

Childhood

Dermot MacManus had lived during his early years at the family home in Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo. As a boy on his father's estate had sought out the tenants to hear tales of local 'happenings': parts of which he later penned in *The Middle Kingdom* as he was a staunch believer in the ancient & continuing spirit life of the countryside. [iv]

Dermot Arthur Maurice MacManus (*Diarmuid Mac Maghnuis & alias Dermot Burke*) was born in Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo during 1892: he was reared there. The Second National Branch of the Gaelic League was founded by his aunt C. E. 'Lottie' MacManus at Killeaden where she hosted Yeats & Lady Gregory also they collected stories of Antoine Raftery who was born on the estate. [v]

Education

He was educated at Westminster School & Sandhurst: http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm)

Born into a well-to-do family in Mayo Dermot MacManus had been educated at Westminster & Sandhurst. He entered Trinity College, Dublin following discharge from the army during 1919 to 1921: where he studied astronomy. [vi]

As a mature student Dermot Mc Manus entered Trinity College Dublin for two years 1919 - 21. He studied astronomy: <https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>

Military Career

Commissioned into the Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers Macmanus served in India during WW1. Dermot Macmanus fought in the Dardanelles where he was seriously wounded. According to Calton Younger Author of *Ireland's Civil War* 10th August 1988: Captain Dermot Macmanus had a brilliant record in the British Army like others. Blown up at Gallipoli, he had been eventually been invalided out of the Inniskillen Fusiliers. From *Geni* 15 /2/ 205 it was reported that journalist & author Major - General Dermot MacManus (*Diarmuid Mac Maghnuis*) had enlisted in the British army in 1918. He was Captain of the 10th (*Irish*) Division 1914 - 1918. [vii]

Dermot Mc Manus was commissioned into Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers (*c.1910*). He served in India prior to the war but was seriously wounded at the Gallipoli. Then he was invalided out of the army as Captain in 1919. [viii]

Irish Affairs

While he lived at Woodville in Co. Longford, he abandoned his studies in his determination to help Ireland in her fight for freedom. He made a disillusioned way into the IRA Dermot MacManus had had an upbringing that was traditionally British. Disgusted with the British he wrote to Michael Collins after which he was arrested & incarcerated in the Old Tower in Dublin Castle. In the absence of incriminating evidence: he was released. Later he was introduced into the IRA by his friend Cathal Brugha however soon he was on the auxiliaries murder list in Dublin so had to go on the run. He served under the name of Diarmuid Burke with Michael Brennan & Ernie O'Malley in counties Clare & Tipperary. Following the Treaty 'split' Dermot MacManus sided with the Free Staters. He agreed with Collins's dictum of 'Freedom to achieve Freedom.' He was appointed Director of Training in succession to Major General Dalton. He commended two ships from Limerick to take Kenmare from the sea. In a letter Captain Dermot MacManus stated that '*Sean MaceEoin, the famous Blacksmith of Ballinlea was one of the most chivalrous fighters I have ever met with.*' (*Dermot MacManus: An Appreciation in The Irish Times (Younger)*) Captain MacManus was appointed Director of Training

Dublin Guards: IRA & GOC in Limerick. During 1922 due to his military experience he was promoted to Commandant - General. Later he was appointed Provost Marshall (*Southern Command*) during 1922 /23 He was commander at Portobello Barracks where he suppressed a mutiny of irregular officers. When the Four Courts was shelled: he opened fire with small arms from the Phoenix Park. He replaced the wounded Joe Leonard then stormed the breach to take the area. He disabled the IRA armoured car '*The Mutineer*' by shooting its tyres with a Lewis machine gun. Captain Dermott Mac Manus commandeered the ships in Paddy Daly's Kerry landing of 10th August 1922. He was assistant governor in Mountjoy Prison during 1923. [\[ix\]](#)

Captain Dermot Macmanus wrote to Michael Collins to express support. He was arrested by the British authorities & incarcerated in Dublin Castle. When he was released he went to work with 'Ginger' O'Connell in Cathal Brugha's office on the Quays. However he was placed on the auxiliaries' murder list. In Co. Tipperary he served with IRA members with Michael Brennan & Ernie O'Malley as '*Dermot Burke*.' He was appointed Director of Training of Guards under Collins in succession to General Dalton. He commanded the Portobello Barracks where he suppressed a mutiny of irregular officers. During June - July 1922 he was involved in the assault on the Four Courts: as he attacked from the south (*Phoenix Park*) while Patrick O'Connor attacked from the west. Later was appointed a General. On 10th August 1922 he commanded two small ships on a mission to take Kenmare from the sea. (12th December 2016) [\[x\]](#)

