

## Memorial To Tomas O Hogain Unveiled At Dromin

**D**O as he did in the service of Ireland, and you will be a true patriot. All are called to serve their country. When the path of duty is clear, follow that path without swerving to the right or to the left. Although you may not sometimes see eye to eye with those who guide the destinies of the nation, yet do not impede them when you see that they are faithful to all the traditions of Ireland, both in spiritual and temporal things. Our great fault as a nation in the past was that we failed in unity. But now that substantial unity and independence has been secured, at the cost of so much sacrifice, let us never again be an *dream beag silte nar chuir le ceile. Sinn Fein, Sinn Fein.*"

That, said Very Rev. T. Canon Wall.

P.P., Ballingarry, unveiling a memorial in Dromin Churchyard, Kilmallock, on Sunday last, to the memory of Tomas C. Hogan was the lesson his life had for the youth of to-day.

It was a great day for the Committee, who some months ago set the ball rolling and who on Sunday found the realisation of their ideals and ambition when Very Rev. T. Canon Wall, P.P., Ballingarry, lifted the Tricolour off the fine Celtic cross standing nine feet high, enclosed with an iron railing and bearing the inscription: "Oraidh do Tomas O Hogain (Oglaigh na hEireann, Baile Tarcair). Cill Moicealloig Le Goineadh ag Gallaibh i Bpairc na Crocaigh, Baile Atha Cliath Domhnach an Ais, Nu Samhna. 1920, Cailleadh e de deascuib an goin ar an 26 adh la Samhna, 1920, i n-aois 19 Go ndeanaidh Dia trocaire ar a anam. 'Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori'."

Before the ceremony, a parade was formed some distance from the churchyard, and headed by the Firing Party of the Old I.R.A., followed by the Bruff L.S.F. Pipers Band, members of the Old I.R.A. Companies, members of the L.S.F. and members of the L.D.F., it marched to the scene of the unveiling. District Leader W. T. Purcell was in charge of the parade, and he was assisted by Lieut. Lynch and Connolly, of the Defence Forces. D.S.O. J. Meade was in charge of the L.S.F., Bruff District.

### YOUTH.

Unveiling the monument, Very Rev. Canon Wall, who is brother of the late Brigade Commandant, Sean Wall, O/C. of the East Limerick Brigade I.R.A., said that born at Tankardstown, Tommy Hogan as a youth of 17 joined the Bruce Company of the Irish Republican Army. He never missed a drill or a parade. He had three brothers in the same company and two sisters in Cumann na mBan. The home of his parents was well known to the Republican soldiers of East Limerick and North Cork as a place of refuge at a time when to give shelter and hospitality to them was dangerous. Tommy Hogan, too, was a hurler and footballer.

At the age of 18 he went to business in Dublin and there, without losing his interest in things Gaelic, he became active in the ranks of the Dublin I.R.A.

The Irish Republican Army, which was responsible for carrying on the struggle against the age-long aggressor, did not object to being killed in a fair fight; but the practice of interrogating prisoners in their cells, by night and by day, of torturing them, and beating them up to try to extract information, was of frequent occurrence. Accordingly, the leaders of the I.R.A. determined to make a clean sweep of as many officers engaged in court-martial duty as possible.

### "BLOODY SUNDAY."

On the morning of Sunday, November 21, armed parties of the I.R.A. descended on the hotels and boarding houses where the British officers lay and slew twelve of them in their bedrooms, together with two auxiliary officers in the street, and left five others wounded. Tommy Hogan was on guard duty for the I.R.A. that morning on the streets of Dublin.

Dublin Castle was in consternation. The opportunity for a cowardly revenge was at hand. A great football match, between Tipperary and Dublin, was to be played at Croke Park that afternoon. The Captain of the Tipperary team was a man named Hogan. And ever since the Soloheadbeg Ambush and the rescue at Knocklong Station, Sean Hogan was a much wanted man by the Crown. The name Hogan was enough—it was like a red rag to a bull—and several lorryloads of Black and Tans were dispatched to Croke Park "to search the crowd for arms or incriminating documents." There were 10,000 spectators in that crowd! The Tans were instructed "to return the fire if any opposition was offered, and to shoot as many of the Tipperary team as possible, and on no account to let Hogan escape." The officer in charge of the Crown Forces made sure of his man. He had one man who was a dead shot with a rifle. Hogan, the Tipperary Captain, was pointed out to the marksman, who levelled his rifle on him and Hogan fell dead. The volleys fired on the crowd killed twelve people and left about sixty others lying on the field less or more seriously wounded. Amongst those fatally wounded was our Tommy-Hogan, who died on the following Thursday—*beannaict De le na anam.*

Turning to the lessons of the life of Tomas O Hogain, the Rev. speaker said that like Kevin Barry, his life was a symbol of the enthusiasm of youth. He was resolute in giving of his best for Ireland. He loved everything that belonged to his native land. And he served her well. For after all the proof of love of country was service. That was the lesson of Tommy Hogan's life for the youth of to-day.

At the conclusion of the oration, Sean Morrissey, P.C., gave the word of command to the Firing Party, and three volleys rang out over the grave of the dead hero. Then the Last Post was sounded. Subsequently, Rev. Michael Kennedy, C.C., Dromin, and the large attendance recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish, to bring the stirring scenes to a close.

The members of the Firing Party were: Messrs. Thomas Finn, John Lynch, John Wall, John Potter, Michael Sullivan, Robert Horgan, E. Keane, W. Cavanagh, D. Carroll, Michael Ward, Patrick Lynch, J. Winters. It is interesting to note that the three first named were also on the firing party when Tommy Hogan was buried in Dromin 24 years ago.

### ATTENDANCE.

Amongst those in attendance were: Very Rev. S. O'Dea, P.P., Dromin; Senator Tadg Crowley, Mr. R. Ryan, T.D.; Mr. D. O'Brain, T.D.; Mr. G. C. Bennett, T.D.; Mr. John Canty, Chairman, Limerick County Council; Supt. H. J. Keegan, Bruff; Mr. T. Hannan, N.T.; Mr. Patrick Hogan (brother of deceased); Miss Margaret Hogan (sister); Mr. D. Horgan, N.T., and Mr. E. Horgan, Mrs. Maher, N.T.; and members of the committee; Daniel McDonald, P.C., former treasurer of the East Limerick Sinn Fein Comhairle Ceanntair; P. Maguire, M.C.C., Ballylanders; E. Tobin, former chairman of the Old I.R.A. Advisory Committee, Glenorohane, Ballylanders.