Tugadh na hAirm i dTír Bheann Eadair

An 28ú Bealtaine 1914 thaistil Darrell Figgis agus Erskine Childers go Hamburg, mar ar cheannaigh siad 1,500 raidhfil Mauser agus 49,000 urchar ó chuideachta arm Moritz Magnus Jnr. Raidhfilí Mauser ó na 1870idí a bhí úsáidte ag arm na Gearmáine cheana féin is ea a cheannaigh siad.
Ghníomhaigh Ruairí Mac Easmainn (Roger Casement) mar theagmhálaí idir an coiste maoinithe i Londain agus Óglaigh na hÉireann i mBaile Átha Cliath agus socraíodh go mbaileodh Childers na hairm ó Darrell Figgis ina luamh, *Asgard*. Socraíodh go mbaileodh Conor O'Brien, col ceathrair Mary Spring Rice, leath de na hairm i *Kelpie*, a luamh siúd. Faoi mar a tharla, thóg *Asgard* 900 raidhfil agus 29,000 urchar agus thóg *Kelpie* an fuílleach.
Criú seisir a bhí ar Asgard: Erskine agus Molly, Mary Spring Rice, Gordon Shephard, agus beirt iascaire ó Oileán Ghabhla, Co. Dhún na nGall, Paidí Dhónaill Mac Fhionnghaile agus Séarlas Ó Dúgáin. Ainneoin na drochaimsire chas *Asgard* le Figgis agus an tuga Gearmánach *Gladiator* ag long sholais Rötigen ag béal abhainn an Schelt amach ó chósta na Beilge, faoi mar a bhí socraithe. Thóg sé cúig huaire an chloig d'obair dhian na hairm a aistriú ón mbád isteach sa luamh. B'éigean na raidhfilí ar fad a bhaint as burlaí canbháis agus tuí agus iad a stuáil faoi dheic an luaimh. Líonadh an luamh lán go béal le harm agus b'éigean don chriú codladh a dhéanamh ar thochtanna a leagadh os cionn na raidhfilí cruachta.

Tar éis trí lá is fiche ar an bhfarraige, fuair foireann *Asgard* radharc ar Chuan Bhinn Éadair, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath. Ba é Bulmer Hobson, ball d'Ard-Chomhairle an IRB, a roghnaigh Binn Éadair leis na gunnaí a thabhairt i dtír ann.
Maidin Dé Domhnaigh an 26ú Iúil 1914, mháirseáil 800 Óglach agus baill d'Fhianna ó Pháirc an Athar Mhaitiú i bhFionnradharc amach go Binn Éadair. Shroich siad an Piara Thoir díreach agus Childers ag tabhairt an *Asgard* isteach sa chuan, agus bhí gach rud bainte den luamh acu laistigh de thrí cheathrú huaire. An chuid eile de na hairm a ceannaíodh i Hamburg, iompraíodh iad ar bord an *Kelpie* agus aistríodh iad go dtí *Chotah*, luamh gaile a bhain le Sir Thomas Myles, amach ó chósta na Breataine Bige. Tugadh i dtír iad ag Cill Chúil, Co. Chill Mhantáin, an 1ú Lúnasa 1914.

The Howth Gun-Running

On 28th May 1914, Darrell Figgis and Erskine Childers travelled to Hamburg, where they negotiated the purchase of 1,500 Mauser rifles and 49,000 rounds of ammunition from the arms firm of Moritz Magnus Jnr. The Mauser rifles they purchased dated to the 1870s and had previously been used by the German army. With Roger Casement acting as liaison between the London committee and the Irish Volunteers in Dublin, it was arranged that Childers would collect the arms shipment from Darrell Figgis in his yacht Asgard. Half of the shipment was to be collected by the yacht Kelpie, owned and skippered by Conor O'Brien, cousin of Mary Spring Rice. In the event, Asgard took 900 rifles and 29,000 rounds of ammunition, with Kelpie taking the smaller portion. Apart from Erskine Childers, Asgard was crewed by Molly Childers, Mary Spring Rice, Gordon Shephard, and two fishermen from Gola Island in Co. Donegal, Patrick McGinley and Charles Duggan.

