

BOARD OF ASSESSORS (1924-1928)

BIOGRAPHIES

- ❖ Beatty Cyril Joseph
- ❖ Duggan Eamon
- ❖ Lynch Fionan
- ❖ Ó Suilleaváin Gearóid (Secretary)

BEATTY, Cyril Joseph (1890-1968), District Court Judge, Longford (Chairman)

Cyril Joseph Beatty was born 13th August 1890 at 50 Clanbrassil Street, Dublin. He was the middle son of Christopher J. R. Beatty and the second son of Ellen Beatty (née Devlin). Christopher, who was a manufacturing agent in the drapery trade, had married twice, his first wife was Catherine Heffernan and they had one son, John Joseph, who was born in 1869 and qualified as a solicitor in later life. Cyril had three other brothers, Walter, also a solicitor, Joseph a dentist and Arthur Edward.

Cyril was educated at Catholic University Secondary school, Leeson Street Dublin, the Royal University of Ireland and King' Inns Dublin. He was called to the Bar in November 1911.

He established an extensive legal practice in the Leinster area and officiated at Republican Courts during the War of Independence in Dublin City and County. He was one of the first appointed as a Temporary District Justice (Magistrate) by Kevin O'Higgins, Minister of Home Affairs on 28 October 1922 "pending the reconstruction of the Irish Judicial and Magisterial system." He was later assigned to courts in Counties Limerick, Clare and North Kerry and was formally appointed as a District Justice by warrant signed by the Governor General on 7th December 1923.

In July 1924, Judge Beatty sought and was granted a transfer to the Longford District and was serving there when he was appointed, on 2nd October 1924, as Chairperson and Legal Member of the Board of Assessors under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1924. On completion of the work of the Board of Assessors in October 1928, Judge Beatty resumed duty as District Justice in the Meath - Westmeath district, to which he had been appointed in late 1927. He was to serve in that capacity until his retirement on 11th August 1960. At that time he was residing at 83 Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

In 1924 he married Iva M. Goulding, daughter of Dr F.M. and Mrs Goulding, Headford, Co. Galway. They had two children: a daughter Olive who qualified as a veterinary surgeon, who practised in Dublin and later moved to Monmouth in Wales on her marriage to a Dr Harvey. The Beatty's other child, a son, qualified as a Barrister and was unfortunately killed in an aircraft accident in Killiney in the 1950s.

Judge Cyril Beatty died on 23rd October 1968.

DUGGAN, Eamon (Edmund J.), TD, Parliamentary Secretary, Executive Council (member)

Eamon Duggan joined "A" Company, 1st Dublin Battalion, Irish Volunteers in 1914, was promoted to Lieutenant and subsequently appointed as Battalion Adjutant. He saw active service as Adjutant during Easter Week at the Four Courts, Church Street, King Street and North Brunswick Street areas. He was tried by Field General Court martial, in Richmond Barracks and sentenced to Penal Servitude, and was detained in Kilmainham and Mountjoy Prisons and in Portland, Lewes and Maidstone Convict Prisons until the general amnesty in June 1917. On his release he reported for duty to the 1st Battalion Headquarters at Colmcille Hall, Blackhall Street. At a meeting of the surviving officers of the Volunteers, held at 32 Bachelors' Walk in autumn 1917, Duggan was appointed Director of Intelligence and continued to act in that capacity until the office became a full time one and Michael Collins was appointed in 1919 with Duggan as his senior officer. He also substituted for Eamon De Valera as a member of the Executive, Irish Volunteers and regular meetings of GHQ staff and Executive were held at his father in laws house at 23 Victoria Avenue, Donnybrook (he was married to May-nee Kavanagh, a member of Cumann na mBan and veteran of Easter Week service- MSP34 Ref 20457).

Throughout this time Duggan carried out his profession as a Solicitor at 66 Dame Street. He had been arrested as part of the "German Plot" round-up in May 1918 and was on the run for many months. He was elected as a Sinn Fein member for Meath South in the General Election of 1918. His home at 35 Lower Leeson Street was raided on occasions and he was eventually arrested at his office on 25 November 1920 and detained in Mountjoy, along with Arthur Griffith, until the Truce. At a meeting of the Executive, which was held at his home on 8 July 1921 Eamon Duggan was appointed as Chief Irish Liaison Officer and acted as such until the establishment of the Provisional Government in 1922, when he was appointed Minister for Home Affairs, having been elected as a member for Louth-Meath in the General Election 1921 on a Coalition Treaty platform. He had earlier served as a member of the Treaty delegation and Signatory.

Eamon Duggan was appointed a member of the Board of Assessors under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1924, at that time being Parliamentary Secretary to the Executive Council. He was later awarded a Military Service Pension of 10 years service in the rank of Lieutenant General. He served as Minister for Defence from 1927 to 1932 and was elected to the Seanad in 1933, dying from cardiac failure on 6 June 1936 at the Town Hall, Dun Laoghaire. He was 58 years of age.

Senator Eamon Duggan was survived by his wife, May and son, Gerard.

