Freedom fighter recalls stirring incidents

Mr. Peter Hogan, who has returned to the United States with his wife, Mrs. Kathleen Hogan, after an extended holiday in Limerick, took an active part in the War of Independence and the Civil War, and his reminiscences make interesting reading.

At the early age of ten he joined John Daly's boy scouts and later graduated to "A" Company 2nd Battalion, Mid-Limerick Brigade of the Old I.R.A. Officers of the Company included the late Captain McNamara and the late Lieutenant Pat Raleigh.

Peter had a busy time with the Company and one that was fraught with hazards, too. In 1916 he helped in the destruction of Ballymena Court House, which at that time was being used by Crown Forces as a military outpost. The many other operations included a raid on the mail train at Bruff, and an ambush attempt - which, however, never came off - at the Woodbridge. And, as the latter were Sammy Moore, Jack Moore, Michael Madden of Watergate, and Paddy Stondon, to name only a few of the stalwarts.

In between humanitarian work was done, too. The orphanages, for instance, had no food, and Peter and the boys would get supplies for them from the ships at Limerick Docks. And for anything that had to be commandeered a receipt was given by Captain Dargan.

Civil War

During the Civil War Peter fought with the I.R.A. and, for a time, was stationed in the Ordnance Barracks, Mulgrave Street. When compelled to evacuate, the troops destroyed the barracks and continued the fight in the county. In an engagement at Adare, Mick Hartney was badly wounded, and Peter brought him to a house in the area where he was cared for.

The late Henry Meaney gave the order to capture Patrickswell and Peter was wounded in the engagement. Some 25 prisoners, with quantities of rifles and ammunition, were taken and removed to Buttevant.

When fighting was resumed, Peter's Company fell back to Newcastle West, where the O'Dwyer brothers were killed and Danny Maher wounded.

Previously, John Hogan of New Road, Thomondgate, who was a member of "D" Company, Mid-Limerick Brigade, was killed in the engagement.

Peter was taken prisoner in Newcastle West and lodged in the County Gaol, where his cell mate was the late Dan Bourke, T.G. During his few weeks there he managed to get out with some secret papers carrying information for his own use, and completed their delivery.

Family

Peter, a native of the "Parish," left for the United States in 1927 and had made four visits to Limerick. He is an old boy of Leamy's, Bredricke's and Quay Lane schools and his family were well known coach builders in Limerick for over a century.

Photo - Mr. and Mrs. Hogan.

is Mrs. Mary Leo, Ballina curra.

Kathleen

Peter's wife, the former Miss Kathleen Liddy, of Watergate, is a member of an old Limerick family who for many generations were associated with the ancient Guild of Abbey Fishermen. Her relations include Mrs. Younger of The Windmill and John Lynch in the U.S.A. Her sister and herself were brought to the United States over 40 years ago by causing, and since then she has made four visits to Ireland.

Mr. and Mrs. Hogan have two children and nine grandchildren. During their nine week's vacation here they celebrated the ruby jubilee of their wedding.