Family Life

He married Martina Clarkin his first wife; his second wife was Millicent. He had a son Christopher also two daughters Margaret & Muriel. [\[xi\]](#)

Publications

Captain Dermot Macmanus during 1959 penned *The Middle Kingdom: The Faerie World of Ireland*, London, *Between Two Worlds: True Irish Ghost Stories* also *Irish Earth Folk*. [\[xii\]](#)

During 1959 he published *The Middle Kingdom: The Faerie World of Ireland* a compendium of Irish fairy customs & traditions: <https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>

Memoirs

Captain Macmanus published *The Irish Literary Revival 1890 -1935* during 1965 *Killeaden & Anthony Raftery 1784 -1835* both have been archived by Roy Johnson. His *Answer to a Query* from M. J. Kelly as a photocopy of transcript is held by Colin Smythe. [\[xiii\]](#)

Activities

He was associated with The Abbey Theatre in Dublin & The Irish Literary Revival. He was involved with Yeats, Singe, Lady Gregory. Captain MacManus was honorary treasurer of The Arts Club in Dublin. He reported that '*The Arts Club has great history & was a real centre of art & intellect from 1915 to 1930 all through the vital 20's*'. [\[xiv\]](#)

According to Brian Hoban D. A. Mc Manus acted as review editor of *The Irish Statesman* during the early 1920s. [\[xv\]](#)

Review Editor

Captain Dermot Macmanus acted as review editor of *The Irish Statesman* (ed. Russell) during the early 1920 to 1926 era: <https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>

Exile

He moved to England where he spent his later years also held a voluminous correspondence with his many friends. He was devotedly attended to during his illness by his second wife Millicent. Previously he had paid annual visits to Killeaden. During Autumn 1971 in a letter he wrote that *'Alas, alas, I will not be over in Ireland at all this year. This is the first such a thing has happened since I left India fifty – seven years ago. It nearly breaks my heart. Think of me as an exile – above all I wish to keep in touch Ireland for it is my Life.'* [xvi]

He delivered papers on the Irish Literary Revival to the Harrogate Literary Society during 1965. (Brian Hoban) [xvii]

He emigrated to Harrogate in England c.1957 - as he imagined himself - an 'exile' from Ireland. Captain Dermott Mc Manus during 1965 delivered an address on the Irish Literary Revival to the Harrogate Literary Society: <https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>

Interview

In 1973 when the BBC produced a documentary on W.B. Yeats they interviewed & filmed Captain Macmanus with regard to his copious notes. [xviii]

An interview by BBC personal at the home in Harrogate of Captain Dermott Mc Manus was held in Summer 1973 due to his friendship with Yeats. (*his last surviving friend*) : <https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>

Demise

An obituary of Captain Dermot MacManus stated that the demise has taken place at his home in Harrogate in Yorkshire of Captain Dermot Macmanus aged eighty – three who had been ill for some time. During 1990 *Dermott MacManus: An Appreciation in 'The Irish Times'*: reported that it was entirely fitting that Dermott Mac Manus who died in Harrogate aged eighty - three should be buried in his beloved Mayo, close to his ancestral home at Killeaden. (*Smythe Colin An Obituary of Captain Dermot MacManus in The Irish Times 1990*) [xix]

Captain Dermott Mc Manus's demise occurred circa 1990 at Harrogate. He was survived by his second wife Millicent: <https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>

Tributes

On a visit to Captain Dermott Macmanus in Harrogate Valarie Strong (*He was a first cousin of her grandfather*) reported *In these Days: A Story of Strong Women* 2010 USA Xlibris Corp. (page 275) that *'Macmanus was a family Legend who had been gassed in the war & the last living link with W. B. Yeats'* During an interview about Killeaden with its ghosts: they subsequently paid a visit to his family home, but found *'the house, a once lovely beautifully proportioned Georgian now derelict. Peering through the windows was enough to know that to make it even more habitable would cost a fortune. Taking care to walk around the thorn tree, we found the stable yard which we decided would be more manageable for restoration. The box stalls & grooms' quarters, carriage house & tack & feed rooms would easily convert into a charming small hotel. After a miserable meal at the local pub where the only recommendation was a mural of the blind poet Anthony Raftery, we booked into an equally miserable B & B...poor Dermot.'* [xx]

