



Fianna Fáil  
Seasca Bliain  
ag Fás

1926-1986

Fíanna Fáil  
60 Years of  
GROWING

*Anniversary Concert*

*Ambassador Cinema  
(Rotunda Rooms)*

*Monday, 24th November, 1986*

**1926-1986**



The Sinn Féin Deputies.  
 Left to right: E. Ó'Séalla, M. Collins (President of the Sinn Féin), Eamon de Valera (President of the Irish Republic), Cianán Phádraic, E. MacNeill, William Conway and E. Byrne.

Right from P. M'Carthy, Thomas McLaughlin, J. J. Conroy, Richard Molloy, J. O'Donoghue, J. J. O'Connell, J. MacLennan, J. O'Leary, Michael Stanger, M. G. O'Brien, Dr. H. J. Dowling, L. de Rosetta, Dr. Conroy and Father Michael O'Flanagan (representative of the Sinn Féin).

THE FIRST DÁIL, 1919

With President Eamon de Valera in this formal picture are his colleagues in the first Dáil.



MAY 16th, 1926

Supporters waiting by the stage door of the Scala Theatre, to attend the inaugural meeting — when a new party, a new national movement was born — Fianna Fáil — Soldiers of Destiny — The Republican Party.

*Fianna Fáil — Inheritors of a noble past movers of a March towards freedom — Cherishing with Courage and Integrity.*

*'A small nation that stood alone not for one year or two, but for several hundred years against aggression; that endured spoils, famines, massacres in endless succession: that was clubbed many times into insensibility, but that each time on returning consciousness took up the first ANEW; a small nation that could never be got to accept defeat and has never surrendered her soul.'*

*The first Dáil Éireann met on January 21, 1919.*

*Cathal Brugha presided and the Roll was called. 36 Teachtaí Dála were absent.*

*Yet, men of vision, like Eamon de Valera saw beyond the saddened present, looked into a more fruitful and tranquil future. Threading his way through war and peace, prison and homecomings, his way led, inexorably to glorious conclusion.*

The first Ard-Fheis was held on this very day 60 years ago. Sean T. O'Kelly was in the chair.

The Ard-Fheis elected the first Executive of Fianna Fáil.

Vice-Presidents: P. J. Rutledge, T.D.  
Sean T. O'Kelly, T.D.

Honorary Secretaries: Sean Lemass, T.D.  
Gerald Boland, T.D.

Honorary Treasurers: Dr. J. Ryan, T.D.  
Sean McEntee, T.D.

National Executive: Frank Aiken, T.D.  
Tomas O'Deirg  
Rev. E. Coyle, P.P.  
M. Kilroy, T.D.  
Dan Breen, T.D.  
Mrs. Margaret Pearse  
Madame Markievicz, T.D.  
P. J. Little  
Mrs. Tom Clarke  
Dr. Con Murphy  
Professor E. Mullern, M.A.  
Professor P. Caffrey, B.A.  
Miss Dorothy McArdle  
Mrs Sheehy-Skeffington  
Miss Linda Kearns

There were 6 women on the first Executive of Fianna Fáil.

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The aims of the NEW MOVEMENT were clear and succinct. They stated that:

Cuireann Fianna Fáil rompu mar chuspóirí.

Aontacht agus Saoirse na hÉireann do bhaint amach mar phoblacht.

An Ghaeilge D'atbhunú mar ghnathurlabhra na ndaoine agus saol náisiúnta ar leithligh do chur ar aghaidh d'réir gnas agus barrshampla ar sinnsear.

Gustal agus Saibhreas na tíre do chur chun leasa agus chun tairbhe don phobal uile.

Éire do dheanamh neamh-spleach agus féin-chothaitheach intí féin o thaobh na h-eaconomaíochta chomh fada agus is féidir é.

An oiread teaghlach agus is féidir d'réir chor an tsaoil do bhunu ar an dtalamh.

