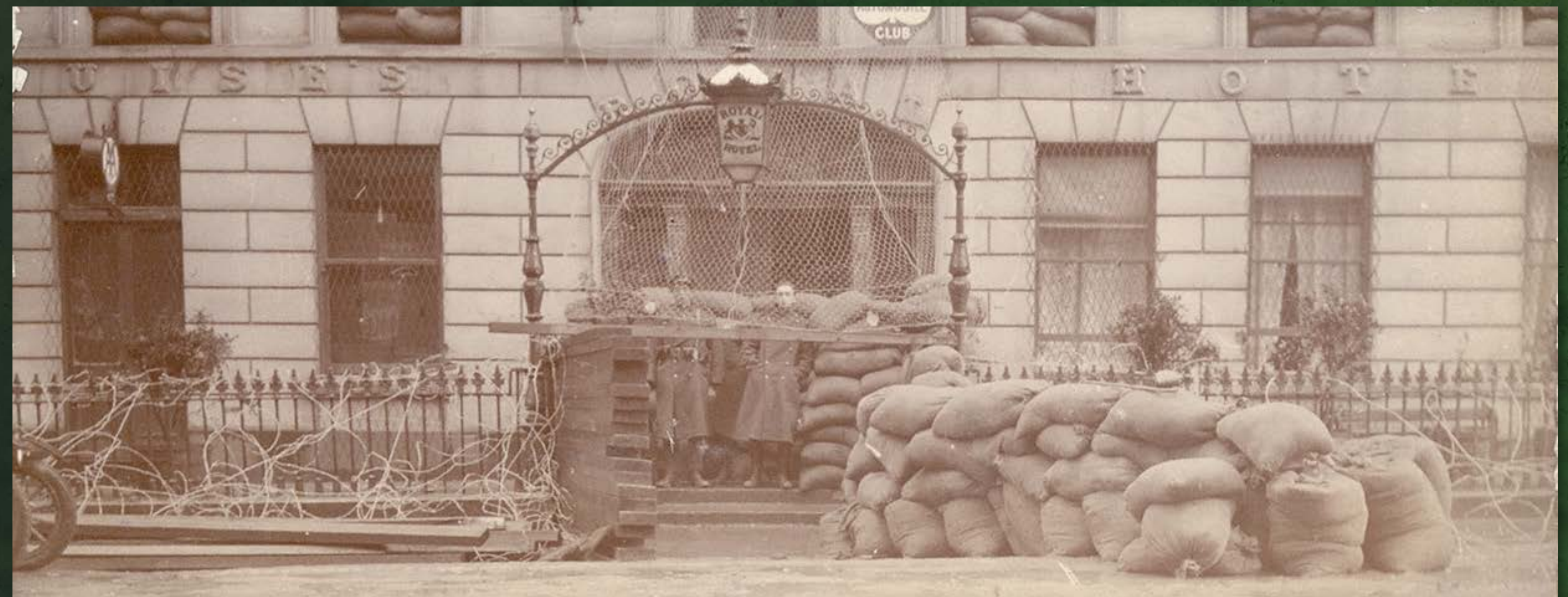
As this war between former comrades raged, Liam Lynch turned his focus to regional domination as a means of weakening the National Army's network. Limerick was an important strategic stronghold throughout much of the Civil War. It was remarked during the conflict, that those who held Limerick, held the west and the south. As a result of this, it was in the interests of both sides to take the city and to do so quickly.

After the departure of the last of the British army from the city in March 1922, the National Army, and the anti-Treaty IRA were left with the challenge of scrambling to acquire barracks and gain control of the region. On 29 June, Lynch established the anti-Treaty IRA's HQ at the New Barracks (now Sarsfield Barracks) in Limerick, granting his side an important foothold in the city. At this point Lynch's force of 700 volunteers outnumbered the National Army's 400 troops. The establishment of the Scéal Chatha Luimnigh newspaper in the city allowed for the Free State to widely distribute anti-IRA propaganda. Lynch was often a target of this publication, as the pro-Treaty side sought to place much of the blame for the conflict on him, highlighting his stubbornness in continuing his vain republican conquest. Lynch is often portrayed in their writings as an arrogant and stubborn individual, seeking to drag Ireland back into conflict.

The reality is that Lynch was deeply aggrieved by the nature of the Civil War, often alluding in letters to his family and friends of his weariness and reluctance in engaging his former comrades in battle. Lynch continued his military campaign in the hope that the political tide in Ireland might turn, and that united, all sides might strive towards the same republican goal.



