

Denis McCullough Papers

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INTRODUCTION

Denis McCullough

Denis McCullough was born in Belfast on 24 January 1883. His father and mother, both strong nationalists, owned a public house at the corner of Barrack Street and Divis Street. He was educated by the Christian Brothers and was to become involved with the Gaelic League sometime before 1900. He was one of the founders of the first hurling club in Belfast, an enterprise which ultimately led to the foundation of the County Antrim Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

After 1903 he joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood but was to become disillusioned with its lack of discipline and its traditionalism. He began recruiting younger men into the organisation, including Bulmer Hobson with whom he found the Dungannon Clubs in 1905. The Dungannon Clubs were non-sectarian, republican and separatist, and flourished mainly in Ulster. They were absorbed into Sinn Fein between 1906 and 1908.

In 1913 McCullough became a member of the Executive of the Irish Volunteers and introduced the movement into Belfast. He played a major part along with Bulmer Hobson, Sean MacDiarmada and Tom Clarke in taking the IRB along more militant lines after the foundation of the Irish Volunteers and was imprisoned from August to November 1915 under the Defence of the Realm Act.

In 1915 he was elected President of the IRB and chaired the meeting which decided to proceed with a Rising; as President of the Supreme Council of the IRB he supported the Rising but was not aware of the final details. He was given the task of bringing 132 volunteers from Belfast to Coalisland, County Tyrone, where he was to meet Dr Patrick McCartan and travel South to join Liam Mellows in Connaught. As a result of the confusion surrounding the Rising, McCullough and his men returned to Belfast on Sunday evening and had no direct involvement in the fighting. He was arrested the following Friday and there followed a lengthy period of imprisonment.

He was imprisoned in Richmond Barracks, Dublin, in Frongoch, Wales, and in Reading Jail from where he was released on 6 August 1916. On 16 August he married Agnes Ryan, a member of the prominent Ryan family of Tomcoole, County Wexford. She was a sister of Dr James Ryan who served in every Fianna Fail government until 1965, of Mrs Sean T O'Kelly [Sean T O'Kelly married Kit Ryan and, after Kit's death, married her younger sister, Phyllis] and Mrs Richard Mulcahy. Between May 1918 and March 1919

McCullough was imprisoned in Belfast Jail, Arbour Hill, Dublin, and Gloucester Jail in succession. Between April and July 1920 he was again in Belfast Jail. In October 1920 he was tried by courtmartial and sentenced to six months imprisonment, released in January 1921, rearrested and confined to Military Barracks, Belfast, and Holywood, County Down. He was subsequently detained in Ballykinlar, County Down until December 1921.

He was elected a Sinn Fein councillor to Belfast Corporation from 1918 until 1922. After the Treaty he was sent on a special mission to the United States by Michael Collins. He sat in Dail Eireann as a Cumann na nGaedheal deputy from 26 November 1924 until 23 May 1927 when he retired from active participation in political life.

Denis McCullough was a piano tuner by trade, serving his apprenticeship to the piano and music trade with Messrs Crane & Sons, High Street, Belfast; and later securing employment with Charles Hardy & Son, Anne Street, Belfast. He established his own business in 1909 at 12 Howard Street, moving after two or three years to larger premises at 8 Howard Street. Encouraged by Francis Joseph Biggar, he began manufacturing bagpipes on the top floor of the premises.

McCullough moved his business to Dublin in 1921 as a result of the Belfast Boycott, and set up premises in Parliament Street where he traded under the name of McCulloughs. In 1922, when he was in America, his wife obtained a lease on premises in Dawson Street. Premises and stock were completely destroyed by a land mine in December and the business had to be rebuilt from scratch. In the same year McCullough had travelled to Germany at the request of General Richard Mulcahy, Minister for Defence, and in cooperation with John F Larchet, Professor of Music at UCD, to engage Colonel Fritz Brase as Director for the newly established Army School of Music.

Denis McCullough was associated with several other firms: as chairman of New Ireland Assurance Company Ltd, Clondalkin Paper Mills, James Crean & Sons (1936) Ltd, Comhlucht Baguin na hEireann, Killeen Paper Mills Ltd, Moore Clothing Company Ltd, M Duan & Company Ltd and Weartex Ltd; and as director of Irish National Insurance Company Ltd, Bowaters Irish Wallboard Mills, CB Paper Sacks Ltd, Drimnagh Paper Mills Ltd; as well as being founder governing director and chairman of McCulloughs Ltd, more recently renamed McCullough Pigott Ltd. He was a vice-president of the Federation of Irish Manufacturers for two terms and a governor and senior vice-president of the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

In 1927 he represented Ireland at an inter-parliamentary commercial conference in Rio de Janera. He was one of a group of supporters of Hilton Edwards and Michael MacLiammoir in the foundation of the Gate Theatre in 1928. He was nominated by the government as the employers' advisor to the Irish delegation at the twentieth session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva in 1936.

Like her husband, Agnes McCullough took an active part in national and public affairs. She died on 31 March 1967, shortly after the golden jubilee of their wedding. Denis McCullough died on 11 September 1968.

The Denis McCullough Papers

The Denis McCullough Papers were deposited in the Archives Department, University College Dublin in May 1994 by the McCullough family.

The collection documents McCullough's political career and in particular his involvement with the IRB in Belfast, though the papers are mainly retrospective and take the form of correspondence relating to historical research; statements and narratives by McCullough; and the scripts of radio and television interviews given by him. The exception to this general rule is the material relating to McCullough's special mission to the United States in 1922.

The collection has been arranged in three broad categories relating to (a) McCullough's political career (b) material of general historical interest and (c) family and personal material. Each of these main categories has been subdivided into sections according to subject or document type.

