

Kenneth L Smith-Christmas

GUNS OF THE EASTER RISING

After nearly 800 years of intermittent British domination, a group of Irish insurgents once again attempted to free their country from British rule during Easter Week, 1916. As many of them had expected, the Irish Volunteers were defeated after a week of heavy fighting in Dublin. Although the revolt was doomed to failure from the outset, a lack of arms and a disparity of arms and ammunition were factors in the defeat, although the Volunteers did have, and used to great effect, some modern weapons, such as the famous C96 Mauser pistol. However, the wide variety of weapons – antique single-shot Mauser rifles and Martini-Enfield carbines, obsolete Boer War rifles, and shotguns – in the hands of the Volunteers proved to be no match against the modern British Short Magazine Lee-Enfield rifle.

Keywords: Great Britain, Ireland, Easter Rising, weapons

Introduction

The “Irish Question” had vexed British politics since medieval times, but finally came to a head in the early twentieth century. During the intervening years, revolts against British rule took place from time to time, but they always failed, for to a number of causes. However, a lack of arms, as well as a lack of commonality among the few arms and ammunition available to the insurgents, was a constant factor for failure. During the Easter Rising in 1916, this disparity of arms and ammunition played a role in the defeat of the Irish Volunteers, although the insurrection was doomed to failure from the outset. While there were instances of modern firearms gaining an advantage for the Irish Volunteers during the fighting in Dublin, the lack of modern arms, when compared to the forces arrayed against the Volunteers, was a problem.



Fig. 1. *Sepia rotogravure of 'Birth of the Irish Republic' by Walter Paget (Author's collection).*

In this rotogravure of Walter Paget's masterpiece, 'Birth of the Irish Republic', the leaders of the Easter Rising are grouped around James Connolly of the Irish Citizen Army (on stretcher) during the last hours of the rebels' defence of Dublin's General Post Office. Although the artist depicted British mounted infantry style bandoliers being worn by many of the Irish Volunteers, they were a rarity in the Easter Rising.

Background

On Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, scattered groups of men of the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army, as well as women of the nationalist auxiliary organisation, the *Cumann na mBan*, assembled at their mustering points throughout Dublin. Most of them were unaware that, instead of meeting for a routine manoeuvre, they were embarking on an armed uprising against the British Crown. Due to a series of mishaps and intrigues, only a fraction of the nominal strength of the Volunteers reported for duty. While some were in the green uniforms of the Irish Volunteers or the Citizen Army, the majority of them were in civilian clothes and they carried an amazing assortment of firearms (Caulfield 1997, 7) (Fig. 1).

The Easter Rising of 1916, or as it is sometimes known, the Easter Rebellion, marked a significant shift in Irish-British relations, and is considered by many to be the first stroke of the popular uprising that severed Ireland from the British Crown in 1922 (Coogan and Morrison 1998, 14–15). Time and space here do not allow a detailed discussion of the causes of the Rising, but a short introduction is necessary to understand the reasons for the variety of weapons carried in this battle.

A few years before the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the British government pledged to return a semblance of Home Rule to Ireland, after a hiatus of more than 100 years. The northern province of Ulster, peopled mainly by Presbyterians who had emigrated from Scotland some 300 years earlier, feared domination by the other three overwhelmingly Catholic provinces, and pledged to oppose Home Rule by force, equating it with “Rome Rule”. In a daring smuggling operation, the newly formed Ulster Volunteer Force armed itself with modern Austrian Mannlicher rifles, obsolescent German M1888 “Commission” rifles, and obsolete Italian Vetterli rifles (Stewart 1997, 244–249).

The Irish Volunteers (pledged to fight for Home Rule), who had been smuggling in small lots of arms, followed suit when they landed two small boatloads of antiquated Model 1871 German Mauser rifles in Ireland. Arms smuggling on both sides continued right up to the point when Great Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914, resulting in a wide array of shoulder arms and handguns coming into Ireland (Fitzgibbon 1969, 35–42). Under a mutual agreement, the Home Rule controversy was temporarily shelved for the duration of the war, and both the Ulster Volunteers and the Irish Volunteers (immediately renamed the “Irish National Volunteers”) volunteered en masse for service with the British Army. However, a small number of the original Irish Volunteers (retaining their original name) refused to be drawn in to fight for the government that they considered as oppressors (O’Ruairc 2011, 38–42).

