



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA GALWAY | GAILLIMH

19 20 22

Bunú an Gharda Sibhialta i nGaillimh, 1922

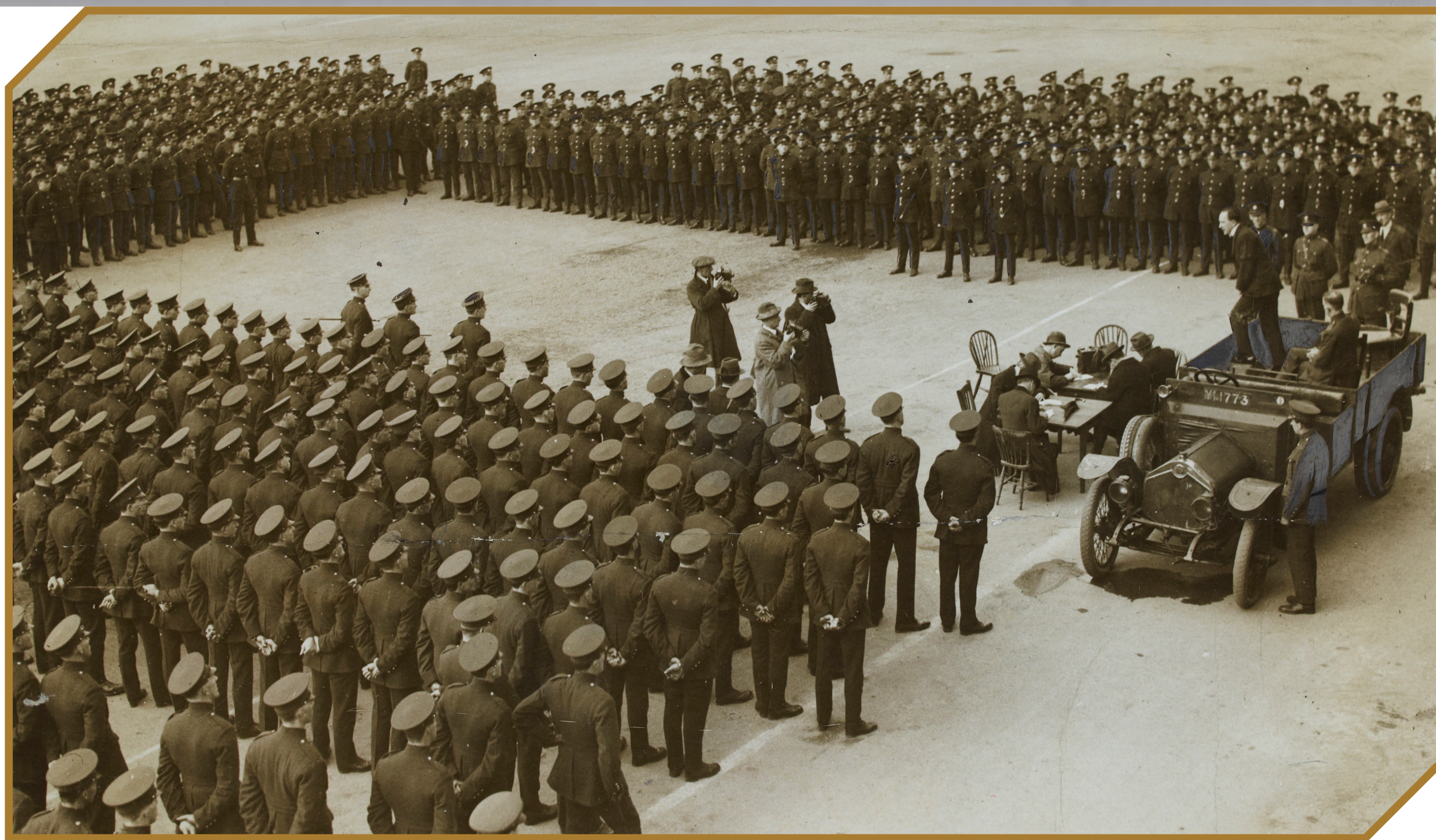
Le bunú an tSaorstáit, tarraingíodh amach an RIC as beairic ar fud an Chontae i mí Márta na bliana 1922. I dtús báire, bhí freagracht na póilíneachta ar an Arm Náisiúnta agus chuimhnigh an tOifigeach Laurence Flynn ar an uair a raibh sé ag teacht i gceannas ar bheiric an RIC i mBaile Locha Riach, tráth ar scairt oifigeach na Breataine a bhí ar tí imeacht an méid seo: ‘hurry up and get finished with this farce, we will be back again soon.’

Ag tús na bliana 1922, luadh sa *Connacht Tribune* go raibh sé riachtanach fórsa póilíneachta éifeachtúil, sár-oilte, neamhspleách a bheith againn. Go mb’fhearr linn i bhfad fórsa iomlán sibhialta, a bheadh freagrach don phobal i ngach ceantar, gan claonadh polaitíochta ar bith acu. Dúradh freisin sa nuachtán:

Police work in Galway is left to the military. This is an impossible situation, for the simple reason that the military frankly dislike police work, are not trained or fitted for it, and have no real interest in police efficiency.