Ciaran Trace
5 January 1995

Appendix

Approximate dates of imprisonment of Denis McCullough

- 1915 Imprisoned in August in Belfast Gaol for refusing to obey a British Military Deportation Order; released in November 1915.
- 1916 Arrested approximately ten days after Easter and imprisoned in Richmond Barracks, Dublin, Frongoch Camp, Wales and in July in Reading Gaol; released on 6 August 1916.
- 1918-19 Imprisoned in May 1918 in Belfast Gaol, Arbour Hill, Dublin and eventually in Gloucester Gaol, England until March 1919.
- 1920 Imprisoned in Belfast Gaol, April - July 1920.
- 1920-21 Tried by courtmartial and sentenced to six months imprisonment; imprisoned October 1920 - January 1921 in Belfast Gaol and subsequently in Mountjoy Gaol.
- 1921 Rearrested in January 1921; confined to Military Barracks, Belfast and Hollywood, County Down; then Ballykinlar Camp, County Down until December 1921.

I POLITICAL CAREER OF DENIS McCULLOUGH

A Contemporary documents, 1905-23

- 1 13 April 1905 **Dungannon Club:** card promoting a meeting hosted by the Dungannon Club in St Mary's Hall [Belfast] on 'The Hungarian Policy', at which there were to be 'prominent speakers' and 'Irish Songs'.
- 11 x 8 cms
- 2 1 June 1914 **Irish Volunteers:** manuscript letter marked 'private' from Roger Casement, Ardrigh, Antrim Road, Belfast to Colonel Warburton, asking him if he would consider coming to Belfast and taking up a position as an officer in the Irish Volunteers. Casement says that although the local Volunteer Committee could not pay a salary, they could give board and lodging and his fare.
- 'Do think of it. You could write articles for G[aelic] Americans just as well from this as from London. Here you might be invaluable [and] we badly need assistance of officers...' (p.2). Casement tells Warburton he can contact him or Denis McCullough, the local Volunteer leader, at his address in Howard Street, Belfast.
- 2pp
- 3 19 August 1914 **Irish Republican Brotherhood:** manuscript note signed by [Mr J Burke] asking that an order be passed for trustees to pay John McNeill the sum of £42, for the cost of twenty four rifles, Thompson's Motor account, and the motor tips expenses of [Mr J Burke].
- 1p
- 4 6 November 1915 Manuscript note from Una Ni Riain [Agnes Ryan], College Square North, Belfast, requesting McCullough's attendance at a combined committee meeting of the Belfast Oglaiigh and Cumann na mBan.

1p

- 5 [1915-21] **Imprisonment:** file containing material relating to Denis McCullough's imprisonment. Includes a letter from the Headquarters of the Irish Command, Parkgate, Dublin, to Denis McCullough giving notice that the action of the Order, under No.14 of the Defence of the Realm (Consolidation) Regulations, 1914, issued on 10 July 1915, directing McCullough to leave and cease to reside in or enter Ireland is suspended from the date of McCullough's release, subject to the condition that the original order will become effective again should his conduct in future give ground for suspicion that he is again 'endeavouring to prejudice recruiting or the public safety' (1 November 1915, 1p). Order under Regulation 14.B of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, issued by the Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle, ordering that Denis McCullough shall be interned in Frongoch Camp [Wales] (19 May 1918, 1p). Notice from Major Sebastian Smith, Governor of Belfast Gaol, to Denis McCullough in Belfast Gaol, informing him that he will be tried by District Court-martial at Victoria Barracks, Belfast, and enclosing a copy of the Summary of Evidence and Charge Sheet. McCullough was charged with contravening Regulation 27 of the Defence of the Realm Regulations by having in his possession 'a document containing statements, the publication of which would be likely to cause disaffection to his Majesty ' (23 November 1920, 3 items). Also includes a 'mock' menu written by Denis McCullough in Mountjoy Prison signed by a number of prisoners including Eoin MacNeill, Arthur Griffith, Michael Staines and Eamon Duggan, with the blessing: 'Blessed are those who hunger [and] thirst after justice for they shall be filled. Even in Mountjoy' (December 1920, 1 item).

13 items

- 6 5 July 1919 Manuscript letter from Austin Stack, Manchester Prison, England, to Denis McCullough informing him that the Governor has arranged for McCullough's reception at Manchester Prison whenever he finds it convenient to call or enter. Stack tells McCullough the best days to obtain admittance to the prison, the district that the prison is situated in and the visiting hours. 'But do not try to obtain admittance on a Sunday - we observe the Sabbath very strictly. And it might be better not to come on a Saturday - you would be kept waiting overlong perhaps. On any other week-day you will be received with open arms.'

3pp

- 7 April - July 1918 **Conscription:** copy typescript letter written in Italian by Cardinal Gasparri, Secretary of State for His Holiness, to Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh, enclosing extracts from speeches on conscription delivered by members of religious orders at meetings and masses and sent by the British Government to Rome. Reverend Canon Brown at a meeting in Cahirciveen, County Kerry, said 'England has now attempted to bribe the priests of Ireland by exempting them from Conscription, but England...will find to her cost that we are not her hirelings, that we owe her no allegiance, and that when the hour of tribulation comes, the clergy will shed the last drop of their blood fighting with their flocks'. (1 April 1918).

7pp

- 8 1920-22 **Anglo-Irish Treaty:** file containing material relating to the Treaty and its acceptance; the Boundary Commission and its affects, particularly in relation to the north-east of Ireland. Included is a typescript annotated and amended copy of a document prepared by Denis McCullough outlining the terms under which the Third Northern Division of the Irish Republican Army would support the Treaty. Terms include the safeguarding of minorities; a guarantee that no further financial or statutory concessions be given to the Northern Ireland parliament; and the necessity of obtaining an opinion as to what attitude north-east Ulster nationalists should adopt towards the Northern Ireland parliament. McCullough has written at the head of the document that it was presented to General Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith [members of Dail Eireann] and accepted by them on St Stephen's night 1921. (December 1920, 1 item).