During the first two years of the war, while the Irishmen of the 10th (Irish), 16th (Irish), and 36th (Ulster) divisions were fighting worldwide for the British Empire, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a secret radical organisation, was negotiating for German assistance in support of a nationalist revolt. The Germans were sceptical of Irish success in a re-



Fig. 2. Photograph of living history participants set against original photograph of the GPO. (Courtesy of Robert M. McDonough).

In this modern photocomposition, living history re-enactors are carrying typical rifles used by the Irish Volunteers in the Easter Rising. These include “Howth” Mausers, Long Lee Enfields, Martini-Enfields, and Boer Mausers.

volt, and aside from sponsoring an “Irish Brigade” of trained machine gunners (made up of a very small group of Irish POWs) and promising to furnish a boatload of 20,000 captured Russian M1891 Mosin-Nagant rifles, ten Maxim machine guns and several million rounds of assorted ammunition, the German Foreign Office did not give the proposed uprising much support (Smith-Christmas, 1980, 26). The Brotherhood had also infiltrated the Irish Volunteers, and on Easter weekend, the IRB, in spite of the capture and loss of the German arms ship, and with orders countermanding the planned Irish Volunteer manoeuvres across the country, still managed to assemble a force of about 2,000 men and women in Dublin.

The insurgents seized a number of large buildings and key sites throughout the city, and posted units to intercept any British troops coming from the different military barracks sited across Dublin, as well as from expected reinforcements arriving from Great Britain. In the centre

of the city, the rebels took the General Post Office, the largest building and communications nerve centre of Dublin, as well as the Four Courts building on the Liffey River (Fig. 2). They almost seized Dublin Castle, but took City Hall and a number of other public buildings. Farther out, the Citizen Army dug trenches in St. Stephen's Green, a city park, and the Irish Volunteers set up garrisons in businesses such as bakeries, biscuit factories, pubs, and hotels, as well as in private homes and schools, to contest the expected British reaction (O'Farrell 1999).

The British reaction was cautious, often confused, and uncoordinated over the first few days, although troops from the Dublin garrison did make some significant headway against rebel-held positions. Other units in nearby garrison towns made their way to Dublin, although some actions in the countryside north of the city, delayed them. By mid-week, British troops had landed from England, and after suffering grievous losses at Mount Street Bridge, they started to tighten the cordon around the city centre (O'Brien 2008). Amid the chaos of looting, arson, and widespread hunger caused by the upheaval, the British Army, using the standard British small arms and field guns of the World War I period, finally forced the surrender of the rebels on Saturday 29 April.

Shoulder Arms

Of all the weapons surrendered by, or captured from, the rebels, the "Howth" Mauser rifle is perhaps the most emblematic of the Rising (Fig. 3). In July 1914, the Irish Volunteers managed to land some 1,500 M1871 11mm single-shot bolt-action German rifles from two small sailing boats - one carrying the majority of the arms at the port of Howth, and the other at Kilcoole, further to the south - which were then distributed in Dublin and throughout the three southern provinces. These rifles had been acquired (ironically, by nationalist Protestants) from an arms dealer in Hamburg, Germany, who had earlier supplied the Ulster Volunteers with their arms (Troster 1996, 538-39). Through an agreement with the Irish Volunteers, the small Irish Citizen Army gained a complement of these Mausers, and posed with them in a number of well-known photographs (Hegarty and O'Toole 2006, 60-61). The rifle fired a centre-fire



Fig. 3. *Photograph of National Volunteers with Vetterli Rifles*
(Courtesy of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum – 16 PO IA55 10).

Irish National Volunteers on parade with their Vetterli-Vitali M1870/87 Italian rifles. Although many sources cite the use of these weapons during the Easter Rising, only a handful of the Irish Volunteers actually carried them, as ammunition for these obsolete rifles was in very short supply.

necked cartridge, with a .43 calibre solid lead bullet – a cause for the British to accuse the rebels of using “Dum-Dum” expanding bullets, which had been outlawed some years earlier by international convention. Some of the British soldiers referred to the Howth rifles as “Elephant Guns”. Indeed, the recoil was memorable, and many of the rebels never had the opportunity to fire their rifles prior to the Rising. One lad, while defending the Mount Street Bridge, was knocked unconscious when he fired his first shot! (O’Brien 2008, 47). As was the case throughout the Rising, Howth Mausers were interspersed with any number of other types of shoulder arms, leading to a logistical nightmare in terms of ammunition supply.