The Illustrated London News, 29 July 1922, two pages of photographs of the Civil War in Limerick city © *Limerick Museum*. Δ



National army barricades at Cruise's Hotel, Limerick during the summer of 1922. This view of the heavily sandbagged entrance to the hotel shows the level of military activity in the city at the time © *Limerick Museum*. Δ

The Crisis, June 1922 – March 1923

As the stalemate between both sides at Limerick worsened, Lynch was forced to sign a number of peace deals in July with the National Army, which he hoped would stall their advances in the mid-west, thus strengthening the IRA's hold on Munster. This truce was short-lived, as fighting broke out in Limerick by mid-July 1922, after National Army reinforcements arrived in the city. Heavy artillery fire forced the IRA from their positions, most notably the several barracks which they had occupied since taking control of the city in March. Just two days after the beginning of the National Army's advance, the anti-Treaty forces began their retreat from the city, heading through Adare, and towards the border with Co. Cork. Liam Lynch was acutely aware that his defeat in Limerick had driven the IRA in the west and south into a crisis from which they might not recover. On the same day as the Limerick retreat, his forces withdrew from Waterford city, having similarly been overwhelmed by Free State forces.

Losing control of these important garrison towns forced Lynch to adopt the earlier tactics of the IRA, splitting his divisions into smaller flying columns. By August, Lynch had found himself in the dire situation of having lost both Limerick, and eventually Cork, forcing much of the IRA force in the region into hiding. As Free State

forces gained ground, many republican combatants were taken prisoner, and consequently many were tried and executed. By the end of January 1923, fifty-five executions had been carried out, and public opinion was beginning to turn against Lynch.

In March 1923, moves were being made amongst the IRA executive to call a halt to its military actions. Lynch was opposed to this suggestion, voting instead to continue the conflict, a vote which he narrowly won. Ireland, consequently, remained in a weary state of civil war.



Members of the anti-Treaty IRA at the entrance to the Royal George Hotel, Limerick in March 1922. © Limerick Museum. Δ

Anti-Treaty IRA
propaganda from the
Irish Civil War.
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with the kind permission
of the National Museum
of Ireland. ▷*



National Army troops on board a ship during the Irish Civil War.
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**WHAT IS AN
IRREGULAR?**
An Irregular is one who fights
without Pay for the Old Cause
which will never die.

**WHAT IS A
NATIONAL SOLDIER?**
A National Soldier is one who
fights to establish an English
king and an English Constitu-
tion in Ireland.

Lynch's Death and its Consequences

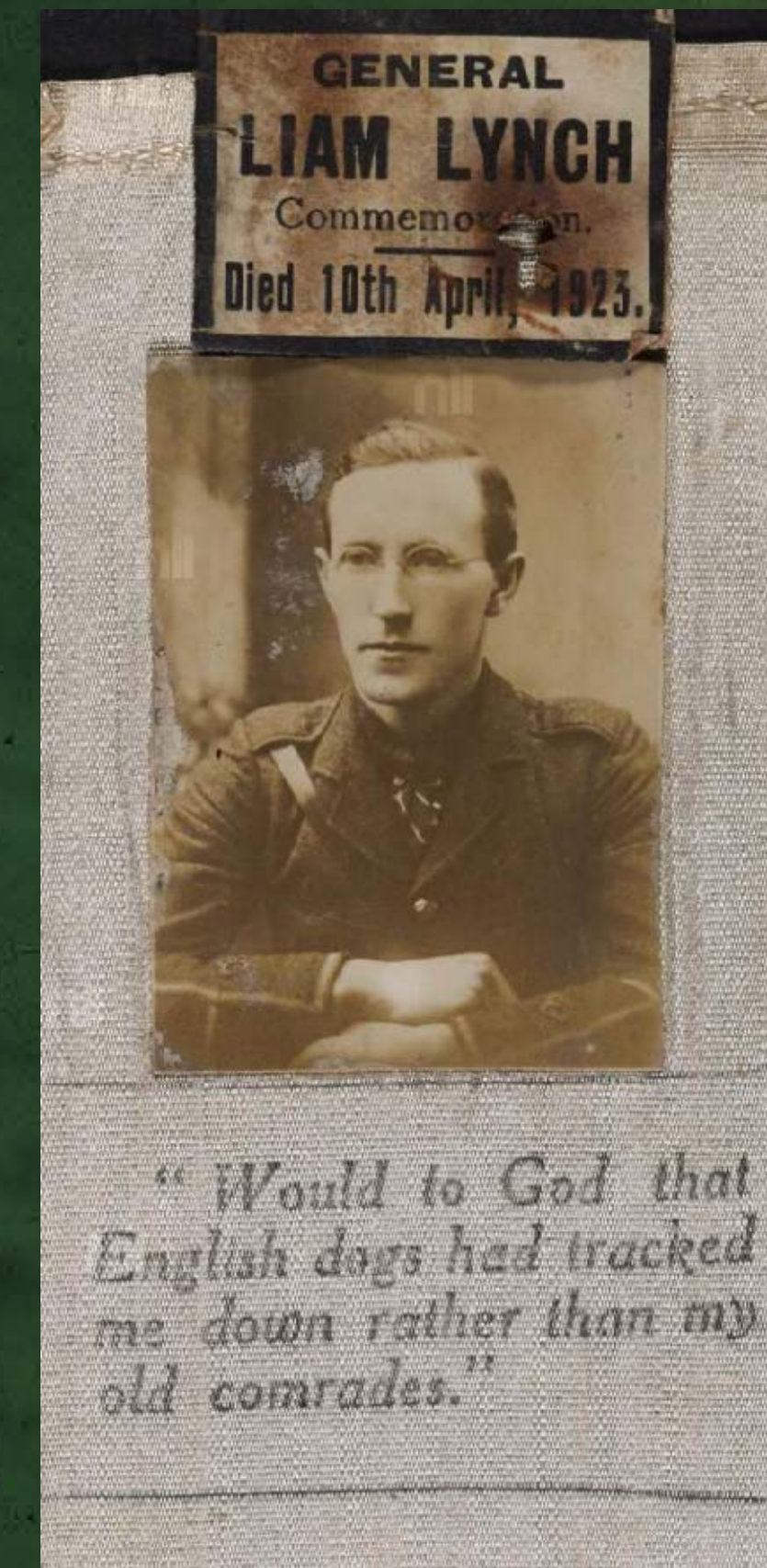
As the Irish Civil War entered its final days in April 1923, Lynch found his anti-Treaty soldiers becoming increasingly isolated in many areas. He had established a secret headquarters in the Knockmealdown mountains in Co. Tipperary. Having been made aware of the presence of several patrol units of National Army soldiers, Lynch and his men, including Frank Aiken, who went on to replace him as IRA chief of staff, began to plan their next move. Lynch had secret IRA documents in his possession at this time pertaining to their immediate military plans, which he was keen to avoid losing to his enemy. On the morning of 10 April 1923, Lynch received reports from IRA scouts that their position was being flanked by two columns of Free State troops. While making for an escape, Lynch and his group were spotted by one of the patrols, resulting in an exchange of fire. In the clamber of crossfire Lynch was hit. As he lay injured on the ground, he urged his comrades to leave him behind, and to continue their retreat, which they did with great reluctance.