Includes a typewritten circular statement from the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood headed 'The Organisation and the new political situation in Ireland', clarifying their position with regard to the Treaty. 'The Supreme Council decided that no action for or against the present peace treaty be taken by the Organisation as such...' (p.1) and noted that until the Irish Constitution is drafted the policy of the Supreme Council is that the Dail shall continue to be recognised as the government of the Irish Republic, that members of the organisation of the IRA shall continue to receive routine military orders through their authorised military officers and that when the proposed Irish Constitution is published the policy to be adopted by the IRB will be discussed in accordance with article 35 of the IRB constitution. (12 January 1922, 1 item).

Typescript letter from Sean Milroy [member of Sinn Fein] and Eoin MacNeill [Minister for Education in the Sinn Fein Government], Mansion House, Dublin, to Denis McCullough, 56 Dawson Street, Dublin, requesting his attendance at a meeting 'for the purpose of discussing the policy to be adopted in the immediate future with regard to the North East'. (16 November 1922, 1 item).

Typescript letter from Michael Collins, Irish Provisional Government, to John H King, solicitor, Downpatrick, discussing the Boundary Commission, the Belfast Boycott and general aspects of the Treaty. 'I am sorry to hear from you that the Clubs are going against the Treaty. I am aware that a very determined effort is being made to misrepresent the issue. Provided it is clearly understood what the alternative is I don't think any of us can object, but I greatly fear that the alternative is being misrepresented in a wholesale fashion. It seems to me not unlikely that the tactics employed will greatly prejudice the exhilaration of the English evacuation'. (26 January 1922, 2pp).

5 items

- 9 31 July 1920 **Belfast Corporation:** manuscript letter from [WJ] Coates, Lord Mayor of Belfast, City Hall, Belfast, to Councillor Campbell, 11 Kimberley Street, Belfast, stating that it is not in his power 'to allow the subject matter of the Requisition to be raised at the meeting of the Council on Tuesday 3 August'.

2pp

- 10 February- June 1922 [- April 1923] **Special Commissioner to the United States:** file containing reports, notes, letters of accreditation, receipts, press releases and newspaper cuttings pertaining to McCullough's position as Special Commissioner to the United States. Included is a typescript letter, marked confidential, from George Gavan Duffy, Department of Foreign Affairs, to Denis McCullough, enclosing McCullough's credentials as Special Commissioner to the United States of America and outlining the principal objectives of his mission: to bring about unity between the several Irish groups in the United States; to gain their support for the Irish Government and their abstention from Irish party politics. McCullough was also to cooperate and assist Professor T A Smiddy, the Irish envoy extraordinary to the United States. (23 March 1922, 2pp).

Typescript statement from Denis McCullough commenting on articles in the American press referring to the Treaty, which display 'a great tendency to enlarge on the differences that have arisen between the various parties in Ireland and to exaggerate their importance' McCullough asks that 'Americans would reserve their judgement and look with kindly and charitable eyes until our national affairs take a more definite shape' (14 April 1922, 2pp)

Typescript report, marked confidential, from Denis McCullough to George Gavan Duffy, Minister for Foreign Affairs. The report mentions McCullough's setting up of his headquarters on Fifth Avenue, New York, and his delay in reporting more frequently due to lack of privacy in the office and the fact that the office is controlled by strong supporters of de Valera, making it impossible for him to give much of his correspondence to be typed. McCullough says he has reason to know that certain of his activities, such as meeting with Judge Daniel Cohalan have come to the knowledge of Austin Stack and company and that they were circulating the rumour that he is over in America to purchase or secure the support of Judge Cohalan and his party for the Provisional Government. McCullough also mentions meeting with Joseph McGarrity and John Devoy and elaborates on the split between de Valera and Judge Cohalan: 'When he [Judge Cohalan] found that he could not work de Valera, who went over his head direct to the Irish People here, he fought him bitterly and in the fight all his cards were exposed. in the result de Valera broke his power utterly and neither him nor his friends can forgive de Valera' McCullough also mentions his attempts to get publicity for the Ulster question. (8 May 1922, 1 item).

Newspaper cutting from **The Quebec Telegraph** entitled 'Leave Irishmen alone to settle own differences, says Denis McCullough'. (24 May 1922, 1 item).

Other correspondents include Sean O Muirthile on behalf of the Executive of the Supreme Council of the IRB (24 March 1922 , 2pp) concerning wrangling among Irish-American organisations and enclosing a copy of a letter he had sent to Joe McGarrity (23 February 1922, 2pp) on the same subject; with members of Clan na Gael such as Luke Dillon, Philadelphia (April-June 1922, 10 items) concerning the general objects of his mission: 'A rumour says you are trying to perform the impossible. To amalgamate the Alphabetical Assoc. [American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic] with the Friends of Irish Freedom... If you are attempting such work Loyd (sic) George is an infant in diplomacy in comparison' (2 June 1922, 1p); and with T A Smiddy concerning the progress of their respective missions (May-August 1922, 3 items). Typescript reports to Gavan Duffy are generally extensive (14 April 1922, 4pp; 8 May 1922, 7pp; 5 June 1922, 5pp; 23 June 1922, 4pp).

B Correspondence relating to his career, 1932-67

i With contemporaries

- 11 9 January 1932 Manuscript letter from Patrick MacCartan, 339 East 58 Street, New York, to Denis McCullough in which he replies to questions that McCullough had put to him in a previous letter. The replies deal with Bulmer Hobson and the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood; Diarmuid Lynch and the Supreme Council; the persons present at the last meeting of the Supreme Council and what was discussed; and MacCartan's recollections of what took place during the period from the last meeting of the Supreme Council until the Easter Rising. MacCartan says that he thinks that P S O'Hegarty, Denis McCullough, P J Daly, Bulmer Hobson and himself should combine and write a book entitled 'The Making of the Republic' which would end with the surrender in Easter Week, but that he hopes '...not to do one from the Treaty to deV's entry into the Dail entitled "In the Wake of the Republic". I want to vindicate Collins and every man who supported the Treaty [and] show that they were the real Republicans'.

