

Name of memorial: Kenmare War of Independence Memorial.

Inventory No. 1290

Place: The Square

Address and map reference: The Square, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.
Co-ordinates: N 51.8804°: W 9.5838°.

Access: at all times. **Parking:** adjacent. **Disabled access:** yes.

Position: On the railings at the side of the park.

Description and dimensions: slate panels.
Height: appx. 120cms. Width: appx. 100cms (each panel).

Recorded by: Edward Bourke 15 September 2020.

Text:

The two outer panels carry a transcription of the 1916 Proclamation.

(Central panel)

Kenmare
Heritage Town
War of Independence
1919-1921

In onóir gaisigh Óglaigh na hÉireann agus laochra
Cumann na mBan a throid ar son Saoirse na hÉireann
a tógadh an leacht chuimhneacháin seo.

Erected in honour of the men of Óglaigh na
hÉireann and the women of Cumann na mBan
who fought for Irish independence and who
supported the struggle for freedom.

The Headford Ambush, March 21st, 1921, was one of the most notable
military engagements between Óglaigh na hÉireann and British troops during
the War of Independence. Following intelligence given by Kenmare Cumann
na mBan member Betty Tangney, Kerry No. 2 Brigade Flying Column attacked
'B' Company of the 1st Battalion, Royal London Fusiliers, at Headford junction
railway station. The Flying Column included five men from this area:

John Flynn (Bonane), Paddy Lynch (Cahir)
Tom O'Connor Scarteen (Kenmare)
Dan Patsy O'Sullivan (Kilgarvan)
Pat O'Shea (Lauragh)

The other Irish Volunteers involved in the ambush that afternoon were:

Daniel J. Allman O.C., Tom McEllistram (V.C.)
James Bailey, John Brosnan, Peter Browne, Jack Burke,

Con Cahill, Moss Carmody, James Coffey, Giles Cooper,
Din Bat Cronin, Jack Cronin, Pat Cronin, James Daly,
Michael Doherty, Tom Fleming, Dan Healy, John B. Lenihan,
Dave McCarthy, Nellus McCarthy, Johnny O'Connor,
Tim O'Donoghue, Michael O'Leary, Denis Prenderville,
Jack Shanahan, Denis Sullivan, Peter Sullivan

During the fierce fighting, which lasted nearly an hour, Commanding Officer Daniel Allman and Volunteer Jimmy Bailey were shot and killed. Three civilians were caught in crossfire and died from their wounds. Eight soldiers of the 1st Battalion were killed.

Following this guerilla attack in Headford, the Fusiliers carried out intense searches in the Kenmare area. On May 1st 1921, Lt Denis Tuohy of Óglaigh na hÉireann was captured during a search in Gortalassa, Kenmare. Lt. Tuohy was taken to a temporary military barracks at Kenmare Workhouse, Kilmurry, where he was interrogated for several hours before being killed - having remained steadfast and true to his comrades.

We remember with pride the men and
women of the Kenmare area who took part
in the struggle for Irish freedom.