**Casement map of buried gold and valuables at Banna for auction**

**Chorley’s auctioneers says map will go under the hammer with estimate of £1,500-£2,000**

21 March 2016

[Michael Parsons](http://www.irishtimes.com/profile/michael-parsons-7.1837424)



Roger Casement: Listed “GBP 50 in gold and silver; 1 pair binoculars; and 1 lamp”

A *Treasure Island*-style map drawn by Sir [Roger Casement](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_person=Roger%20Casement&article=true) to show where he had buried gold and other valuables after landing at [Banna](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Banna&article=true) [Strand](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Strand&article=true) in Co Kerry on Good Friday [1916](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_topic=1916&article=true) has come to light in [England](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=England&article=true).

Accompanying notes kept by an agent in Britain’s MI5 also reveal what happened to the items Casement buried down a rabbit-hole in a fairy fort shortly before he was arrested on April 21st, 1916.

Casement’s plot to import guns from [Germany](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Germany&article=true) for the Easter Rising had been intercepted by British intelligence services. The ship carrying the guns, *The Aud*, was scuttled and Casement had disembarked from a German U-Boat submarine at Banna Strand. He was arrested by the Royal [Irish Constabulary](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_organisation=Irish%20Constabulary&article=true) hours later and taken to Dublin and later London.

While the Rising began in Dublin on Easter Monday, Casement was being interrogated at [Scotland Yard](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_organisation=Scotland%20Yard&article=true) by, among others, Maj [Frank Hall](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_person=Frank%20Hall&article=true), from Warrenpoint, Co Down, a gun-running founder of the Ulster Volunteers who had been recruited into MI5, the British security service.

One of Hall’s descendants has consigned items of “memorabilia surrounding the 1916 Easter Rising” relating to both Hall and Casement to Chorley’s auctioneers in [Cheltenham](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Cheltenham&article=true) where they will be auctioned tomorrow.

**Casement’s largesse**

Among them is an envelope containing a “Plan of Rath drawn by Roger Casement at Scotland Yard” indicating that the items had been buried “under some fern bracken & bramble” in a fairy fort close to Currahane Moat near [Ardfert](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Ardfert&article=true). Casement listed “GBP 50 in gold and silver; 1 pair binoculars; and 1 lamp”.

The British authorities recovered the items but it turned out Casement had hidden more than he told the interrogators.

Auctioneer [Simon Chorley](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_person=Simon%20Chorley&article=true), who travelled to [Ireland](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Ireland&article=true) to research the map’s history, said Hall’s account of the distribution of Casement’s largesse, written on the back of the map, provided a definitive account of a matter long subject to rumour and speculation.

Hall’s document reveals that Casement’s “treasure” also included pistols, gold cuff links and a “flag of the Irish Republic”, which were divided up among his captors. Among those to benefit were a Det Insp Cheesman who was given the “gold sleeve links”. Hall himself kept “3 mauser pistols”. He claimed he gave one of them to [Major Ivon] “Price who used it at [Connie Marciewitz](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_person=Connie%20Marciewitz&article=true) [sic] at the Castle & missed her”.

Casement’s flag of the Irish Republic was given to the RIC Mess at the [Phoenix](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Phoenix&article=true) [Park](http://www.irishtimes.com/search/search-7.1213540?tag_location=Park&article=true) and the “cash” [in gold and silver coins] was given to the two RIC officers who arrested Casement in Kerry. The auctioneers said the map would be auctioned an estimate of £1,500-£2,000 (€1,926-€2,568). Other items from Hall’s collection will be sold separately.

Casement was tried for treason and sentenced to death by hanging, aged 51, at London’s Pentonville Prison in August 1916.

Hall’s MI5 code name was Q and was reputedly the inspiration for the character of that name in Ian Fleming’s *James Bond* novels.