Na tionscáil is riachtanach do bhonn beatha an stait do shuíomh ar an dtuaith tré chomhacht leictreachais do chur ar fáil, in áit a gcarnadh ar a chéile isteach i gcathracha.

An clár daonlathach leis an gCéad Dáil do chur i gcion.



THE FIANNA FÁIL PARTY, 1927

Front row: S. Holt, M. O'Reilly, J. Victory,  
T. Mullins, Countess Markievicz, E. de  
Valera, Mrs. T. Clarke, D. ua Buacalla,  
F. Carty, T. Crowley, J. Tubridy,  
P. J. Little. Centre row: D. Corkery,

T. Derrig, M. Killilea, W. O'Leary, S.  
Moore,  
A. Fogarty, J. Ryan, P. Boland, P.  
McCarvill, N. Blaney, P. Smith, T. O'Reilly,  
P. Belton, M. Kilroy, T. Tynan, P. J.  
Ruttledge, S. Lemass, F. Aiken, P.  
Houlihan. Back row: T. Powell,

T. MacEllistrim, S. Hayes, M. Kennedy,  
S. MacEntee, G. Boland, F. Carney,  
J. Colbert, P. O'Dowd, M. Corry, S.  
French. (S. T. O'Kelly, F. Fahy, and E.  
Mullen were also members).

*Fintan Lalor once wrote that the young, the gallant, the gifted, the daring and the wise flocked round the banner that flies nearest the skies and the banner flying nearest the skies in 1932 was hoisted and flown by Fianna Fáil*



The first Fianna Fáil government took office on 9th March 1932. Included in this picture are: Frank Aiken, P. J. Ruttledge, Eamon de Valera, James Ryan, T. Derrig, J. Geoghegan, Sean MacEntee, Sean T. O'Kelly, J. Connolly, Sean F. Lemass and Gerald Boland.



## SEASCA BLIAIN AG FÁS – CLÁR

- 8.00 p.m. Tosnú  
Presentation by Mr. Haughey to Paddy Brennan
- 8.15 p.m. Introduction by Mr. Haughey
- 8.30 p.m. Presentation in speech and Music  
Presenters: Liam Devalley and Barbara Brennan  
Artists: Bernadette Greevy  
Denise Kelly  
Greenfields Choir  
Metropolitan Choir  
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

Script: Donncha O'Dualaing

Producer: Frank Murphy



## Paddy Brennan

Paddy Brennan, having served with distinction in the War of Independence as officer commanding the old IRA in County Dublin and Wicklow, played a central and significant role in the Fianna Fáil Party from its inception.

The first meeting of the Organising Committee, to establish the new Party, Fianna Fáil, was held on Good Friday, April 2nd, 1926 at 11 a.m. at 23 Suffolk Street, Dublin 2. Mr. Eamon de Valera presided and Sean F. Lemass acted as Secretary and recorded the minutes. On the proposal of Sean Lemass, seconded by Paddy Brennan, Mr. Liam Pedlar was appointed General Secretary. Mr. Eamon de Valera then addressed the meeting and concluded by proposing that the new organisation be called Fianna Fáil. This motion was seconded by Paddy Brennan and approved unanimously.

And so began, ten years after Easter Week 1916, a new phase in the history of the National Movement. Paddy Brennan is the sole survivor of this historic occasion.

### Public Service Record:

- Joined the Civil Service as a boy employee on 4th September, 1914. At 18 years of age he was formally appointed on 18th April, 1918 in the Department of Labour.
- Refused to take the "Oath of Allegiance to his Britanic Majesty," and resigned from the Civil Service on 10th October, 1919.
- Reinstated as a Clerical Officer in the Land Commission on 6th November, 1933.
- Became private secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary to An Taoiseach in 1935.
- Was appointed private secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance on 12th July, 1943.
- Became private secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Paddy Smith on 1st January, 1947.
- Was Transferred on the 2nd March, 1947 to the Bureau of Military History as Secretary until 28th May, 1957.
- From the 29th of May, 1957 to 1962, Paddy Brennan served in the Department of Defence in General Headquarters until his retirement.



