





**1918:** the fourth year of World War I. The Causeway area witnessed, often at great cost to local families, the closing stages of World War I on land, at sea and in the air and the impact of soldiers returning home - many convalescing from injury and traumatic experiences. Local communities faced the ongoing loss of a generation of young men along with the devastating outbreak of Spanish Flu amidst the celebrations for Armistice and calls for memorials. Daily life would remain restricted by the Defence of the Realm Act. Women's roles were changing, emerging technologies and the rise in trade unions meant that life at home would forever change after World War I. A general election, called in December, would reshape the political landscape of Ireland.

# **Defence of the Realm Act 1914**

"No person shall by word of mouth or in writing or in any newspaper, periodical, disaffection to His Majesty or to interfere with the success of His Majesty's forces by land or sea.... or spread reports or make statements likely to prejudice the recruitment, training discipline or administration of any of His Majesty's forces" Section 27 Defence of the Realm Act 1914.

The Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) introduced at the outbreak of war in 1914, granted emergency powers to the Government. DORA was applied with greater severity in Ireland, especially after the 1916 Easter Rising when martial law was introduced. DORA also placed restrictions on communications, newspapers, vital supplies, movement and public meetings, and enabled appropriation (taking) of property. In February 1918 a new restriction was introduced which required that all lights within a certain distance of the sea or navigable river must be screened from half an hour after sunset. Sarah Wallace, owner of a boarding house at Bath Terrace Portrush, faced being prosecuted for violations being committed by her guests.

DORA prohibited meetings and marches in Ireland without written permission from the authorities. On 17th May 1918, 73 Sinn Fein leaders were arrested and deported to English prisons on suspicion of conspiring in a German Plot'. Later, Sinn Fein clubs, the Irish Volunteers, Cumann na mBan and the Gaelic League were proclaimed 'dangerous' organisations and their meetings declared illegal. A meeting planned by Sinn Fein at Culmore, near Kilrea, was banned. Eighty policemen and a company of Sussex yeomen were sent to the town to enforce DORA. In September, a Nationalist parade through Garvagh was banned, although the meeting at Glenkeen was not. Nationalists marched through Dungiven in August and Kilrea in September. Several men were arrested and charged.

Ministry of Food Sugar Registration Card for Sam Henry of Nedeen, Coleraine. Dated 8th March, 1918 on the back. Allowance for two persons. Sugar to be collected from J. Maclean of 9 Kingsgate Street, Coleraine. Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.	
H. 1. 635107 BUGAR REGISTRATION CARD. D. Name Amusel Henry Address Medicin. Collections	INGLAND.
Establer with when the Householder has registered :- E. Signature of Fight LAND - Ratesiler	

The Aliens Restriction Act 1914, required all those considered 'aliens' to notify Constabulary of their movements. This same Act required boarding houses to keep a register. Prosecutions were recorded of a number of local boarding nouses and individuals committing offences. Those of German origin, either naturalised or not, were viewed with particular suspicion. Considering the numerous ships sunk off the Irish coast, calls seeking urgent action to have 'all enemy aliens, naturalised or not, removed from every coast town or seaport and prohibited from approaching within ten miles of the coast.' were discussed by Portrush Urban District Council in March 1918.

DEFENCE OF THE BEALM REGULATIONS MAT USE INT CONSOLIDATED FORM NOTES, TABLE OF THE REGULATIONS, AND GRADES MADE UNDER THE RECULATIONS. BLA. BAUDT BIR "FOLLET THE POPULA 





## 'Germany's Impending Doom'

The German Spring Offensive at the Somme from March to July 1918, would see major retreats of British forces and their allies. However German gains would be threatened by overstretched supply lines, fierce resistance and substantial loss of lives. As a result of this Offensive, plans were underway to extend conscription into Ireland for the first time, as more men were urgently needed for the British Army. In an attempt to make it more acceptable, Prime Minister Lloyd George linked the Conscription Bill with undertakings to implement new plans for Home Rule. Many Ulster Unionists accepted the idea of conscription but most remained anti-Home Rule. The majority of Nationalists opposed Conscription. Local protests were reported at Ballymoney, Ballycastle and Kilrea. Catholic churches posted a pledge by the Bishops to resist conscription 'by the most effective means at our disposal'. Because of the levels of protest, the Government decided instead to launch a vigorous recruiting campaign with rallies reported at Ballymoney, Coleraine, Portstewart, Portrush, Bushmills, Limavady and a recruitment office established at Garvagh. Robert Quigg VC is reported to have endorsed this new recruitment drive.

Aeroplanes and airships were used in battle for the first time during World War I for bombing and reconnaissance. War I for bombing and reconnaissance. They were also used to drop propaganda leaflets to undermine the enemy. The Royal Air Force was formed 1st April 1918 from the Royal Air Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service to improve Britain's air defence. The same day the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) was formed to fill administration, technical and other roles. The RAF would be take the war roles. The RAF would help take the war to Germany in 1918, and by the end of the War, had become the world's largest air service.

