

The Irish Volunteers in Kilkenny City and County. Kilkenny Journal notes.

March 28, Saturday:

Sub-committee met on Wed 25 discussed First Aid Corps. Two ladies present. The drill master attended. Collectors and stewards appointed for drill nights. Badges proposed.

April 4, Saturday

Provisional committee met previous Wed 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom Stallard presided. Interest from John Dunne T.C. who was interested in organising a corps in Callan. Drillmaster Connolly attended. Ray Crotty, Jer Davis and Pat Byrne added to committee. Two city companies A and B.

April 18

Tom Stallard again presiding. Reference to acquiring "Morris Tubes" military rifles.

May 9

Getting haversacks locally considered. Bandoliers decision deferred. They called on local authorities, Kilkenny Corporation, Kilkenny County Council, Callan Town Commissioners and the various Boards of Guardians to press the government through Mr. Redmond to have the proclamation re firearms withdrawn, especially as it was ineffective against the northerners.

Reference to rifle range on Hebron Road.

May 30

Day of the Feis. Three hundred paraded at drill hall in Market Yard at 8 o'clock. Preceded by St. Patrick's Brass Band they marched to the Town Hall where they were inspected by F.J. Biggar.

At the committee meeting that week there was news that a corps was to be established at Johnswell. A Three Castles corps was formed at a meeting in the Gaelic League rooms. DeLoughrey, J.B. O'Neill and M. Darcy of the Provisional Committee attended.

A troop of Na Fianna Éireann was to be formed on the following day, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> at 5.30. Boys under 18 were invited to join. (There was already a troop of scouts in Kilkenny - The James Stephens scouts. see Mellows book.)

Goresbridge to form a corps of Volunteers next Wed.

June 6, Sat.

Note of rapid growth of Volunteers. Indo estimated 130,000

Movement spreading “like wildfire”. Kilmanagh, Mooncoin, Bennetsbridge.

At Johnswell, the Mayor of Kilkenny and Mr. James Carrigan D.C. were met outside the village by the Johnswell Fife and Drum band, and a corps of volunteers was formed.