A colleague once said of the Captain that *'he was a very brilliant man, a very modest man & certainly hid his light under a bushel'*: http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm

These lines from Cill Aodain Poet Terry Mc Donagh's - Terry is great –grand Son of Bard Thady Conlon, Killedan and Nowhere Else (page 50 / no 21) references Dermot & family. This enjoyable publication features the most amazing artwork throughout its leaves by the wonderful Sally Mc Kenna.

The Big House poked its head through stately trees,

Lotty, Emily and Dermot MacManus stoked an old piano,

gave voice to a fairy kingdom and

placed whitethorn under protection in deserted drawing rooms. [\[xxi\]](#)

Jeffers credited Captain Dermot Mac Manus as 'a well-read man with an excellent library, a revolutionary soldier who had introduced Yeats to Bishop Berkeley's works,' in his publication 1998 *W. B. Yeats: A New Biography* (Hutchinson London) (rev. edn. Continuum 2003) chapter. 15. (page 225) [\[xxii\]](#)

Kathleen Raine discussed Captain Dermot Macmanus in her publication 1990 *Yeats the Initiate, Essays on Certain Themes in the Writings of W. B. Yeats.* (Maryland Barnes & Noble) (pages 28 / 29) [\[xxiii\]](#)

Peter Liebrechs & Peter van de Kamp, eds. *Tumult of Images: Essays on W. B. Yeats and Politics* vol. 3 of *The Literature of Politics, The Politics of Literature* (pages 13 /14) During 1995 proceedings of the Leiden IASIL Conference, Amsterdam: Editions Rodopi. B.V. (Atlanta, GA.) Introduction stated that 'Yeats's closest ally was Captain Dermot MacManus, "his head full of vague Fascims, probably got from me." (Letters, 815). When MacManus introduced Yeats to O' Duffy, the Irish answer to Mussolini! he claimed Yeats had called O' Duffy an 'uneducated lunatic.' [\[xxiv\]](#)

John Mitchel, Rob Rickard & Robert J. M. Rickard discussed various aspects of Macmanus's Faerie Lore in 2000 *Unexplained Phenomena: A Rough Guide Special: Mysteries of Science, Folklore and Superstition* (Rough Guides London) chapter of *The Haunted Planet - Phenomenal highways* (page 169) [\[xxv\]](#)

Sharyanne Mac Leod Nic Mhacla in her 2005 *Queen of the Night: Rediscovering the Celtic Moon Goddess* (Red Wheel Boston) chapter *Tenth Lunation* stated that MacManus was asserted that 'the cure is walking bare-foot and bare-legged in a soft bog in a left-handwise circle (useful for decreasing magic) for fifteen minutes daily for a three-week period.' [\[xxvi\]](#)

Dermott Macmanus was referenced in Carol Mc Colman's 2003 *The Complete Idiots Guide to Celtic Wisdom* (Alpha Books Indianapolis) : http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm

Captain Dermott Macmanus is referenced in Roy H. W. Johnson's 2003 *Century of Endeavour: A Biographical & Autobiographical View of the 20th Century* (Academia Press Dublin) as Dermot Macmanus was an ex - service student of UCD during 1919 to 1921. The author's father - Joseph Johnson - was in contact with & spent time at Macmanus's family home in Longford. Johnson supported Dermott Macmanus in the latter's capacity as prime mover of the Thomas Davis Society. He was later commander of a West of Ireland Free State army. He served as deputy - governor of Mountjoy Prison in Dublin. He was actively involved with comrades association later their transition to Blueshirts. He was appointed by Lemass during 1931 to a commission on a report on the Irish Civil Service. During the 1960's Dermott Macmanus contacted Johnson for support to publish a literary critical work. [\[xxvii\]](#)

The Seige 1922 (2013) is a fifty – minute history film directed by Andrew Gallimore with character actors that included: Michael Collins, Ernie O ‘Malley, Rory O ‘Conner & Dermot MacManus with the last named played by Peter Coonon as well as parts by Sean O ‘Muirthile & Simon Donnelly. Mario Rosenstock played Michael Collins, Winston Churchill also David Lloyd George. [\[xxviii\]](#)