Throughout the war, German U-boats carried out attacks against Allied shipping in the north Atlantic and elsewhere. At its height, Germany's "unrestricted" campaign against naval as well as marchant usseals almost out Pritain off merchant vessels almost cut Britain off from the crucial supplies of food and goods necessary for the war effort. Between February and April 1917, U-boats sank more than 500 merchant ships. Increasingly, targets included neutral vessels and Allied hospital ships. This campaign helped to bring the United States into the War in April 1917. However, in 1918 war came very close to home again with *Tuscania, Andania* and *Calgarian* being sunk by U-boats near Rathlin Island and the armed trampsteamer *SS Wheatear* sustaining attack at Portballintrae. However British forces started to attack U-boat bases in 1918 and by Armistice the threat posed by

U-boats was neutralised.



ARMISTICE

The Second Battle of the Somme (1918) began at Amiens on the 8th August The Second Battle of the Somme (1918) began at Amiens on the 8th August, where British and Allied forces, with American support, commenced a four month campaign known as the Summer Offensive. Negotiations in October, behind the scenes, led to Armistice between Allied powers and Germany on 11th November 1918. Across Europe new nation states were emerging and subsequent peace treaty negotiations would result in boundaries being redrawn. An estimated 49,000 lives from Ireland had been lost during World War I.



PEACE AT LAST. SURRENDER OF GERMANY. STRONG ARMISTICE TERMS.

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REVOLUTION IN GERMANY. on Fri-

ght (east) bank of the river. A strip o erritory six miles wide along the eas ank of the Rhine to form a neutral zone. Evacuation by the enemy of the nelands to be completed within 3.

6. In all territory evacuated, by the enemy there shall be no evacuation of in-mbitants and no damage done to persons The roads and means of communica-

tion of every kind to be in no manner impaired. All personnel at present em-ployed on them to remain. 5,000 loconotives, 150,000 wagons, and 5,000 motor rries to be delivered to the Allies with 14 days. The railways of Alsaco-Lortine to be handed over within the same eriod, and all stores of coal and railway The German command to reveal al v action fuses disposed









## **After Armistice**

Even as Armistice was being celebrated, telegrams were still arriving to report the loss of more young men. In Dervock the decision to commemorate servicemen was taken immediately after Armistice. In December 1918 a public meeting in Limavady resolved to build a war memorial including a library, reading and recreation rooms.

The proposals for battlefield memorials, local civic war memorials and church memorials would only be realised from late 1919 onwards with Stranocum having probably the first public war memorial in Ulster. The poppy as a symbol of Remembrance was first used in 1921.

No. 321849 Cas Акму Fonse B. 104-82 Record Office, 191 Madam It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of :--(No.) 21849 (Rank) Revale (Name) James Henry. (Regiment) Royal Sumskilling Fuschiers which occurred at the post. on the 8th Movember, 1918. The report is to the effect that he loas talled in alton

whilet serving aith B. F. France. By His Majesty's command I am to forward the enclosed message of sympathy from Their Gracious Majestics the King and Queen. I am at the same time to express the regret of the Amy Council at the soldier's death in his Country's service.

I am to add that any information that may be received as to the soldier's burial will be communicated to you in due course. A separate leaflet dealing more fully with this subject is enclosed.

Un alex.

Madam Your obedient Servant, Gill Onkey bapt. for. Officer in charge of Records.

I am,



Demobilisation of the British Army would begin on the 4th December although the Armistice would be extended on the Western Front until 17th January 1919, as troops continue to move into surrendered territories. Samuel Meeke of Benvarden, a prisoner of war who had been forced to work in the sulphur mines, was released after Armistice but died two weeks after returning home.



inally known as the Golf & Hydropath changed its name around the end 9th century to the Golf Hotel. It later Castle Erin and is now demolished. Coloria Manual Science (Coloria Manual Science)



# **Demobilisation and Returning Soldiers**

There were difficulties facing some discharged soldiers attempting to resume 'normal' life. Samuel Hoey of Union Street, Coleraine had joined up in 1914. Back home in Coleraine he was caught stealing money under the influence of alcohol. A conviction would have jeopardised his military pension. He was discharged without a formal criminal record under the First Offenders Act.

The old Golf Hotel in Portrush was converted into a convalescent home for discharged soldiers and sailors. It opened in early October 1918 to provide temporary rest and recuperation for injured veterans who would be expected to recover sufficiently to find employment. Appeals were made to members of the local community for supplies such as farm produce, tobacco, games and hens. Fund-raisers were held to provide a piano and other items.