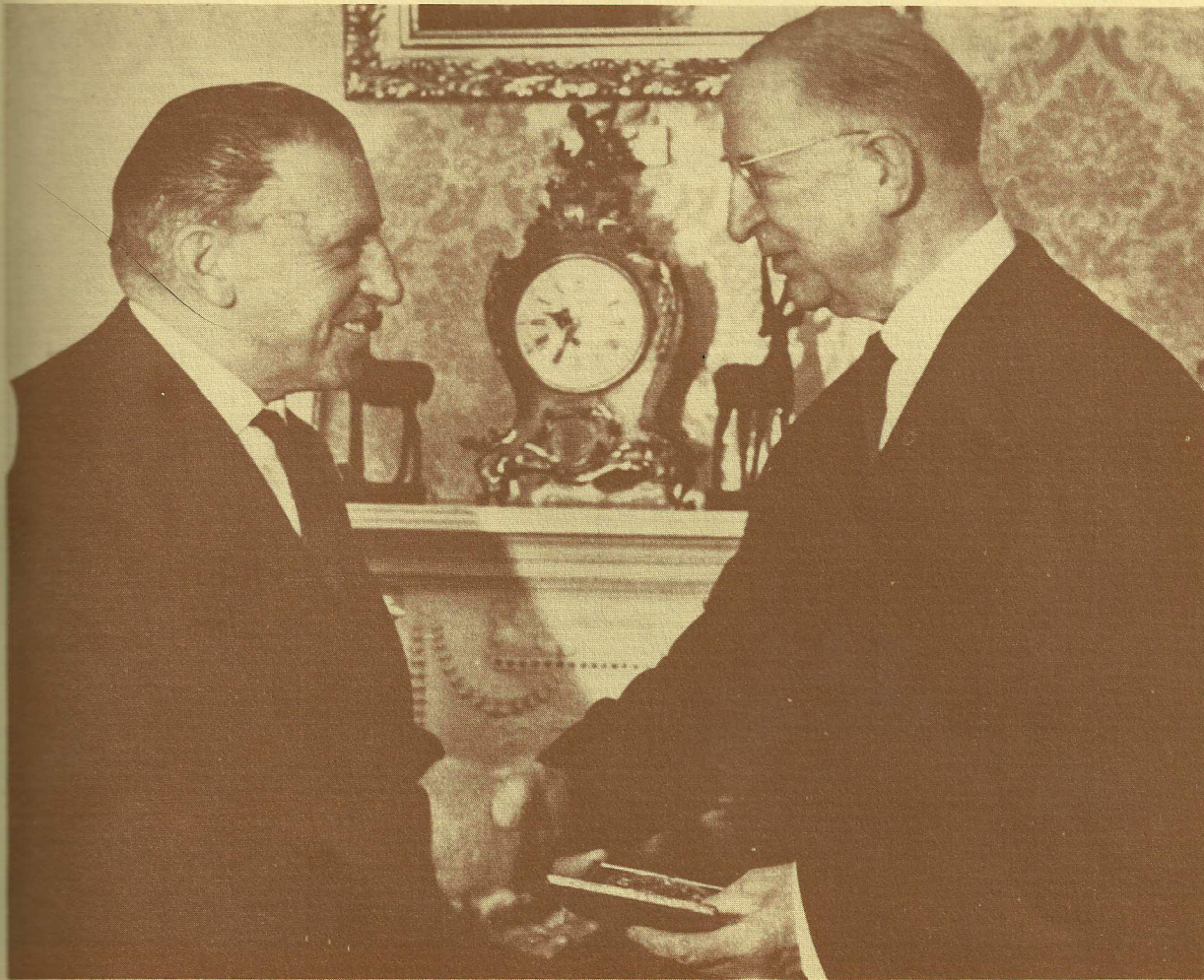




With war clouds looming in Europe, the Fianna Fáil Government opened negotiations with the British for the return of the Treaty Ports and the ending of the Tariff War. In 1938, de Valera and his senior ministers — Sean MacEntee, Dr. Ryan and Sean Lemass — went to London for talks.