8pp

- 12 22 February, 1950 Manuscript letter from Seorsa O Liathain, 26 Belgrave Square, Rathmines (Dublin), to Denis McCullough (3pp) asking him to look at a letter he received from Diarmuid Lynch in which Lynch refers to the 'arrest' of James Connolly before the Easter Rising. O Liathain also asks McCullough to clarify points of information in a speech delivered by Seamus MacGarry before the 1916-21 Club in Jury's Hotel 'a couple of years ago' and asks for McCullough's opinion on his articles on Griffith and Collins' relationships with the IRB in the January and February editions of **The Forum**; copy typescript reply from McCullough (3pp) asserting that it is his opinion that Connolly was never kidnapped either by the Supreme Council or on its advice or direction, that it is not worth O Liathain's while starting a wrangle with Seamus MacGarry and that he has not seen copies of **The Forum** but that if O Liathain sends him copies he will be glad to see them.

2 items

- 13 5 November 1951 Typescript letter from B P Bowen, 'Westpoint', Strand Road, Sutton, Dublin, to Denis McCullough, 12 Oakley Road, Ranelagh, Dublin, pointing out some errors in McCullough's letter concerning 'The Northern Patriot' and the 'Shan Van Vocht' which appeared in **The Sunday Press** dated 4 November 1951.

1p

- 14 10 May 1952 Manuscript letter from P S O'Hegarty, Highfield House, Rathgar, Dublin, to Denis McCullough (8pp) enclosing an article that O'Hegarty had read in **The Irish Independent** of Saturday 3 May 1952 entitled 'The 1916 Rising', in which Piaras Beaslai takes issue with Richard Connolly's memories of the Rising. O'Hegarty enquires if McCullough can shed any light on Connolly and says that 'The more this business is "writ up" the more confusing it becomes'.

2 items

- 15 April- 1953- 4 letters from Cathal O'Shannon, March 1958 91 Griffith Avenue, Dublin, to Dennis McCullough, mainly seeking advice and assistance in relation to articles and broadcasts on aspects of the revolutionary period. He mentions that Seamus O'Sullivan would like to get Bulmer Hobson to write an appreciation of Alice Milligan for **The Dublin Magazine** and asks for McCullough's help in persuading Hobson (29 April 1953, 3pp); asks for his cooperation in proposed broadcasts on the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation (18 March 1957, 3pp) and on Tom Clarke (25 March 1958, 2pp; 30 March 1958, 2pp).

4 items

- 16 April- 1953 3 letters from Liam O Briain May [Professor of Romance Languages at University College Galway], University Road, Galway to Denis McCullough. He asks if McCullough has seen his plan for ending partition, published in the **Irish Times** (19 April 1953, 4pp); refers to Cathal O'Shannon's account of receiving at Tom Clarke's request, orders from James Connolly for transmission to Denis McCullough concerning positions to be taken by the Volunteer Companies in Ulster during the Rising, and of Connolly's alleged kidnapping by the IRB; McCullough strongly contests this account in a

19 28 May 1957 Copy of a circular letter from Ernest Blythe, 50 Kenilworth Square, Rathgar, Dublin, to Denis McCullough (1p) enclosing a copy of his memorandum Discussing Partition, entitled 'Appeal to leaders of Nationalist opinion in the North' (36pp). Blythe says he has sent about 150 copies of the memorandum to Nationalists, lay and clerical, in Northern Ireland. Blythe states: 'All the events of the last couple of years, not least the miserable and nationally injurious campaign of sabotage which is now going on convinced me that if we are ever to reunite the country we have got to have frank discussion of every aspect of Partition no longer regarding any facts as taboo and no longer looking on every item of our own old war propaganda as gospel'.

2 items

20 [1957] Copy of a circular letter from Ernest Blythe to Denis McCullough (2pp) enclosing a memorandum discussing partition entitled 'Notes on the Pomeroy, Armagh and Omagh incidents' (15pp, 1p missing). Blythe states that 'If we are ever to make progress towards National re-union, the general public, first in the South and later in the North, must be led to develop more realistic views about the origin, maintenance and possible methods of ending Partition than have heretofore been prevalent'.

2 items

21 18 February 1966 Manuscript letter from Cahir Healy MP, 43 Belmore Street, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, to Denis McCullough, Healy reminisces about McCullough and his connection with [Sean] MacDermott and says: 'I remember, as if yesterday, Cathal O'Byrne introducing me to your dear mother, to Joe Connolly, Kevin O'Loughlin and Biggar (sic) [Francis Joseph Biggar], whose nephew I meet still odd times'. Healy states that he still maintains a connection with **The Irish News** and that he has retired from the Northern Parliament. 'I found my last years there a good deal more agreeable than the earlier ones, when unpleasant types like Dawson Bates had been prominent'.

2pp

- 22 15 April 1966 Incomplete manuscript letter from 4 Belvedere Terrace, Mullingar, County Westmeath to Denis McCullough. The letter deals with the writer's involvement with the old IRA in Belfast [during the 1920s], from his delivery of parcels for the IRA whilst carrying out his milk rounds to his officially joining when he was sixteen and taking part in drill meetings. During Holy Week of 1922 the writer mentions being on picket duty on a house in Belfast when it was attacked by Specials.

2pp

**ii Historical enquiries and the Bureau
of Military History**

- 23 [September 1932-] File of correspondence
December 1956- consisting of historical
October 1965 enquiries addressed to Denis
McCullough and copies of his
replies. Queries overwhelmingly relate to the membership and presidency of the Supreme Council of the IRB at various times before and after Easter 1916; but also relate to his own experiences of the Easter Rising and of the involvement of the Belfast Volunteers; and relations between the IRB and Sinn Fein. Enquiries are generally for academic theses and publication purposes.