Other types of rifle were fairly evenly distributed among the rebels, but some were used only to a very limited extent. The insurgents carried various models of Lee-Enfield rifles and carbines, the most prized, of course, being the current British service rifle, the Short Magazine Lee



Fig. 4. *Photograph of Doyle and McGrath in the GPO*

(Courtesy of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum – KMGLM 2011.0166)

Two volunteers pose for a rare photograph in Dublin's General Post Office. The volunteer on the right (Sgt Tom McGrath) has a C96 "broomhandle" Mauser pistol carbine hanging from his belt, along with the P1888 bayonet for his Long Lee Enfield, while the other volunteer (Jack Doyle) has a "Howth" Mauser and a French M1874 Gras rifle bayonet.

Enfield. While a very few of these rifles had been obtained covertly prior to the Rising, usually through bribing a British soldier into claiming his rifle as "lost" (the going price was five pounds sterling), some others were captured during the week-long fight and put to good use. With its ten-round capacity magazine, high-powered Mk VII .303 cartridge, and slick action, it was one of the most telling arms in the hands of the insurgents. However, more of them had the older Boer War-period Long Lee Enfield, and these rifles also played an important role (Fig. 4). James Grace used the Long Lee that he had smuggled back on his return from Canada in 1913 to great effect in the much-recorded defence of 25 Northumberland Road (Caulfield 1995, 56). Extant pre-Rising photographs show entire squads of Irish Volunteers being armed with Long Lees, and they certainly were in evidence in the final defence of the General Post Office (Hegarty and O'Toole 2006, 11).

Also chambered in .303, Martini-Enfield carbines and rifles were seen throughout the units across the city. Originally designed for the far less powerful MkVI ammunition, this weapon could fire the hotter MkVII cartridge, but sometimes with disastrous results. One of the Martinis used in the defence of Clanwilliam House at Mount Street Bridge blew up after repeated firing, although the house's garrison had earlier requested a supply of MkVI ammunition from its parent battalion at Boland's Bakery (O'Brien 2008, 27). Robert Monteith, a former British NCO who had landed from a German submarine as part of the ill-fated arms landing on the west coast of Ireland, advised the local Limerick Volunteers not to use MkVII rounds in their Martinis (De Rosa 1990, 205). Although many Irish historians cite the use of "Martini-Henry" rifles, they often use the term interchangeably with "Martini-Enfield". However, the use of .577/.450 weapons cannot be discounted, as undoubtedly some of these antique weapons would have been pressed into service.

Souvenir Boer War-captured rifles and carbines were among the weapons found by the British after the battle. Most were M1895/1896 Mauser rifles and short rifles in 7mm, and some even had the distinctive stock carvings favoured by the Boers. At least one Norwegian Krag-Jorgensen rifle, another "bring-back" from South Africa, was included in the lot. Ernie O'Malley, one of the very few chroniclers at the time who actually had an interest in weapons and knew what he saw, related that he and his friend carried a souvenir German 7.92mm Gewehr 98 service rifle and used it to take potshots at British troops during the battle (O'Malley 1999, 39–40).

In early 1914, a shipment of Italian bolt-action repeating rifles arrived in Ireland. Members of the Irish Parliamentary Party had imported these Vetterli-Vitali M 1870/87 rifles, and they were distributed to those units of the Irish Volunteers in Dublin and Ulster which had strong links to the party, and which later formed part of the Irish National Volunteers. The republican rebels later procured some of these rifles (O'Ruairc 2011, 38–39,

1 These rifles were on display in the '1916' exhibit at the National Museum of Ireland on Kildare Street from 1966 until they were moved to their present exhibition at the new 'Soldiers and Chiefs' exhibition at Collins Barracks, Dublin.

