



## An Garda Síochána 1920s~1930s

The Garda Síochána Establishment Scheme, 1930, provided for a “reduction in the Force” and shedding some of the responsibilities An Garda Síochána had heretofore. However, this did not affect the number of Garda Divisions (22) and Galway East Riding and Galway West Riding remained two separate Divisions. Within Galway East Riding, only two Stations were to be temporarily (Kilreeckle) or potentially (Laurencetown) closed, whereas in Galway West Riding four Stations were closed (Kilkieran, Cleggan, Clonbur and Ballinahinch). Nationwide, the number of Station closures was 404 (33%). This resulted in a nationwide reduction of the strength of the Force of 2,216 (roughly 30%); in Galway East Riding the reduction amounted to 297 (63%) and in Galway West Riding 238 (56%), the most numerous reductions in the country, due to the turbulent past in those areas when the RIC presence was most numerous there. Furthermore, some Sub-District Stations were replaced by others, e.g. in Galway East Riding, Castleblakeney Station was replaced by a new Station in Mountbellew, and, in Galway West Riding, the Rosmuck Sub-District Station changed from Clifden District to Oughterard District.

The East Riding Division of Galway had its Divisional Headquarters, with a Chief Superintendent, in Ballinasloe and was divided into four Districts, each with its own District Headquarter and a Superintendent, in Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Athenry and Gort. The numbers of Sub-Districts, with a Garda Station each, within the four Districts were Ballinasloe 9, Loughrea 7, Athenry 8, and Gort 7.

The West Riding Division of Galway had its Divisional Headquarters, with a Chief Superintendent, in Galway and was also divided into four Districts, each with its own District Headquarter and a Superintendent, in Galway, Tuam, Clifden and Oughterard. The numbers of Sub-Districts were Galway 7, Tuam 9, Clifden 6, and Oughterard 8.

(The notes are in the present tense but refer to the situation that existed in 1930; they are taken verbatim from the *Garda Síochána Establishment Scheme*, published in that year.)



Civic Guard, Oranmore, County Galway. Sitting left to right: Gd. P. King, Sergt. J. Driscoll, Gd. P. Sheardon. Standing left to right: Gds. A. J. O'Mally, T. Clifford. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

An Garda Sibhialta, Órán Mór, Contae na Gaillimhe. Ina suí ó chlé go deas: An Garda P. King, An Sáirsint J. Driscoll, An Garda P. Sheardon. Ina seasamh, ó chlé go deas: Na Gardaí A. J. O'Mally, T. Clifford. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.



Civic Guard, Ballinasloe, County Galway, 1929. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána. An Garda Sibhialta, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Contae na Gaillimhe, 1929. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.



Civic Guard, Athenry, County Galway, E.R., 1930s. Front row, left to right: D.O. James Keegan, Sgt. MI. Masterson, Supt. J. J. Cooney, Sgt. J. Ryan, D. O. M. Mulkeen. Back row, left to right: Gardaí P. Kearns, P. M. McHugh, Jno. Rooney, MI. Brehany, P. Hennessey, Thos. Moore and E. Neill. (sic). Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

An Garda Sibhialta, Baile Átha an Rí, Contae na Gaillimhe, E.R., 1930idí. Chun tosaigh, ó chlé go deas: An tOifigeach Bleachtair James Keegan, An Sáirsint MI. Masterson, An Ceannfort J. J. Cooney, An Sáirsint J. Ryan, An tOifigeach Bleachtair M. Mulkeen. Líne cúil, ó chlé go deas: Na Gardaí P. Kearns, P. M. McHugh, Jno. Rooney, MI. Brehany, P. Hennessey, Thos. Moore agus E. Neill. (sic). Le caoinchead An Gharda Síochána.

Rinneadh foráil leis an Scéim um Bunú an Gharda Síochána, 1930, do “laghdú ar an bhFórsa” agus chun fáil réidh le cuid de na freagrachtaí a bhí ar an nGarda Síochána go dtí sin. Mar sin féin, ní raibh aon tionchar aige sin ar an méid Rannán Gardaí a bhí ann (22) agus bhí Trian Thoir na Gaillimhe agus Trian Thiar na Gaillimhe fós ina ndá Rannán ar leith. Laistigh de Thrian Thoir na Gaillimhe, ní raibh ach dhá Stáisiún a bhí le dúnadh go sealadach (i gcás Chill Ríicill) nó a bhí i mbaol a dúnta (i gcás an Bhaile Mhóir), cé gur dúnadh ceithre Stáisiún i dTrian Thiar na Gaillimhe (Cill Chiaráin, An Cloigeann, An Fhairche agus Baile na hInse). Dúnadh 404 Stáisiún (33%) ar fud na tíre. Mar thoradh air sin, tháinig laghdú 2,216 (nó thart ar 30%) ar neart an Fhórsa ar fud na tíre; laghdú 297 (3%) a bhí ann i dTrian Thoir na Gaillimhe agus laghdú 238 (56%) a bhí ann i dTrian Thiar na Gaillimhe. B'ionann iad sin agus na laghduithe ba mhó sa tír ar fad, de bharr na tréimhse corraí a bhí ann sna ceantair sin nuair a bhí go leor den RIC ann. Ina theannta sin, tháinig roinnt Stáisiún Fochentair in ionad cinn eile, e.g. i dTrian Thoir na Gaillimhe, tháinig stáisiún nua sa Chreagán in áit Stáisiún Ghallaigh agus i dTrian Thiar na Gaillimh bogadh Stáisiún Fochentair Ros Muc ó Dhúiche an Chlocháin go dtí Ceantar Uachtar Ard.

Bhí Ceanncheathrú Rannáin Thrian Thoir na Gaillimhe i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, áit a raibh Ard-Cheannfort ann. Roinneadh ina cheithre Rannán é, a raibh a Cheanncheathrú Ceantair agus a Cheannfort féin ag gach ceann acu, i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, Baile Locha Riach, Baile Átha an Rí agus an Gort. Laistigh de na ceithre Cheantar bhí líon Fochentair agus Stáisiún Gardaí i ngach ceann acu. Bhí 9 fochentair i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, 7 fochentair i mBaile Locha Riach, 8 fochentair i mBaile Átha an Rí agus 7 fochentair sa Ghort.

Bhí Ceanncheathrú Rannáin Thrian Thiar na Gaillimhe i nGaillimh, agus bhí Ard-Cheannfort ann. Roinneadh ina cheithre Rannán é sin freisin, a raibh a Cheanncheathrú Ceantair agus a Cheannfort féin ag gach ceann acu, agus ba i nGaillimh, i dTuaim, sa Chlochán agus in Uachtar Ard a bhí siad sin. Bhí 7 fochentair i nGaillimh, 9 fochentair i dTuaim, 6 fochentair sa Chlochán agus 8 fochentair in Uachtar Ard.

(Is san aimsir láithreach atá na nótaí ach tagraíonn siad don chás mar a bhí sa bhliain 1930; luaitear focal ar fhocal iad ón Scéim um Bunú an Gharda Síochána a foilsíodh an bhliain sin.)