At the end of World War II, the Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill, attacked Ireland's neutrality in an intemperate speech. Three days later, the Taoiseach replied in an historic broadcast, in the course of which he said: "Allowances can be made for Mr. Churchill's statement, however unworthy, in the first flush of his victory. No such excuse could be found for me in this quieter atmosphere. There are, however, some things which it is my duty to say . . . Mr. Churchill is proud of Britain's stand alone, after France had fallen and before America entered the war. Could he not find in his heart, the generosity to acknowledge that there is one small nation that stood alone, not for one year or two, but for several hundred years against aggression; that endured spoliations, famines, massacres in endless succession . . . a small nation that could never be got to accept defeat and has never surrendered her soul?"





Sean F. Lemass hands over the Seal of Office to President de Valera.



In his robes as Chancellor of the National University, the President with relatives of the 1916 leaders, who received honorary degrees as part of the Commemoration of the Rising. From left: Mr. Ronan Ceannt, District Justice Donagh MacDonagh, Sen. Margaret Pearse, Mrs. Thomas Dillon, Sen. Nora Connolly-O'Brien, and Mrs. Kathleen Clarke.

*Women of the Revolution, most of whom had taken the Republican side in the Civil War, flocked to the new Party. Their influence and courage did much to foster a spirit of idealism and, with it a practical realism.*

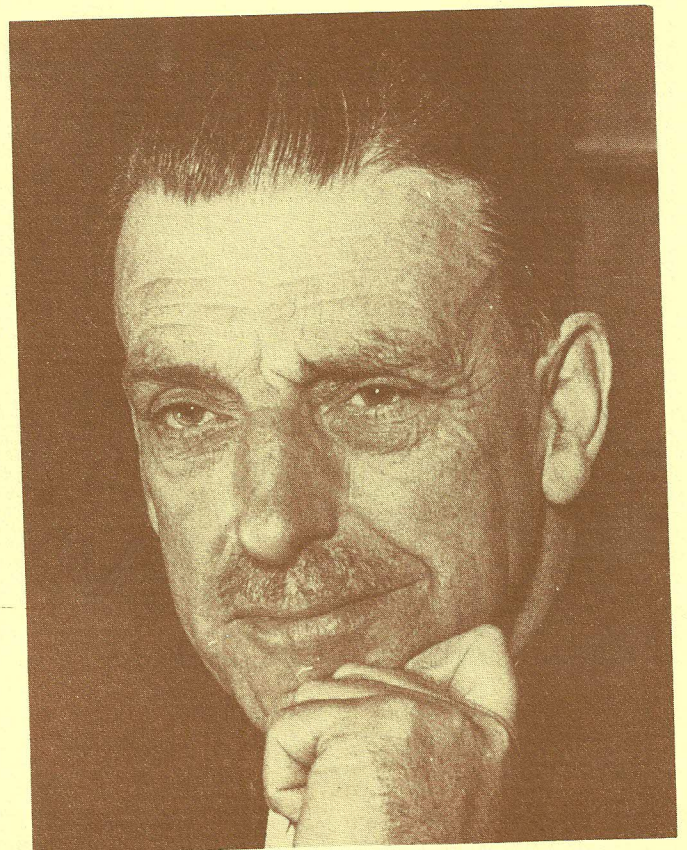
*One of the great early advocates of Fianna Fáil was Mrs. Margaret Pearse, mother of Padraic and Willie and of course, the later Senator Margaret Pearse. She actively encouraged a new generation of Women Republicans to take up the cause within Fianna Fáil.*