A meeting was held in Coleraine Town Hall in July 1918 to organise a local branch of the Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers. The aim of the Federation was to bring together soldiers and sailors discharged during or after the War, and those suffering bereavement as a result of the War. It also attempted to enlist the support of employers and unions. At a meeting in Coleraine in October 1918, a resolution was unanimously passed that the proposed separation allowance was inadequate to meet the needs of soldiers' dependents, and a call was made for the government to increase both these and pensions.



### **The Labour Movement**

The Irish Labour party stood aside in the General Election of 1918, however this was a period of much discontent for workers across the country. Meetings were held with the aim to establish unions, impose tariffs on imported goods, address long standing drainage issues or discuss issues related to pay and conditions. Strikes were recorded or threatened and arbitration over wages occurred.



Strike or Lock-out? Dispute R garding Output. The miners at Ballycastle coal mines and present out. The men's contention is that der were stopped owing to a dispute over mee and that they were asked to go back on the which they would not agree to. They add has it was a lock-out which had developed into strike, and that there is no appearance of southement



1918 was a significant year for women with the passing of the Representation of the People Act on 6th February, which gave the right to vote to women over 30 who fulfilled minimum property requirements. Another 1918 landmark was the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act passed on the 21st November which allowed women to stand for election to parliament. The voting registers doubled in Ireland causing a degree of uncertainty in predicting the outcome of the December general election, and efforts were made by Nationalists and Unionists to capitalise on the votes of women. The War had given women opportunities that would not otherwise have been open to them. May Traill from Ballylough was put in charge of an electrical plant at the power house of the government rolling mills near Southampton, a position never before held by a woman in the UK.

Lady Voter's Dilemma'. A musical comedy with words and lyrics by Daniel MacLaughlin. First produced in Coleraine Town Hall December 1918. The plot hinged on the demand for voters and the tensions resulting from suffrage movement

PAINTERS ON STRIKE. The Coleraine and Portrush painters, with the exception of the foremen, "downed tools" on Monday and are still on strike for s increased rates of pay. 53d per hour has town work since a half-penn men now ( work and 1s 6d up to the present employers have offered 74d and 1s 3d re-spectively, while reducing the working hours per week from 58 to 56 hours, but this was refused. The Midland Railway Com-pany's painters are not involved in the strike.



### Influenza

In 1918 a pandemic known as 'Spanish Influenza' (H1N1 virus) arrived in Ireland. More than 20,000 people are reported to have died in Ireland in 1918-1919. While estimates of those killed across the world vary, it is clear that many more people died from the flu epidemic than during the whole of World War I (approximately 20 million). It was first detected in Ireland in the late spring and summer, and appeared again in the autumn and winter.



The Coleraine Chronicle and other local papers issued a steady stream of reports of the disease and its impact including:

August, Coleraine: a shortage of doctors was reported.

December, Ballycastle: two local women, Mrs S. J Lyle and Miss Boyd (Brynmawr), who had trained with St John's Ambulance Society, volunteered to stand in for Ballycastle nurses who had contracted the disease and were unable to work. There were 11 influenza patients in the infirmary and fever hospital, and the two women 'did both day and night duty on several occasions, with patients who were seriously ill'.

**December:** warning of the dangers of confined public gatherings, was circulated in at least six English newspapers.

After a dance in Bushmills thirty-one cases of flu had to be treated in two days.

**December:** Mr Acheson, originally from Coleraine, had been working in Sunderland before joining the army. He had died from war wounds leaving a wife and seven young children. His widow and youngest child died from influenza, leaving their other six children as orphans. Mr Acheson's brother-in-law in Portrush and his former employer in Glasgow, arranged to adopt the children.

**December:** Mrs Douglas of Roselick, Portstewart, lost three children to influenza and another Roselick family also lost two children.

## **General election**

Keen to make the most of his strong position at the end of the war, Lloyd George called an election on the 14th December 1918, although the count was delayed until the 28th to allow time for ballot papers from soldiers still overseas. With the passing of the Representation of the People Act in February 1918, the electorate had more than doubled and for the first time all men over 21 and women over 30 with basic property rights could vote. In Ulster the Unionist Party remained dominant.

A combination of the conscription crisis and events connected with the May arrests and the aftermath, contributed to an increase in Sinn Fein support, leading to their victory, with 73 seats, over the Irish Parliamentary Party, holding onto only 6 seats. The Unionists won 26 seats and Lloyd George's Conservative Party won a landslide victory.

For God. For King & For Country Y.M.C.A. Y.M.C.A Y.M.C.A CES ON ACTIVE SERV PP Hospital aas glor ge Well I am writing you hear few Cenes to Cet Rouking would be theme more other its deathrown the But it Can Kellin new as I have get the flip I took it on wenshow might Bul- I ave a fit fel stiff twods as had we of us for got it fere and nearly all the nurses are Bad to Sat think Dis is al at present topeny topla man the sear pader pass of I find sell





