

Lunchtime Lecture Series Military Archives Military Service Pensions Collection

The Military Archives are delighted to announce a series of lunchtime lectures on the Military Service Pensions Collection (MSPC) which will take place in Rathmines Library on 26th May, 2nd June and the 9th June at 1300 hrs.

The Military Archives provides a vital national resource in the provision of primary source materials relating to the 1916 Easter Rising and the revolutionary period in Ireland.

Key to understanding and researching the period, context and the events of the revolutionary period are the Military Service Pensions Collection 1916-1923 (MSPC) and the Bureau of Military History 1913-1921. The Bureau of Military History was launched in August 2012 and remains available to view online at www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie The Military Service Pensions Collection continues to be made available online in phased releases on www.militaryarchives.ie

As part of the Government Centenary Commemoration programme, since 2008 the Department of Defence has been cataloguing and partially digitising the MSPC. The output to date has been described as the single most important archival collection relating to Ireland's revolutionary period, providing a significant insight into not only military activities but also social, economic and political aspects of the participants in the struggle for Independence.

Project archivists on the Military Service Pension Collection will present a short talk on three consecutive Tuesday lunchtimes providing insight and highlighting some of the most significant findings of the collection.

Lecture 1 "Women in the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection. A Reassessment and New Sources", Ms Cecile Gordon.

Lecture 2 "The Importance of the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection - Understanding revolutionary Ireland and beyond", Mr Michael Keane

Lecture 3 "Establishing the Free State in conflict, 1922 – 1924" Mr Robert McEvoy

Lecture 1 “Women in the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection. A Reassessment and New Sources”

Ms Cecile Gordon

Ms Cecile Gordon is a graduate from the school of History and Archives, UCD. Cecile is an archivist with the Military Service Pensions Collection.

26th May 2015 1300 hrs Rathmines Library

The Military Service Pensions Archive Project (MSPC) is an ongoing project. It has already revealed fascinating profiles of women involved in the Revolutionary period (1916-1923). Many known names are present within the collection and despite being documented in secondary sources, files from the collection provide us with an additional understanding of their roles and work but also reveal their struggle to be recognised as lawful pensioners.

Researching the role of women has been problematic for a variety of reasons: lack of sources and insufficient data, indifference and lack of motivation to include them in the main narrative. The MSPC brings a great amount of information to the table and thanks to this project, many women, so far unknown, are finally being heard.

The talk will explain how important this new data is and what it means for historical writing. The events that took place between 1916 and 1923 impacted on women’s lives around the country, whether they were active participants or merely caught in the events due to family ties. These crucial landmarks in Irish history were going to set the tone for the years that followed.

Some examples directly derived from the files of individual members of Cumann na mBan, the Irish Citizen Army and the Hibernian Rifles will be analysed in order to gain an understanding of their profile and motivations. The talk will also present new voices of female participants who did not join any particular organisation in order to carry out very specific intelligence work.

Lecture 2 "The Importance of the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection - Understanding revolutionary Ireland and beyond"

Michael Keane is a graduate from the school of History and Archives, UCD. Michael is an archivist with the Military Service Pensions Collection.
Mr Michael Keane

2nd June 2015 1300 hrs Rathmines Library

Utilising new information and sources of information contained within the Military Services Pensions Collection, this talk will look at what this Collection can tell us not only about Ireland's independence struggle, but Ireland in the 20th century generally.

Lecture 3 "Establishing the Free State in conflict, 1922 – 1924"

Robert McEvoy is a graduate from the school of History and Archives, UCD. Robert is an archivist with the Military Service Pensions Collection.
Mr Robert McEvoy

9th June 2015 1300 hrs Rathmines Library

Following a review of policing, courts system and parliamentary procedures, this lecture will discuss the National Army (1922-1924) in relation to equipment, training and personnel. The talk will also examine the numbers of casualties, legislation and awarding criteria under *the* Army Pensions Acts. The presentation will utilise individual cases from the collection to illustrate the subject matter. The talk will also highlight the benefits/uses of the new material and future releases.