22 items

- 24 March 1948- Bureau of Military History:
March 1957 correspondence, questionnaires,
statements and related material
mainly concerning requests from the Bureau for information on personalities, organisations and events with which McCullough had been associated, most particularly the membership of the Supreme Council of the IRB.
Includes a Department of Defence information leaflet on the aims, objectives and modus operandi of the Bureau (1 May 1947, 4pp); copies of 2 statements submitted to the Bureau by Bulmer Hobson, one a general statement of his political activities, 1900-11 (26 January 1946, 12pp), the other concerning his involvement with the IRB, 1904-19 (17 October 1947, 7pp), both sent by the Bureau to McCullough for his observations at Hobson's request, together with comments on the IRB statement by Patrick McCartan (11 December 1947, 5pp); letter from Commandant M F Ryan to McCullough (28 May 1951, 2pp)

enclosing 'a chronology covering the period March 1899-December 1915 (99pp) which has been specially prepared for your use. I feel sure it will be of considerable help in recalling to mind many important men and events connected with the movement for Independence with which you were so intimately associated'; memorandum on the Supreme Council of the IRB, 1913-16 (2pp); photocopy of a letter from Bulmer Hobson, Roundstone, County Galway to 'Martin' recalling his knowledge of McCullough's political activities (25 November 1962, 6pp).

21 items

iii Correspondence concerning military service and military service pensions

- 25 21 June- 1937 Material relating to an
23 July application by Elizabeth Corr and Nelly O'Boyle for a military service pension. Includes a letter from Elizabeth Corr, Dublin, to Mrs McCullough reminding her of the role that both she and Nelly O'Boyle played as members of Cumann na mBan during Easter Week 1916, in case she is questioned by the Military Pensions' Referee (23 July 1937, 2pp).

Includes letter from Sean MacNeill, 64 Upper Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin, to [Denis McCullough] enclosing a typescript and annotated list of members of 1 Brigade (Belfast), 3 Northern Division, Cumann na mBan which includes Nell Corr and Agnes O'Boyle (21 June 1937, 2pp).

4pp

- 26 [June-September 1942] Material relating to an application by Denis McCullough for a military service pension. Included is a typescript copy of a covering letter from Denis McCullough to Roger McCorley, Main Street, Howth, enclosing a copy of the case that McCullough submitted to the Military Pensions Board and thanking McCorley for the interest he is taking in the matter. The submission details McCullough's service from 1914 to 1922 in the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Republican Brotherhood; his activities during Easter Week 1916; his periods of imprisonment between 1916 and 1921; and his position as Special Commissioner to the United States between March and July 1922 (23 June 1942, 4pp).

Includes a typescript letter and enclosed notice from the Office of the Referee, St Kevin's College, Glasnevin, Dublin, to Denis McCullough, Lithgow, 12 Oakley Road, Ranelagh, Dublin, informing him of the pension granted

to him under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934 (16 September 1942, 2pp).

Also includes copy of a reply from Denis McCullough to the [Office of the Referee] asking for reconsideration of the period of service for which his pension was granted. 'The fact that we were able to mobilise in Tyrone, with all the arms and ammunition we had ready for action, was a noteworthy feat, as only the people in Belfast knew the conditions under which we acted. Secondly, I want to put these facts, as I see and remember them now, on record for historical purposes, in case anyone ever wishes to know what happened in the North in 1916' (September 1942, 7pp).

17pp

- 27 13 September 1949- Material relating to an
15 September 1952 application for a 1916 medal
and military service pension by
Rory Haskin, Glen Crescent, Falls Road, Belfast.
Includes a typescript copy of Haskin's statement of his
political and military career (13 September 1949, 3pp)
forwarded to Denis McCullough by Richard Mulcahy,
Minister for Education, together with copies of
correspondence between himself and T F O'Higgins,
Minister for Defence, concerning the application
(19 September 1949, 1p; 6 November 1949, 1p); and
4 handwritten letters from Haskin to McCullough
(November 1946 - September 1952, 9pp).

15pp

- 28 6-28 July 1954 Material relating to an
application by Liam Gaynor,
Executive Officer in the
Department of Industry and Commerce, 117 Home Farm Road,
Drumcondra, Dublin, for permission to continue service
in the Civil Service after the age of 65 years, the only
grounds for such an extension being pre-Truce service.
Included is a typescript copy of a letter from Denis
McCullough to General Sean MacEoin, Minister for Defence,
outlining the past history of Liam Gaynor from the 1900s
to 1921: his membership of Fianna Eireann, the Dungannon
Clubs, the Irish Volunteers and his imprisonment and
hunger strike in Crumlin Road Jail in 1920
(21 July 1954, 2pp).

6pp

**C Statements by Denis McCullough mainly
concerning his career, 1950s-60s**

- 29 14 October 1957 Typescript statement with hand-written annotations by Denis McCullough detailing the history of the IRB from 1883 to 1916, with particular reference to: McCullough's involvement in the organisation and his membership of the Supreme Council; relations between the IRB and Sinn Fein; and his involvement with the Dungannon Clubs.
- 5pp
- 30 [c.1950s] Typescript statement by Denis McCullough describing meetings at his home with Joe McKelvey, Seamus Woods and Frank Crummey, officers of the 3 Northern Division, IRA, shortly before Christmas 1921, to decide the Division's attitude to the Treaty; the decision to accept subject to certain reservations and guarantees for the partitioned counties; and his and McKelvey's journey to Dublin on St Stephen's Day to relay the decision to Michael Collins.
- 5pp
- 31 [1950s] Corrected typescript statement by Denis McCullough outlining his association with the IRB from December 1915 to the Easter Rising. Included is a description of an IRB meeting held at Clontarf in December 1915 to elect a new Council; a further meeting at Clontarf on 16 January 1916 where the decision to hold the Rising was taken; and a detailed description of McCullough's own activities in the North of Ireland and in Dublin leading up to the Rising.
- 22pp
- 32 [1960s] 2 resumes of McCullough's life and career (2pp each); hand-written narrative by McCullough describing his early life and events before Easter 1916 (6pp); handwritten note mainly concerning his parents (4pp).
- 4 items