On reaching the injured Lynch, the Free State patrol believed they had shot Éamon de Valera, owing to Lynch's similar stature and looks. Lynch is claimed to have remarked, "you didn't get Dev, it's Liam Lynch this time, get me a priest and a doctor, I'm dying".

The wounded Lynch was removed by improvised stretcher, and horse and cart to nearby Newcastle, at the foot of the Knockmealdown Mountains. After being examined by a local doctor, it was decided that he should be removed to St Joseph's Hospital in Clonmel. Dr Dalton, who had performed the examination, noted that Lynch was suffering from extensive internal haemorrhaging and shock, caused by a single bullet wound to the abdomen. Lynch died in the hospital's military ward just before 9pm that evening. He was thirty years old.



Liam Lynch lying in state before his funeral. © Cork Public Museum. △



Badge commemorating the death of Liam Lynch, with a Lynch quote and photograph attached (MS 13,712/2/19)
© National Library of Ireland (NLI). △



Uniform worn by Liam Lynch when he was killed
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Legacy

News of his death quickly reached both sides of the conflict. Éamon De Valera issued a written statement to members of the IRA, solemnly marking the death of Lynch. He used the opportunity of addressing members to reinforce their opposition to the Treaty, and to promote the republican ideals for which Liam Lynch and others had died. Lynch had his dying wish granted, and was buried at Kilcrumper graveyard, near Fermoy, alongside his former comrade, Mick Fitzgerald.

Following Frank Aiken's order to dump arms, several weeks after Lynch's death, it became clear that the anti-Treaty side were no longer willing to endure the brutality of civil war. For logistical reasons, the anti-Treaty side had been slowly defeated over the course of several weeks before the death of Lynch. In many ways, his death signalled the end of the Irish Civil War.

The story of Liam Lynch is one which highlights the arc of Irish republicanism between 1916 and 1923. Lynch, like many of his contemporaries, was inspired to fight for

the establishment of an Irish Republic and dedicated all of his adult life to this cause. Through his experiences as a young man, Lynch quickly developed an aptitude for military life. His skills as a strategist and commander undoubtedly aided the Irish republican cause, and his commitment to his fellow Volunteers aided the success of many of the IRA's plans.

While politics played a vital role in the Irish republican movement during the period in question, it was not necessarily important to Lynch. His focus throughout his involvement in the struggle was firmly fixed on the military objectives of the IRA, and eradication of British rule from Ireland by force. Florence O'Donoghue, a noted biographer and contemporary of Lynch's, notes that his temperament and lack of interest in reaching compromise, meant that his political abilities were limited. He does, nevertheless, serve as a fascinating example of a leading figure in the Irish independence movement from the last century.



The Liam Lynch memorial round tower, constructed on the spot where he was believed to have been shot in Crohan, Co. Tipperary. *A. Redfern, Wikimedia Commons.* Δ



Liam Lynch's handkerchief with bloodstains. *Public domain, Wikimedia Commons.* Δ



The Liam Lynch memorial High Cross at Anglesboro, Co. Limerick. *Public domain, Flickr.* ▷

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