*Not alone did she bring with her the spirit of the Easter Rising but she was the epitome of her sons ideal woman of the nation.*



*Lemass in 1959, sounded a warning. He was talking of partition. "The answer is that nothing is ever settled until it is settled right ... the feeling is of the Irish people on this issue are deep and abiding. All history teaches that a continuing sense of injustice and the frustration of a legitimate national aim, operate to discourage or divert efforts for national progress in other directions."*

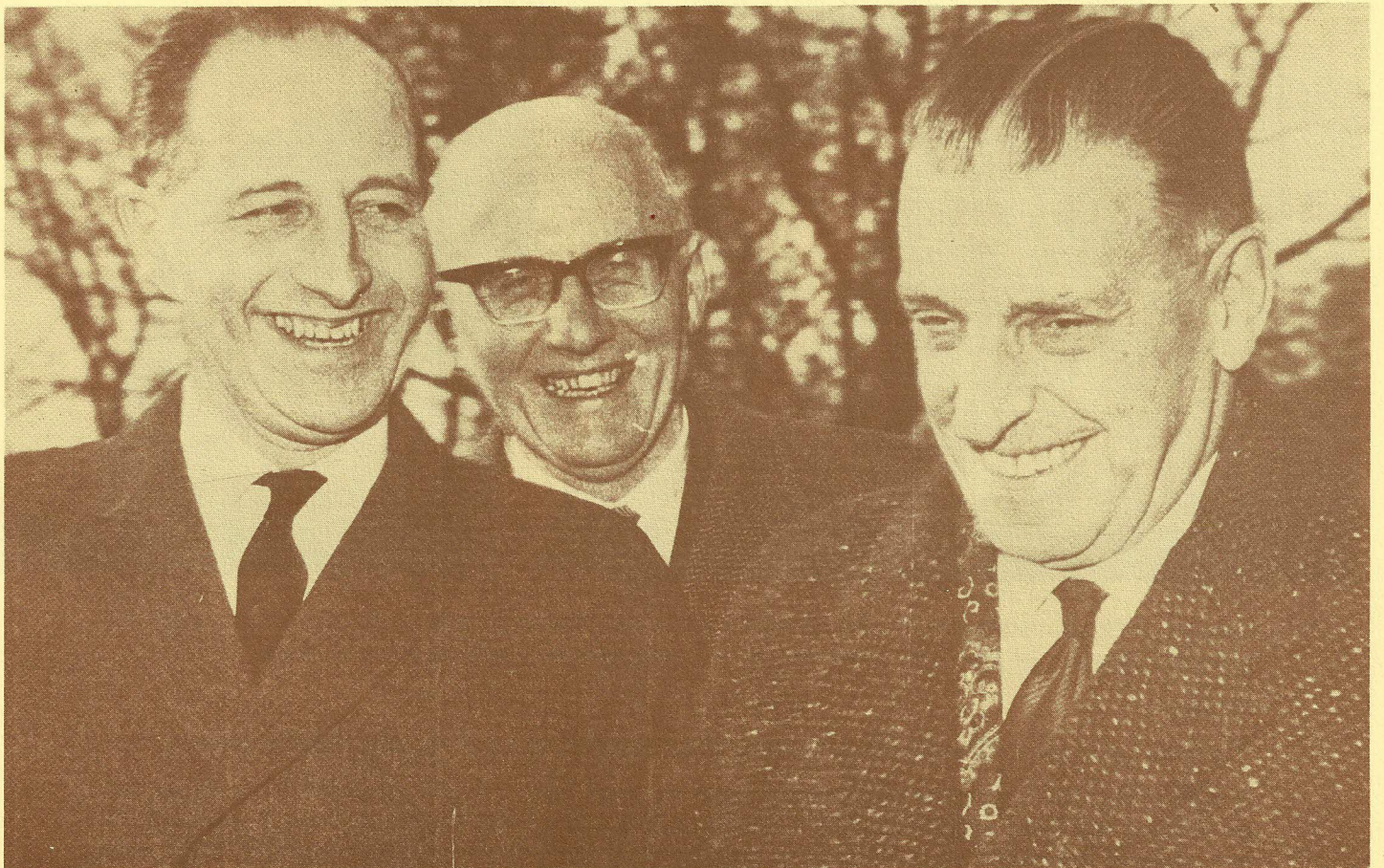
Sean Lemass, the architect of the extraordinary progress that took place in Ireland under Fianna Fáil in the 1960s, was born in 1899. At the age of sixteen, he and his elder brother, Noel, joined the Volunteers, and were posted to the G.P.O. during the Easter Rising. Taken prisoner, he was released because of his youth, and resumed his studies. In 1917, he again joined the Volunteers, was promoted to First Lieutenant and was captured on active service in December 1920, and interned at Ballykinlar until December 1921. He took the Republican side over the Treaty and was Second-in-Command of the Four Courts during the siege of 1922, where he was taken prisoner and escaped to continue fighting in Blessington and Wexford. He was appointed to the staff of the Eastern Command, was captured in December 1922 and interned until the end of 1923. He was a founder member of Fianna Fáil and was Director of Elections when the party swept to victory in 1932. He was a Minister in every Fianna Fáil government until he retired as Taoiseach in 1966, and as a deputy in 1969. Ireland owes a tremendous debt to this most remarkable man, whose single-minded pragmatism and political sagacity contributed so greatly to the making of the modern Ireland. He died on the 11th May, 1971. May he rest in peace.