**D Lectures, radio and television interviews,
1964-6**

- 33 10 January 1964 Manuscript notes for a lecture given by Denis McCullough on Sean McDermott to the 1916/21 Club at Jury's Hotel, Dublin. The notes mention the background to the national movement in Belfast and in the North generally, the Dungannon Clubs, Sinn Fein, the IRB and McCullough's last contacts with McDermott during Easter 1916.
- 8pp
- 34 8 September 1964 3 scripts for a 'Looking Back' television programme in which Denis McCullough is interviewed by Ernest Strathdee on Ulster Television. The first script is a manuscript draft of what is broadly to be discussed in the programme; McCullough's early life in Belfast, his political and business involvements and his impressions of Ireland past, present and in the future. The other two documents consist of a manuscript and a typewritten script of the television programme.
- 69pp
- 35 24 February-
8 March 1965 Material relating to a television broadcast entitled 'The Survivors' in which McCullough is interviewed by Brian Farrell with regard to his early life in Belfast, his role in the IRB and the role of the IRB in the Easter Rising. Includes an annotated script of the programme (2pp) and a form of contract.
- 3pp
- 36 March-
April 1966 Material relating to an interview given by McCullough to the BBC in 1964 detailing his early political life in Belfast and his involvement with the IRB up until the period of the Easter Rising. Includes a copy of the recorded interview; a copy of the script of another BBC programme entitled 'The Easter Rising, 1916' in which extracts of McCullough's interview are incorporated.
- 61pp

E Newscuttings, 1915-67

- 37 [1915-67] File containing newspaper cuttings from such papers as the **Irish News, Catholic News, Evening Press, Irish Independent, Sunday Press** and **Irish Times** which mention Denis McCullough's involvement in the Irish Volunteers, as a council member for Sinn Fein in Belfast Corporation, as a member of the Dungannon Clubs and as a member of the IRB.

19 items

II MATERIAL OF GENERAL HISTORICAL INTEREST

A Pamphlets, posters and postcards, 1899-1962

- 38 1899- Pamphlets, posters and post-
1962 cards, but including some hand-written notes (18pp) mainly relating to individuals, organisations and events including O'Donovan Rossa, John O'Leary and Thomas Ashe; the Irish Volunteers and Clan na Gael; the Easter Rising and Civil War; Anglo-Irish and North-South relations. Typical printed matter includes copies of **Sinn Fein Leaflets 2-6; The secret history of the Irish Volunteers** by The O'Rahilly (Tracts for the Times 3, 1915); **The Struggle of the Irish people**, text of the address to the US Congress adopted by Dail Eireann, January 1921; **Prosperity in Ulster**, (Ulster Economic Association Pamphlet 3); as well as occasional electoral and publicity material.

42 items

B Material relating Roger Casement, 1910-57

- 39 1910-57 File of newscuttings mainly from **Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Press** and **Munster Tribune** concerning aspects of Casement's life with particular reference to his diaries. Includes a 3 part series from the **Munster Tribune** (May-June 1957); a memorial pamphlet written by 'Benmore' (16pp); and reviews and letters to the papers concerning Rene MacColl, **Roger Casement: a new judgement** (April 1956, 6 items).

17 items

C Newscuttings, 1914-67

- 40 1914-67 Single issues and cuttings of newspapers and journals including **Eire, Scissors and Paste**; and the **Irish Volunteer** as well as most daily newspapers. The material relates to individuals, organisations, events and topics such as Sean MacDiarmada, The O'Rahilly, Alice Stopford Green and Tom Clarke; Sinn Fein and the Irish Volunteers; World War I, the Easter Rising and the War of Independence. Includes a 3 part series from the **Irish Times** by Bulmer Hobson on the Volunteers (November 1963).

27 items

D Memorial material, 1916-23

- 41 1916 Typescript copy of a poem entitled 'The Master' written by a daughter of T M Healy in memory of Padraic Pearse. Begins 'A shower came on, the raindrops pattered fast' (16 lines).

1p

- 42 December 1923 Michael Collins memorial pamphlet containing a poem by 'Benmore' entitled 'Mouth of Blossoms'. Begins 'There's a hallowed spot in Erin, where the South winds sweetly blow' (80 lines).

8vo

E Songs and poems, 1904-43

- 43 1904-43 File of songs, poems and laments including: printed copy of Seamus O Dubhaigh's poem 'Call to Feis na nGleann' beginning 'Ye glens of McDonnell awake from your dream' (24 lines, May 1904); printed copy of poem by Padraig de Brun beginning 'Croidhe Chait Ni Riain' (64 lines, 27 June 1934); handwritten copy of 'Lament for O'Cahan' beginning 'For beauty and bravery O'Cahan was know' (32 lines); booklet entitled **Two Poems** by Alice Milligan, containing 'A Centenary Ode' and

'Mountain Shapes' (1943, 13pp); printed copy of a poem by Florence Wilson entitled 'The man from God-knows-where' beginning 'Into the townland, on a night of snow' (106 lines); printed copy of a song by Stephen Gwynn entitled 'A Song of Defeat, 1903' beginning 'Not for the lucky warriors' (115 lines); cutting of a poem by Alice Milligan, 'Till Ferdia Came' beginning 'We read it in that ancient tale' (112 lines); printed copy of a poem entitled 'Who is Ireland's enemy?' (64 lines); and a copy of a song entitled 'The Blarismore Tragedy' beginning 'Ye muse, grant me direction' (64 lines).