An obituary notice also a photocopy of a typescript by Macmanus detailed the suppression of the Portobello Munity during 1922 are held by Colin Smythe, who reprinted *The Middle Kingdom* during 1959 & 1973. [\[xxix\]](#)

The Shee in Ireland the World of the Shee (*Sidhe*) that is of the faeries of all spirits which are elemental & have never been human was called *The Middle Kingdom*. In ancient times the world of ‘faerie’ has been as much an accepted reality to the country people as has the normal material world around them. During 1959 though belief remained widespread, the old knowledge of the organisation, of the ordered hierarchy of the classes & castes that compose the spirit world has almost disappeared.’ 1973 quoted in Donald E. Morse, et al. *A Small Nation’s Contribution to the World* Colin Smythe 1993 Gerrards Cross (pages 7 / 8) [\[xxx\]](#)

Further Information

A description of the deserted Killedden House & image may be seen on this site with a reference to Capt. Mac Manus’s *The Middle Kingdom*. [\[xxxi\]](#)

Dermot A. MacManus papers are held at the Manuscripts Reading Room in the National Library of Ireland. Collection comprises of diaries, letters, typescripts etc pertaining to MacManus family members also. (*Manuscripts MS50,456*) [\[xxxii\]](#)

Captain Dermot Mc Manus is referenced along with Emily & Lottie McManus at this link:
http://www.castlebar.ie/Nostalgia_and_History/MC-MANUS-FAMILY.shtml

This site references Mc Manus http://www.castlebar.ie/Nostalgia_and_History/MC-MANUS-FAMILY_printer.shtml

Kiltimagh honours its famous captain on this site with a beautiful image of his ‘Faerie’ publication:
<http://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>

Capt. Dermott McManus is referenced in the following links:
http://kiltimagh.ie/2016/12/http://kiltimagh.ie/author/designwest_a/page/2/

Footnotes

[\[iv\]](#) Capt. Dermot Macmanus (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm)
[Assessed 21st March 2020]

[\[v\]](#) Captain Dermott Mc Manus (<https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>) [Assessed 9th January 2022]

[\[vi\]](#) Capt. Dermot Macmanus (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm)
[Assessed 21st March 2020]

[\[vii\]](#) Ibid

[\[viii\]](#) Captain Dermott Mc Manus (<https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>) [Assessed 9th January 2022]

[ix] Capt. Dermot Macmanus (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm) [Assessed 21st March 2020]

[x] Captain Dermott Mc Manus (<https://kiltimagh.ie/captain-dermot-mc-manus/>) [Assessed 9th January 2022]

[xi] Capt. Dermot Macmanus (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm) [Assessed 21st March 2020]

[xii] Ibid

[xiii] Ibid

[xiv] Ibid

[xv] Castlebar Co. Mayo (http://www.castlebar.ie/Nostalgia_and_History/MC-MANUS-FAMILY.shtml) [Assessed 11th March 2020]

[xvi] Capt. Dermot Macmanus (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm) [Assessed 21st March 2020]

[xvii] Castlebar Co. Mayo (http://www.castlebar.ie/Nostalgia_and_History/MC-MANUS-FAMILY.shtml) [Assessed 11th March 2020]

[xviii] Capt. Dermot Macmanus (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm) [Assessed 21st March 2020]

[xix] Ibid

[xx] Ibid

[xxi] Cill Aodáin & nowhere else (http://www.terry-mcdonagh.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/KILLEDAN_AND_NOWHERE_ELSE_INT.pdf) [Assessed 21st March 2020]

[xxii] Capt. Dermot Macmanus (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/Mac/M-Manus_DA/life.htm) [Assessed 21st March 2020]

[xxiii] Ibid

[xxiv] Ibid

[xxv] Ibid

[xxvi] Ibid

[xxvii] Ibid

[xxviii] Ibid

[xxix] Ibid

[xxx] Ibid

[xxxi] Killeden House (<https://www.property.ie/property-for-sale/Killedan-House-Killedan-Kiltimagh-Co-Mayo/2242536/>) [Assessed 21st March 2020]

[xxxii] D .A. MacManus Papers (<http://catalogue.nli.ie/Collection/vtls000749188>) [Assessed 21st March 2020]