**Notes on John Regan lecture I attended in TCD on 28 September 2011**

**Centre for Contemporary Irish History Seminars**

**Dr. John M. Regan, Department of History, University of Dundee**

**‘The Bandon Valley Massacre Revisited’**

The talk was interesting and abrasive, as was the discussion in Buswell's afterwards. Regan is determined to find Peter Hart et al guilty of academic misdemeanour - on Dunmanway and the IRA’s sectarianism charge alone.

Eunan went ballistic at the meeting which he was chairing. Brian Hanley was very good from the floor.

Regan said his talk was to be published in some academic journal. [I have web copy now] I took rather poor notes.

At the outset, Regan called FSL Lyons in aid who wrote that one should "preserve study of the past for its own sake". He spoke of a "crisis of credibility" for historians; one that "demanded urgent attention by academic historians". "Academic fraud" was mentioned. His was a paper "on the methodology of a narrative of sectarian massacre."

Regan did concur of the IRA (TCD 28 September 2011) "they too can be sectarian" but added that "the Dunmanway informers belonged to a secret anti-republican organisation".

He made great and fairly convincing play of the critical link between the ten later killings and the capture in Macroom and interrogation of the four British intelligence officers (Dove, Hendy, Henderson and Brooks) who were presumably sent out to find out what was going on after the Hornibrook raid the night before on 26 April. Regan thought it significant even deliberate (?) that Hart recorded that these four were released (as the Irish Times erroneously reported) while they were in fact executed and buried secretly at Kilgobnet.

Regan did not speak of the missing/unseeable Dunmanway list of informers that Meda Ryan, Aubane and Wikipedia so rely on and seemed not to be too keen on it when I spoke to him afterwards.

I told him in the lecture he was unconvincing as to the reasons and motives for so many killings, in such a short time, in such a small area, all during the truce.

Another speaker from the floor said it could hardly be called ethnic cleansing if 2/3rds of the Protestants did not leave Cork.

Interestingly, I discovered from Robin Bury who had met and corresponded with his daughter in Kinsale, that the Rev Ralph Harbord of Murragh Rectory in Ballineen had not been killed, despite Ryan's text (*Tom Barry*, p. 212 copied into Wikipedia). Apparently he was badly injured and was in pain and affected by his wounds for the rest of his life. He had a brother present that day who was an ex-soldier who ran off who, the daughter thought, was probably the target.

Manus O'Riordan was just anecdotal and family exculpatory or Irish militarist.

Niall Meehan was there. Quite personable in chat afterwards. He told me he was replying to my last response in the IPR. It is trailed in the October issue for November. Clifford gives me five pages in this issue in Part II of his 'Liberal Unionism at the end of its Tether.' Manus O’Riordan devotes five pages to my take on Casement and his German allies in the US, largely to excoriate Jim Larkin for colloguing with the US authorities in the 1930s.

Just discovered yesterday this website which is full of interesting material –

<http://www.cairogang.com/soldiers-killed/list-1921.html>

It is a bit disorganised but replete with documentary details. The researcher, David Grant, had earlier done a website on the Irish Brigade, and discovered precisely what happened to Casement's emissary from Germany (via USA), John McGoey, who was tasked to tell the leaders to call off the Rising.

He wasn't executed by the British, as most nationalist writers and Casement alleged, or by the Germans, as I suggested. Rather he re-appeared in London, joining the Mercantile Marine Reserve and even getting a medal! He married in September 1916 having only left Germany in March, and went to the US again later with his wife. He died in a building accident in Chicago in 1925.

Apparently I went to school with David I although have no memory of him!

-------------------------

To David F

As promised here is my account -

Update on John Regan lecture I attended in TCD (28 September 2011). I took rather poor notes.

[Your name was inevitably mentioned. Regan has a strange mixed posh English/Irish accent.]

The talk was interesting and abrasive, as was the discussion in Buswell's afterwards. Regan is determined to find Peter Hart et al guilty of academic misdemeanour - on Dunmanway and the sectarian charge alone….

Jeff

[Justine McCarthy had a piece on? Peter Hart in yesterday Sunday Times but I did not see it. I'm told, without detail, it was not kind.]