9 items

F Student publications, 1910-14

				The Irish Student , an organ of student opinion.	
44	21	May	1910	Vol 1, no 2	4pp
				The National Student , conducted by the students of University College Dublin.	
45		June	1912	Vol 2, no 8	80pp
46		March	1914	Vol 4, no 4	32pp
				Literary and Historical Society University College Dublin, The Healing Power of Freedom , published text of the inaugural address of Michael J Ryan, auditor.	
47	6	November	1913		20pp

III PERSONAL AND FAMILY MATERIAL

A General correspondence, 1907-46

- 48 1907-46 Files of letters relating mainly to family, personal and social matters. Includes a letter from Francis Joseph Bigger [historian and antiquarian] to Denis McCullough telling him that he should get something for the house in the Falls Road and not to give it away. Bigger suggests that McCullough fits up some of the rooms in his warehouse to live in and then get a cottage or bungalow for the summer months (23 March 1922, 2pp). Also includes a letter from the Archbishop of Dublin John McQuaid to Denis McCullough thanking him for his kindness in answering the appeal for the poor Catholics of Hungary (12 June 1946, 1p); undated handwritten note from Michael [Collins] to Donnacadh [McCullough] enquiring about 'field letters' that he needs urgently (1p); typescript letter from Collins, Department of Finance, to Mrs [Nancy] Wyse Power concerning the case of a volunteer held in Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum and the possibility of his transfer to an institution in Ireland (25 August 1921, 1p).

11 items

B Family correspondence, 1907-63

- 49 3 June 1907 Manuscript letter from MFR [Min Ryan], Wexford to [her sister] Agnes Ryan in the Institut der Englischen, Darmstadt, Germany. The letter tells Agnes how happy she is to have heard from her; informs her of the activities of the Ryan family, including a trip by Kate and Phyllis [sisters of Agnes Ryan] to Gorey; that Aunt May is improving and that she had heard from Nell [sister of Agnes Ryan] at Easter.

4pp

- 50 [1907-] Manuscript poem entitled 'A fragment to my Lady' given to MR [Min Ryan] by Una [Agnes Ryan] beginning **All the long days, thy voice comes to me** (18 lines); typescript copy of a poem in memory of Mrs Sean T O'Kelly [nee Kit Ryan] by Paddy Kehoe TD beginning 'Quiet she passed: and in her passing left A memory fragrant as a Summer night' (14 lines).

2 items

C Prison correspondence, 1915-21

- 54 17 July 1915- Correspondence between Denis
29 September 1921 McCullough and Agnes Ryan while
Denis was imprisoned. The
letters relate to family and business matters; life in
prison; political and local events and activities; and
the forwarding of photographs, newspapers and food
parcels. The file includes a letter in which McCullough
describes his fellow prisoners in Gloucester Gaol.
'A G [Arthur Griffith] is a constant source of
amusement... he is always up to trickery of some sort
[and] seems to shed all his seriousness here. Mr Dillon
[doctor] and Ginger [Lt Gen J J O'Connell] also make the
most of their time. Desmond Fitz[Gerald] is the most
level man [and] certainly the most interesting' (31 June
1918, 2pp).

The letters also document McCullough's daily life in
prison (7 July 1918, 2pp); mentions McCullough's
irritability at being in prison (10 July 1918, 2pp);
notes the starting of a newspaper written by the
prisoners in Gloucester Gaol called **The Gloucester
Diamond** (17 August 1918, 2pp) and McCullough's learning
of Irish in prison (6 September 1918, 2pp).

The file contains letter from Agnes with the news that
Denis has failed to get elected in West Belfast and
describing how officers, soldiers and police had
searched their house but had left without finding
anything (24 May 1921, 3pp); commenting on the marriage
of Liam O B[rian] (4 September 1921, 1p); and
discussing the possibility of buying a new business
premises in Westmoreland Street or Wicklow Street,
Dublin (29 September 1921, 3pp).

16 items

- 55 11 May 1916 Photocopy of a manuscript
letter written by Sean [Mac
Diarmada] on the eve of his
execution in Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin, and addressed to
'My dear brothers and sisters'. He states that he has
been tried by courtmartial and sentenced to be shot.
'I feel a happiness the like of which I never
experienced in my life before, and a feeling that I
could not describe. Surely when you know my state of
mind none of you will worry or lament my fate'. He goes
on to talk about his wife and children and his hopes for
their future. 'Tell them how I struck out for myself and
counsel them to always practice truth, honesty,
straightforwardness in all things and sobriety'.

2pp

56 2 June 1916 Manuscript letter from Harry Nicholls, Knutsford Prison to Kathleen [sister of Denis McCullough?] thanking her for her card and describing the conditions in prison: '...Up until last Saturday we had an awful time - solitary confinement except for one hour's exercise in the day... We had nothing to read and until a fortnight ago couldn't write or receive a letter and spent the night on a plank bed...' He mentions that a fresh batch of men has arrived from Richmond Barracks including Dinny and 'Tadhg'. He also asks that Kathleen send letters, papers, magazines and something edible.

4pp

57 9 June 1916 Manuscript letter from [James Ryan], Stafford Gaol, England to Kathleen [McCullough] thanking her for all the books she sent him and the parcel from Lily Grant, and mentioning that he thinks Dinny is in Wandsworth. Ryan says that as the prisoners are now allowed to buy things that they only want letters in the future; and also describes the prison routine to Kathleen.

2pp

58 [1916] Undated manuscript letter from Dennis McCullough, Richmond Barracks, Dublin to 'Katey'. McCullough describes the conditions in Richmond Barracks: 'We are slowly getting vulgarly fat these days - getting plenty to eat [and] smoke and nothing to do - only think over our bad past [and] our future possibilities of improving on it'. McCullough also talks about his fellow inmates: 'We lost the "Blonde Beast" early in the fray - he was sent to England in the same batch as Liam O Briain. Also Pim and the "Ubiquitous" [John Huson?] went to some unknown destination last week'. McCullough mentions that he has had word from Teresa and visits from Nancy [Wyse Power] and Phyllis [Ryan].