Despite bad weather, Asgard made the rendezvous with Figgis and the German tug Gladiator at the Rötigen lightship, at the mouth of the Scheldt River off the Belgian coast. Transfer of the arms to the yacht involved five hours of strenuous work, the rifles being unpacked from canvas bales and straw and stowed below the yacht's deck. Every available space was filled, with the crew on the journey to Howth sleeping on mattresses placed on top of the stacked rifles.

After a total of twenty-three days at sea, the yacht came within sight of Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin. Bulmer Hobson, a member of the Supreme Council of the I.R.B, had chosen Howth as the landing site.On the morning of Sunday 26th July 1914, 800 Volunteers and members of Na Fianna Éireann marched from Father Matthew Park in Fairview to Howth. They reached the East Pier just as Childers piloted Asgard into the harbour, and the entire unloading was achieved in forty-five minutes. The remainder of the arms shipment from Hamburg was transported aboard Kelpie and transferred to Chotah, the steam-yacht of Sir Thomas Myles, on the Welsh coast. Myles landed the arms at Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow, on Saturday 1st August.

Mary Spring Rice and Molly Childers aboard the Asgard during the gun-running

Comóradh Céad Bliain Thabhairt i dtír na nGunnaí i mBinn Éadair
27-7-2014
Howth Gun Running Centenary Commemoration

Asgard 26 July 1914

An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Fáilte ón Aire Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, Heather Mhic Unfraidh, T.D.

Tá lúcháir orm bheith in ann tacú leis an gcuimhneachán céad bliain seo ar thabhairt i dtír na ngunnaí ag Binn Éadair mar cheann de na chéad ócáidí oifigiúla atá agam ó ceapadh mar Aire Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta mé. Tá míonna d'obair dhian curtha isteach ag coiste saorálaithe Asgard 100 le hócáidí an lae inniu a eagrú agus léiríonn siadsan go bhfuil an spiorad a bhí in Óglaigh na hÉireann i 1914 beo go fóill sa lá atá inniu ann. Sna blianta amach romhainn tiocfaidh pobail ar fud na hÉireann agus na hEorpa le chéile le comóradh a dhéanamh ar ghníomhartha gaisciúla, ar íobairt, ar fhís agus grá do thír dhúchais, do phobail nó don tsaoirse agus don cheart. Tá mé ag tnúth le bheith ag obair leis na pobail sin chun cuimhniú ar na clocha míle go léir atá ag teacht aníos le linn Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán agus táim ag tnúth freisin le bheith ag obair le mo chomhghleacaithe sa Rialtas agus muid ag cuimhniú ar ócáidí na Cásca 1916 le meas agus ar bhealach atá uilechuimsitheach agus beacht ó thaobh na staire de.

Ní fhéadfadh na daoine a bhí bainteach le tabhairt i dtír na ngunnaí anseo i mBinn Éadair agus i gCill Chomhghaill tuiscint a bheith acu ar an uafás a bhí le teacht san Eoraip gan mhoill i ndiaidh a ngníomh. Is iomaí saorálaí a cailleadh i dtrinsí na hEorpa sna blianta ina dhiaidh sin agus iad ag iompar gunnaí a tháinig i dtír ag Binn Éadair. Smaoiním freisin orthu sin a cailleadh mar thoradh ar an méid a thit amach ag Siúlán an Bhaitsiléara i ndiaidh thabhairt i dtír na ngunnaí: Mary Duffy, Patrick Quinn, James Brennan agus Sylvester Pidgeon. Is ceart go bhfuil brón orainn faoi na daoine a cailleadh le linn na tréimhse círéibí sin chomh maith le bród agus meas ar chrógacht na nÓglach.

Cinnteoidh mé go mbeidh na cuimhneacháin tomhaiste machnamhach agus go gcuimseoidh siad na féiniúlachtaí agus traidisiúin go léir atá mar chuid de stair na hÉireann. Is é m'aidhm ná comhbhá a leathnú, gan iarraidh ar aon duine a ndílseacht a thréigean, agus oibreoidh mé ach go háirithe chun aitheantas a thabhairt don luach a bhaineann le barrshamhlacha agus le híobairt, lena n-áirítear an costas a bhaineann leo. Bhí oidhreacht fhadtéarmach ag ócáidí ar nós tabhairt i dtír na ngunnaí i mBinn Éadair sa tír seo agus tá sé mar chuspóir agam a chinntiú go mbeidh oidhreacht ag Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán a fhágfaidh eolas stairiúil agus rochtain ar acmhainní atá níos fearr ná mar a bhí riamh.