Thosaigh an Ceannfort Sean Broderick, 1ú Rannán an Iarthair, an tArm Náisiúnta, ag glacadh le hiarratais uathusan a raibh sé i gceist acu a bheith ina n-earcaigh póilíneachta le scrúdú a chur orthu i gCaisleán an Léana Báite, Gaillimh i Márta 1922. Buailadh buille air ag céim luath, áfach, nuair a thóg gasra d’fhórsaí poblachtánacha an t-áitreabh ar lámh le linn na chéad seachtaine in Aibreáin agus gabhadh na doiciméid ar fad a bhain le hearcú póilíní.

Aistríodh an chéad díorma den Gharda Sibhialta i nGaillimh ó Bhaile Átha Cliath le linn sheachtain dheireanach mhí Mheán Fómhair, tráth a lonnáoíodh 25 fear i gClub an Chontae, Gaillimh; bunaíodh fórsa den



Kevin O'Higgins Esq. Minister of Home Affairs addressing the Civic Guard on their return to the Phoenix Park Depot. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

An tUasal Kevin O'Higgins, an tAire Gnóthaí Baile ag labhairt leis an nGarda Sibhialta ar filleadh chuig Iosta Pháirc an Fhionnuisce dóibh. Le caoinchead Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

mhéid céanna, a bheag nó a mhór, ón díorma céanna ar an lá chéanna i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe. I ráiteas a thug sé do na nuachtáin ar theacht go Gaillimh dóibh, dúirt an Ceannfort nua:

We are an entirely civil force and do not carry any fire arms. Our only weapon is a truncheon and our mission is to carry out the civil law quite irrespective of party or politics. We shall consult with the local parish and district judges as to how this may best be done in this area.



Garda Andrew Gara. 298. A native of Roscommon, who joined the force in 1922. He retired in 1952. Courtesy of Maura O'Riordan. An Garda Andrew Gara. Uimhir Chláraithe 298. Ba as Ros Comáin é ó dhúchas agus chuaigh san fhórsa sa bhliain 1922. D'éirigh sé as sa bhliain 1952. Le caoinchead Maura O'Riordan.

NO.	NAME	AGE	RES.	DATE	STATUS
1891	Wolley John	31	100	29-3-22	
1892	Wolley John	31	100	29-3-22	
267	Ryan Peter	31	100	11-3-22	
269	Phillips Patrick	31	100	16-3-22	
1055	Farrell Thomas	31	100	29-3-22	
1116	Buckley John	31	100	10-3-22	
1165	Bullen John	31	100	10-3-22	
1852	Coxe Edward	31	100	27-3-22	
1816	Thomas Thomas	31	100	27-3-22	
1869	Conroy Thomas	31	100	3-4-22	
1889	Donne Francis	31	100	12-4-22	
2126	Duffy Daniel	31	100	23-4-22	
2890	Conroy Thomas	31	100	13-4-22	

First Gardaí in Ballinasloe, 1922. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána. Na chéad Ghardaí i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, 1922. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.



Galway Garda football team, 1923. Courtesy of the Old Tuam Society. Foireann peile Ghardaí na Gaillimhe, 1923. Le caoinchead The Old Tuam Society.

Foundation of the Civic Guard in Galway, 1922

The establishment of the Free State led to the withdrawal of the RIC from barracks across the County in March 1922. Initially, policing was then the responsibility of the National Army. Officer Laurence Flynn recalled that, when he took command of the Loughrea RIC Barracks, the departing British officer declared: “Hurry up and get finished with this farce, we will be back again soon”.

In early 1922, the *Connacht Tribune* noted that “it is necessary to have an efficient, highly trained, independent police force. We should prefer an entirely civil force, responsible to the people in each area, free from any political bias.” The paper continued:

Police work in Galway is left to the military. This is an impossible situation, for the simple reason that the military frankly dislike police work, are not trained or fitted for it, and have no real interest in police efficiency.

Commandant Sean Broderick, 1st Western Division, National Army, began receiving applications for intending police recruits for examination at Lenaboy Castle, Galway, in March 1922. An early set back occurred, however, when a section of republican forces took over the premises in the first week of April

NO.	NAME	AGE	RES.	DATE	STATUS
732	Wolley John	31	100	10-4-22	
267	O'Reilly James	31	100	10-5-22	
483	Donohue John	31	100	26-5-22	
658	Shannon James	31	100	24-5-22	
762	Connelly Michael	31	100	8-4-22	

First Gardaí in Oranmore, 1922. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána. Na chéad Ghardaí in Órán Mór, 1922. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

and seized all papers pertaining to police recruitment.

The first detachment of the Civic Guard in Galway was transferred from Dublin during the last week of September, 25 men being stationed in the County Club, Galway. A similar-sized force was established on the same day in Ballinasloe. On their arrival, the new commander stated to the papers:

We are an entirely civil force and do not carry any fire arms. Our only weapon is a truncheon and our mission is to carry out the civil law quite irrespective of party or politics. We shall consult with the local parish and district judges as to how this may best be done in this area.



An Garda Síochána
100 Years of Keeping People Safe

19 20 22