2pp

59 [1916] Undated manuscript letter from James Smyth, Knutsford, c/o Chief Postal Censor, London to 'Cathy', in which he describes the conditions for prisoners in Knutsford, such as the attitude of the staff, the meals and the accommodation: 'Beautiful

place! luxurious palace, admirable host - oh he's alright but almost embarassing in his attentions to his guests. He has hundreds of us here [and] simply **must** provide for us all'.

2pp

- 60 [1920-1] Undated manuscript letter from Edmund B Fitzgerald, 256 Cumlodden Drive, McGee, Maryhill, Glasgow (Scotland), to Mrs McCullough praising her and the women of Ireland for their strength of character and sacrifice in being seperated from their husbands. 'You are brave, you women, and noble too. When you think of all you have so bravely endured right on till today I know myself to be just a worm of the earth'. Fitzgerald expresses the wish that the McCulloughs '...may be united all together again in your little home where I have seen so much happiness'.

9pp

D Family and domestic material, 1911-87

- 61 [1911-33] Pages of a scrapbook containing photographs, newspaper articles, postcards and a printed ticket relating to the Ryan and the McCullough families. Newspaper cuttings include obituaries for Reverend Martin Ryan, Elizabeth Ryan and Father Joe McCullough; the reporting of the marriage of Denis McCullough to Agnes Ryan and Michael G O'Malley to Christina M Ryan on 16 August 1916; and from **The Freeman's Journal** a photograph of degree students from the National University (28 October 1911). Photographs include those of Denis McCullough, Agnes McCullough, Sean T O'Kelly, John Huson, Susie Gough, Father O'Byrne and Nora O'Leary.

14pp

- 62 11 August 1914 Invoice from Thomsons Motor Car Company, Ltd, 19 and 20 Great Brunswick Street, Dublin, for the hire of a touring car to Belfast.

1 item

- 63 1917 Printed ticket for the Ard
Fheis of Conradh na Gaeilge for
1917-18

1 item
- 64 [1920-1987] File of newspaper cuttings
mainly from the **Irish
Independent, Irish Press, Irish
Weekly, Irish Times** and **The People** relating to members
of the McCullough and the Ryan families: Denis
McCullough, Agnes McCullough and her brother Dr James
Ryan and sisters Phyllis, Ellen [Nell] and Min Ryan.
The file includes a newspaper cutting from **Irish Press**
on the occasion of the McCulloughs' golden wedding
jubilee (17 August 1966) and a photocopy of an article
from **The People** in which a photograph is reproduced
which includes Phyllis Ryan, Sean T O'Kelly, Senator
Paddy Kehoe, William T Cosgrave and Denis McCullough
(4 September 1987).

11 items
- 65 1924 Manuscript description,specifi-
cations and drawing of the
graveslab to be erected for
Margaret McCullough [mother of Denis McCullough] who
died on 6 September 1924.

1p
- 66 9 April 1948 Manuscript list of the
birthdays of the members of the
McCullough family: mother,
father, Patrick, Teresa, Denis, Mary Ellen, Myles
Kathleen and Joseph.

1p

**E Material relating to the marriage of
Denis McCullough, 1915-16**

- 67 9 November 1915 Manuscript letter from Lily
Grant, St. Dominic's High
School, Falls Road, Belfast to
Denis McCullough, 8 Howard Street, Belfast, saying how
glad she is at the news of McCullough's impending
marriage to Agnes Ryan: '...there is nobody whom I would
rather see her marry, nobody whom I would feel happier
about than you.'

3pp

68 28 July 1916 Manuscript letter from Una Ni Riain [Agnes Ryan], Tomcoole, Taghmon, County Wexford, to Simon O'Leary, An Gleann, Limestone Road, Belfast, informing him that Dinny is to be released and that they have arranged to get married on 16 August 1916 in Taghmon and hope to see him there.

1p

69 16 August 1916 Manuscript church wedding liturgy, in Irish, on the occasion of the marriage of Denis McCullough to Agnes Ryan on 16 August 1916. Includes prayers of the bride, the groom and the priest.

4pp

70 16 August 1916 Manuscript list of people and the wedding presents they gave to Agnes Ryan on the occasion of her marriage to Denis McCullough.

4pp

F Passports and bank books, 1921-2

71 1921-1922 Munster and Leinster Bank Savings Book, No. 2 Account of Denis McCullough, 8 Howard Street, Belfast.

1 item

72 23 March 1922 British passport of Denis McCullough issued in 1922. The passport documents a visa obtained in 1922 for his trip to the United States and a visa obtained for a trip to Germany on 3 November 1922.

1 item

- 73 23 October 1922 British passport of Mrs Agnes McCullough issued in 1922. The passport documents a visa obtained for a trip to Germany on 3 November 1922.

1 item

G Business interests, 1922-67

- 74 1922-1959 Notes and newspaper cuttings relating to the firm of McCullough's Ltd. Including a newspaper article from the **Evening Herald** detailing a land mine explosion in McCullough's premises at 56 Dawson Street, Dublin, in which the premises were totally wrecked and many adjoining buildings damaged (29 December 1922, 1 item); 3 typescript histories of the firm of McCullough's Ltd. written in 1959, the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation (1959, 3 items).

4 items

- 75 1939-67 Newspaper cuttings from the **Herald, Evening Mail, Irish Press** and **Irish Times** relating to McCullough's involvement in the New Ireland Assurance Company, McCullough's Ltd and Clondalkin Paper Mills. Also includes articles on industry, including an article on foreign industrial capital written by McCullough in 1956.

10 items

H Death of Denis McCullough, 1968

- 76 12-20 September 1968 Newspaper cuttings and photocopies of newspaper cuttings from **Irish Independent, Irish Times** and **Evening Press** on the occasion of the death of Denis McCullough, 11 September 1968. Tributes are given by Bulmer Hobson, Cathal O'Shannon, Alisdair MacCaba and Ernest Blythe who calls McCullough 'An outstanding leader of Genuine Nationalism' (**Irish Times**, 13 September 1968).

8 items