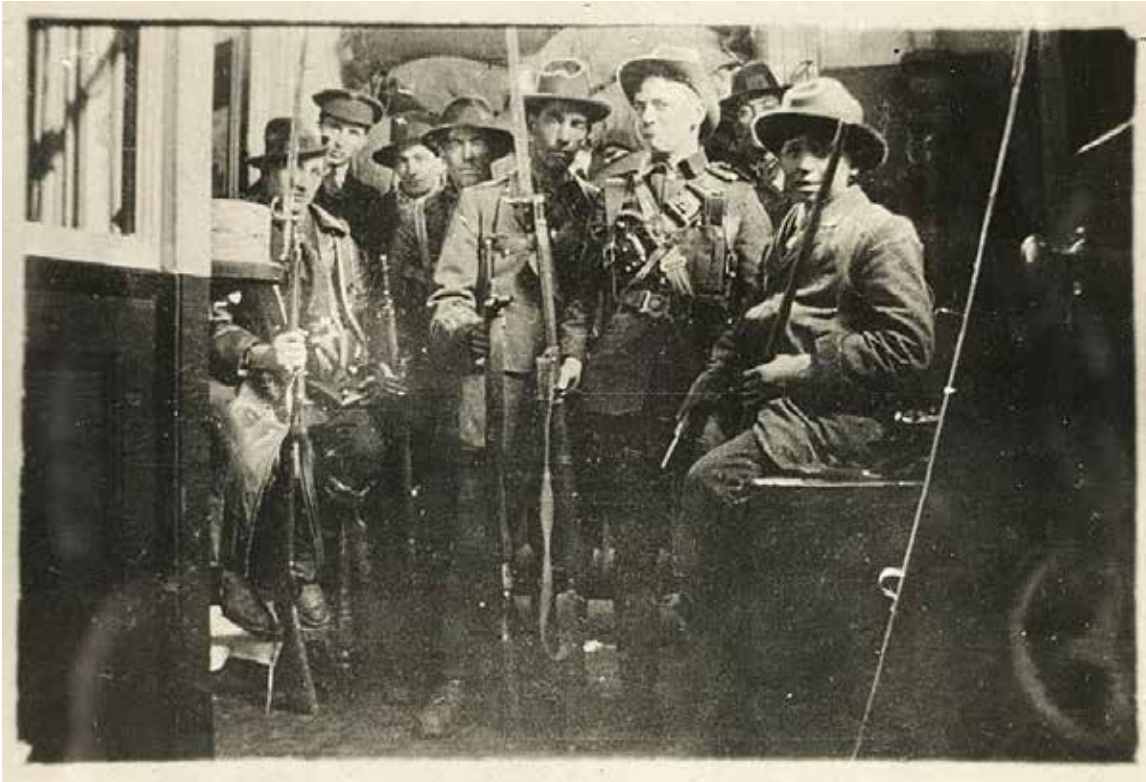


Fig. 5. *Photograph of a group of Irish Volunteers in the GPO*
(Courtesy of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum – KMGLM 2011.0180)

Also taken in the GPO by a photographer named Joseph Cripps, this image of a group of defenders shows the variety of weapons used by the Irish Volunteers - “Howth” Mausers, Enfields, and single-barrel shotguns. Volunteers Doyle and McGrath are also in this photograph.

42). This obsolete rifle was chambered for the 10.35x47mm rimmed black powder cartridge and utilised a unique wood and sheet metal charger to load the four-round magazine. Curiously, a stylised directional arrow was printed in black ink on the wooden top of the clip, so that the soldier would know in which way to load the cartridges! (Author’s personal collection). While there are extant photographs of Vetterlis being carried in formations, most of these show them in the hands of the Irish National Volunteers, the group that split off and supported the British war effort in 1914 (Fig. 5) Moreover, the Irish military historian, Pádraig Óg Ó Ruidéir, noted (pers. comm.) that almost all of the veterans of the period who mentioned the Vetterli stated that the rifles were only used for parades, as the Volunteers did not have ammunition for them. However, ammunition was available in Ulster, so a very few Vetterlis probably saw service



Fig. 6. *Photograph of M1871 Mauser fore end cap* (Author's collection).

