

# Jim to tell the story of his heroic grandfather

By AINE FITZGERALD

THE author of a new book chronicling the life of a soldier in Limerick during the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War is seeking the help of the public in compiling the body of work.

Jim Corbett, originally from Farranshone and now living in Surrey, England, is penning a book about the life of his grandfather, Cornelius McNamara from Thomondgate, who was a Captain in A Company, 2nd Battalion, Mid-Limerick Brigade and also the officer commanding the Strand Barracks during the siege in July 1922.

Cornelius fought on the side of the Irish Republican Army against the National Army of the Irish Free State.

"I am presently writing a book about his life in

Limerick and especially his time during the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War. I would be interested in hearing from anyone who can identify the people in the pictures, or anyone who can give information about A Company," said Jim who moved to England in 1988.

Jim began working on the book, entitled *Not While I Have Ammo*, early last year and he decided to write it because he had heard many stories about his grandfather but unfortunately never met him.

"It is the fiftieth anniversary of his death this year. The title of the book is a reference to the response by Cornelius when the Irish Free Staters asked him to surrender the Strand Barracks. '*Not While I Have Ammo*,' is what he is said to have replied to them," Jim explained.

One of several interesting nuggets of information in the forthcoming book is a reference to an incident in which an

Irish Free State trooper fired a pellet in the direction of Cornelius.

"He had a very lucky escape as the bullet hit his earpiece," said Jim.

As a memento of his near-death experience, Cornelius retained the bullet and gave it to his wife Sarah Donnelly from Galway who kept it as a brooch. "And the bullet is a family heirloom to this day," added Jim.

*Not While I Have Ammo* is due to be launched in Limerick on January 14 in the Hilton Hotel by a nephew of Cornelius, Michael McNamara, the chairman, of the Board of Management at HSI Limerick Business School.

The book will be available in local book stores from that time.

Anyone who may have further information on the people pictured in the photographs or any other information on the A Company can write to Jim Corbett at 6 Chapman Road, West Croydon, Surrey, CRO 3NU, England.



Can you identify any of the two men pictured in this photograph with Captain Cornelius McNamara (left), Officer Commanding the Strand Barracks during the siege in July 1922 of the Irish Civil War?