*Sean Lemass and Fianna Fáil saw to it that the despair, emigration and slump of the fifties ended. He rapidly effected a transmutation. His Ireland was new, brave, outward-looking, hopeful.*



INTO EUROPE: The Taoiseach and the Foreign Minister, Dr. Hillery, sign the declaration of intent to enter into the Common Market.



The first historic O'Neill-Lemass meeting at Stormont in January 1965, which was returned the following month.



*Charles J. Haughey brings a new excitement and a new joy to to 'one of the richest strands in the colourful tapestry of Irish life', a strand and a possession in which we should glory.*

*He says —*

*"Cuirimís i gcuimhne dúinn féin níos minicí a mhéid den rath atá orainn go bhfuil an Ghaeilge againn.*

*Is seilbh í a bhfuil luach thar áireamh aici agus ba chóir dúin a bheith ag maoímh as cleachtadh na Gaeilge mar bhua intleachta; cion a bheith againn uirthi; í a chleachtadh oireadh augs is féidir linn, agus, le linn dúinn sin a dhéanamh, an tuiscint a bheith againn go soiléir gur rud í atá againn i bpáirt lenar seansínsir agus le na glúnta go léir a tháinig ina ndiadh sa tír seo.*



*Have we the courage to look beyond the gloom-laden present to a more hopeful future? Have we the vision to dream, to dream like the poets and revolutionaries of our Past? Perhaps the test of our great Party in the future will be its ability to dream and, then, to make our dream reality.*

*The time is ripe for a new start. It is our duty to rekindle the spirit and the political energies of the nation. The people of the North, and part of the people of Ireland, have a long tradition of resilience and courage, which in the past has been put to the service of Ireland. The descendants of those that led this Nation in the past, the United Irishmen of the Nation who made the mental break with the British connection, and who thereby altered the whole mould of Irish History, not merely have a future on this island, but are in a position to help guide its destinies.*

*60 years ago to-night, Fianna Fáil set out its Policies. Its hopes its ambitions. Ireland's hopes, Ireland's ambitions. The Republican Party for the 32 County Republic. Soldiers of the rear guard. Gaeil imeasc na nGall. Dreamers of Dreams. Custodians of the Nations Hopes. Marching forward with confidence. Certain of our Nation's Destiny, Soldiers of Destiny, AR AGHAIDH LE FIANNA FÁIL.*