LYNCH Fionan (Fionan O Loingsigh), (1889-1966), TD, Minister for Fisheries

Fionan Lynch was born in Caherciveen, Co Kerry in 1889 and educated at University College, Dublin, serving first as a national school teacher. He was Company Commander, "F" Coy, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade during Easter Week 1916 and held a line from North King Street to May Lane, adjoining the Four Courts with his Coy throughout the week. Captain Lynch was tried by Field General Court martial, sentenced to death and later had his sentence commuted to 10 years penal servitude. On his release in June 1917 his re-employment was refused. He became an organiser for the Volunteer Executive, working in South Kerry, Armagh and Offaly, militarily as well as politically for Sinn Fein. He was arrested on 13 August 1917 and sentenced to 18 months for wearing military uniform, and released in November while on hunger strike. He was re-arrested on 18 May 1918 and released from Manchester Jail "time served", again while on hunger strike, on 19 August 1919. He had been elected as a Sinn Fein member for Kerry South in the General Election of 1918. He was appointed to the GHQ Staff of the IRA as Assistant Director of Organisation under Diarmaid O' Heigeartaigh in early 1920. Around this time Lynch set up an insurance business and worked part-time as an organiser until his re-arrest in January 1921.

He was interned in Ballykinlar Camp and released in August 1921 when he reported to South Kerry as an organiser and training advisor. His business collapsed as a result of his internment.

He enlisted in the National Army at Portobello Barracks on 12 July 1922, was appointed by General Collins as Vice-Commandant of the South Western Division in the rank of Lieutenant General, and served in that appointment under General E. O'Duffy, General Officer Commanding the Division up to 13 December, 1922. Lynch had been elected on a Coalition Treaty platform for Kerry-Limerick West constituency in the General Election of June, 1922 and was appointed Minister for Education in the Provisional Government. He had earlier served as Secretary to the Treaty delegation. He was

appointed as Minister for Fisheries in September 1923 and served in that position up to 1927 and as Minister for Lands and Fisheries up to 1932.

Fionan Lynch was appointed a member of the Board of Assessors, under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1924. He was awarded a service pension of just over 12 years in the rank of Lt Gen on 17 November 1926. He made a Witness Statement to *The Bureau of Military History 1913-1921* (Witness Statement 192).

Fionan Lynch retired from political life in 1944 and was appointed a Judge of the Circuit Court on 1 November 1944.

He died on 3 June 1966 and his widow Bridget passed away on 2 November 1970.

Lieutenant General Ó SUILLEAVÁIN, Gearóid (1891-1948) (Retd): Secretary

Gearóid Ó Suilleaváin was born at Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co. Cork in 1891. His was a farming family, father named Michael.

He graduated in Celtic Studies from University College, Dublin in 1913 and took an MA from the same college in 1915. He joined the Irish Volunteers, "F" Coy, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade and was attached to the staff of Sean Mac Diarmada about one week prior to and served in the GPO in Easter Week, 1916. He lost his appointment as a National School teacher in Dublin City because of his activities in the Rising and subsequent time in Wandsworth Prison and internment at Frongoch up to December 1916.

He secured an appointment as a teacher in Carlow College and became Organiser for the Irish Volunteers in the Carlow area in summer 1917. He carried out work as an organiser in West Cork and Co Kerry and was arrested in summer 1918 and jailed for 4 months on a charge of "sedition".

He was arrested at the Glandore Training Camp in August 1919 and released in October, following a period on hunger strike. He was then appointed as Adjutant General, General Headquarters Organising Department and Carlow Brigade, with the rank of Commandant.

During the period up to the 11 July 1921 he was Adjutant General of the IRA and was confirmed as

Adjutant General of the National Army at a Cabinet Meeting in November 1921 with the rank of Lieutenant General (Lt Gen). His resignation was demanded by the Government as part of the measures implemented following the Army Crisis of March 1924. He was appointed as Secretary to The Board of Assessors, Military Service Pensions Board, on 1 October 1924.

Lt Gen Ó Suilleaváin was awarded a maximum Military Service Pension of £350.00.

He had been elected as a Cumann na nGael TD for Carlow/Kilkenny (1921-1923) and he resigned his position as Secretary, Board of Assessors to stand as a candidate for the same party for County Dublin in the By-Election of 14 August 1927 resulting from the assassination of Kevin O'Higgins, where he was elected. He was re-elected in the General Election of 15 September that year and served as a TD to 1937.

He was called to the Bar in 1926 and appointed as Judge Advocate General to the Defence Forces on 1 April 1927. He was appointed a Special Commissioner of Income Tax on 10 June 1940. Married to Elizabeth (Maud) Kiernan, sister of Kitty; son Michael Gearóid born 18 December 1924, daughters Sibeal Maeve born 24 February 1926, Ann Eavan born 14 February 1929 and Trina Therese born 11 October 1932. Following the death of Elizabeth he remarried to Mary Patricia Brennan from the Glen Road, Belfast on 7 November 1942. There were no children from this union.

Lt Gen Gearóid Ó Suilleaváin, 1st Adjutant General, Irish Defence Forces, died on 26 March 1948 and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Military Service
Pensions Collection