Welcome from Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD

I am delighted to be able to support this centenary commemoration of the landing of arms at Howth as one of my first official engagements since my appointment as Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Asgard 100 committee of volunteers have put many months of hard work into today's events and they show that the spirit that drove the Irish volunteers in 1914 is alive and well today. Over the coming years communities around Ireland and Europe will come together to remember acts of heroism, sacrifice, vision and love for homelands, communities or the ideals of freedom and justice. I am keen to work with these communities to remember the many milestones that are approaching during the Decade of Centenaries, and I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in Government to remember the transformative events of Easter 1916 in ways that are respectful and inclusive as well as historically accurate.

Those involved in the running of arms here in Howth and at Kilcoole could not have known the extent of the horror that was to descend upon Europe so soon after their action. Many of the volunteers armed with the cache landed in Howth lost their lives in the trenches of Europe over the years that followed. I think also of those who died as a result of the incident at Batchelor's Walk after the gun-running: Mary Duffy, Patrick Quinn, James Brennan and Sylvester Pidgeon. It is right that the pride and respect that we have for the courage of the Volunteers is accompanied by sadness at the loss of life during that tumultuous period of history.

I will ensure that commemorations will be measured, reflective and inclusive of the multiple identities and traditions which are part of the Irish historical experience. My aim is to broaden sympathies, without asking anyone to abandon loyalties, and in particular I will work to recognise the value of ideals and sacrifices, including their cost. Events such as the Howth gun-running had a lasting legacy for our country and it is my goal to ensure that the Decade of Centenaries likewise leaves a legacy of historical knowledge and access to resources greater than ever before.

Ord reatha:-

11.30:-	Réamhrá , An tUasal Pat Murphy, ón gCoiste "Asgard 100".
	Ceol le Brendan Begley agus Ceoltóirí Chluain Tarbh
	Taispeántas agus cur i láthair faoi stair an ASGARD
11.55:-	Ceol le Army #1 Band
12.20:-	Teacht an Uachtaráin, Micheál D. Ó hUiginn
	Fáilte ón Uasal Paddy Barry, Cathaoirleach 'Asgard 100'
	Cuirfidh an tAire Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, Heather Mhic Unfraidh T.D., Uachtarán na hÉireann i láthair.
	Aitheasc ón Uachtarán Micheál D. Ó hUiginn
12.40:-	An tUachtarán le bheith tionlactha chuig Plaic Chuimhneacháin an Asgard
	Fleasc-leagan i gcuimhne ar iarshaighdiúirí an Asgard.
	Nóiméad Ciúnais, Searmanas na nÓglach le cur i gcrích le hAmhrán na bhFiann
12.45:-	Macasamhail den 'ASGARD' le seol isteach, in éineacht le cabhlachán de bháid áitiúla
1.00:-	Aithris ar dhíluchtú na raidhfilí.
1.15-2PM:-	An tUachtarán le cur in aithne do shliochtaigh an ghrúpa ASGARD.
2PM:-	Fágfaidh an tUachtarán. Clár ceoil agus siamsaíochta pobail le leanúint ar aghaidh go dtí thart ar 3PM. Duaiseanna le bronnadh as "an gculaith seanré is fearr".

Running order:-

11.30:-	Introduction. , Mr Pat Murphy, "Asgard 100" Committee to MC.
	Music from Brendan Begley and Ceoltóirí Chluain Tarbh
	Slideshow and presentation on history of ASGARD
11.55:-	Music from Army #1 Band
12.20:-	Arrival of President Michael D. Higgins
	Welcome from Mr Paddy Barry, Chairman 'Asgard 100'
	Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Heather Humphreys TD to introduce President.
	Address by President Michael D.Higgins
12.40:-	President escorted to Asgard Commemorative Plaque
	Wreath Laying in memory of Asgard veterans.
	Minute's Silence, Defence Forces Ceremonial concluded by National Anthem
12.45:-	Sail in of replica 'ASGARD' accompanied by flotilla of local boats
1.00:-	Re-enactment of unloading of rifles.
1.15-2PM:-	President introduced to descendents of ASGARD group.
2PM:-	President departs. Community programme of music and entertainment to continue to approx 3PM. Prizes to be awarded for "best period costume".