## Soldiers of the Legion of the Rearguard

Lurid the morning with flame and shot and shell  
 Now rally Ireland the sons who love you well.  
 Pledge they'll defend you through death or prison cell  
 Proud march the Soldiers of the Rearguard,  
 "Up the Republic" shall be their battle cry  
 Pearse, Clarke, McDermott will pray for them on high  
 Eagar and ready for love of you to die  
 True Gaels the Soldiers of the Rearguard

### Chorus

Legion of the Rearguard answering Ireland's call,  
 Hark, their martial tramp is heard from Cork to Donegal  
 Tone and Emmet guide you tho' your task be hard  
 De Valera leads you Soldiers of the Legion of the Rearguard.  
 Street, hillside, valley they send their sons along,  
 The plough, office workshop, a score of thousands strong.  
 Spirit of Brian they come with martial song,  
 Wait for the Soldiers of the Rearguard.  
 Cork, Kerry, Wexford, Tipperary, Clare,  
 Galway to Dublin, Tirconnail to Kildare,  
 None shall be missing, all Ireland will be there  
 Steadfast the Soldiers of the Rearguard.

### Chorus

Crimson on the roadside, the prison wall, the cave  
 Proof of their valour, go sleep in peace ye brave,  
 Comrades tread lightly, you're near a hero's grave,  
 For there lies a Soldier of the Rearguard.  
 Shell-shattered fortress, and shot-scarred barricade,  
 Trumpet the story of the gallant fight they made,  
 Weary, out-numbered, undaunted, undismayed,  
 God bless the Soldiers of the Rearguard.

*(By Jack O'Sheehan, Hare Park Prison Camp, Kildare, 1)*

## Ambrán Na bhFiann

Sao dílthí, a chéadé, álainn óglaigh,  
Crathaimmairé, bannaithe, caoinitheas  
Ar dhóirtí cúlraí go dtéar éirí tair,  
A cur spóir go raibí meallógach,  
Is fearmáireas pailéasachí siné chéim ghé,  
Is go tuar níl éirí glé níl éirí chéadé do lá,  
Fuar cúlraías cláiríochí na h-éirí do saol,  
Sao dílthí, curraigí Ambráin na bhFiann.

### Craige

Saoirí Fionnraí Fíol, áiní goiní gheall ag Éirí,  
Álainn éirí áiní chéad éirí a níl éirí chéad éirí,  
Fuar níl éirí áiní chéad éirí do cur níl éirí chéad éirí,  
Is fearmáireas pailéasachí siné chéim ghé,  
Is go tuar níl éirí glé níl éirí chéadé do lá,  
Fuar cúlraías cláiríochí na h-éirí do saol,  
Sao dílthí, curraigí Ambráin na bhFiann.

Craige dílthí áiní chéad éirí a níl éirí chéad éirí,  
Álainn éirí áiní chéad éirí a níl éirí chéad éirí,  
Fuar níl éirí áiní chéad éirí do cur níl éirí chéad éirí,  
Is fearmáireas pailéasachí siné chéim ghé,  
Is go tuar níl éirí glé níl éirí chéadé do lá,  
Fuar cúlraías cláiríochí na h-éirí do saol,  
Sao dílthí, curraigí Ambráin na bhFiann.

A h-éirí áiní chéad éirí a níl éirí chéad éirí,  
Álainn éirí áiní chéad éirí a níl éirí chéad éirí,

Fuar níl éirí áiní chéad éirí do cur níl éirí chéad éirí,  
Is fearmáireas pailéasachí siné chéim ghé,  
Is go tuar níl éirí glé níl éirí chéadé do lá,  
Fuar cúlraías cláiríochí na h-éirí do saol,  
Sao dílthí, curraigí Ambráin na bhFiann.

Péidín Ó Conraigh do scríobh.