The Irish Volunteers bought bayonets for their “Howth” Mausers, but they were the wrong bayonets - both M1866 Chassepot and M1874 French Gras bayonets. Many of the bayonets were altered to fit the rifles, but the rifle seen at the top (also acquired from Interarms) has had the bayonet lug crudely altered to fit the bayonet. Research is ongoing to determine whether Interarms imported actual “Howth” Mausers in the 1960s.

in the Easter Rising. One Vetterli rifle was on exhibit for many years in the former ‘1916 Room’ at the National Museum of Ireland, with a label identifying it as a weapon used during the fight, and its image can be found in many books on the Easter Rising. There are other examples in the collections of the new national military museum at Collins Barracks and at Kilmainham Gaol Museum in Dublin, including a few Vetterlis in relic condition, with one having “1916” carved on its stock.

Finally, both double-barrelled and especially single-barrelled shotguns were seen among the ranks of the insurgents. The Volunteers had set up clandestine ammunition factories in which, in addition to making hand grenades, shot shell cartridges were reloaded with cast lead slugs.



Fig. 7. *Photograph of M1871 Mauser stock carving* (Author's collection).

The Boers often personalised the stocks of their rifles and carbines with ornate carvings, and it is possible that the “R M” who carved his initials into the stock of this M1871 Mauser may have previously served with McBride's Irish Transvaal Brigade during the Boer War, as there are several men with those initials listed on the unit's muster rolls. This rifle was purchased from Interarms in the 1960s, when that company was importing obsolete surplus arms from the Republic of Ireland.

Interestingly, the rebels also made makeshift bayonets for single-barrelled shotguns in a locomotive works. These knife-bladed bayonets clamped onto the shotgun barrels with crude wing nuts and, according to a veteran of the fight at Roe's distillery, at least one of these improvised bayonets was made from a set of garden shears (Egan 1913–1921, 33).

As can be imagined, many of the insurgents did not have bayonets, nor were they well trained in the use of the ones that they had. As related by Max Caulfield in his excellent account of the action, *The Easter Rebellion*, Captain Simon Donnelly (one of Commandant Eamon DeValera's men at Boland's Bakery) said about the men in his company, 'I never had any faith in the men acquitting themselves well in a bayonet charge, especially in the dark' (Caulfield 1995, 210). However, there was some desperate hand-to-hand fighting at several points in the city, and the British troops advanced on many rebel positions with bayonets fixed. As had

been the case with the Ulster Volunteer Force, the Irish Volunteers obtained French M1874 Gras rifle bayonets, which were altered to fit rifles other than those for which they were originally designed. While these bayonets were reconfigured to fit the German “Commission” rifles and Vetterlis in Ulster, the Irish Volunteers altered them, along with French M1866 Chassepot bayonets, to fit “Howth” rifles (Fig. 6). Some of the insurgents armed with Long Lee rifles had the appropriate M1888 knife bayonet, and some armed with Short Magazine Lee rifles may have had the P1907 bayonet.

Handguns

If the “Howth” rifle is the emblematic shoulder arm of the Easter Rising, then the C96 “Broomhandle” Mauser pistol-carbine, with its distinctive shoulder stock holster, must be afforded the title of “most remembered” handgun (Fig. 7). While it is not known just how many of these weapons were carried in the uprising, at least three instances of their use have secured them a place in Irish history, prior to their widespread service in the ensuing War of Independence (1919–1922) and Irish Civil War (1922–1923). Known throughout Ireland as “Peter the Painter” (after a Latvian revolutionary whose gang used them to great effect during London’s “Sidney Street Riot” in 1911 – O’Brien 2008, 102), many of the pistols used during the Easter Rising were chambered in 7.63x25mm, although they had also been available in 9mm Parabellum since 1912.

Although she also carried Smith and Wesson revolvers, Countess Markievicz, the colourful second-in-command of the Irish Citizen Army forces at St. Stephen’s Green and later in the Royal College of Surgeons, carried a 7.63x25mm broomhandle, and used it to silence a British machine gun crew on the roof of the nearby Shelbourne Hotel (Keogh 1979, 27). Cathal Brugha, later a driving force in the War of Independence, used his “Peter the Painter” very effectively in his epic defence of the South Dublin Union, a fight in which he suffered numerous wounds. His gallant action kept the attacking British at bay, while he bellowed out the nationalist song, “God Save Ireland” (“Sceilg” 2009, 75).

The most incredible tale of the broomhandle’s effectiveness in the

hands of an experienced marksman is that of Lieutenant Michael “Mick” Malone during the battle of Mount Street Bridge. Using a Mauser borrowed from his commanding officer, DeValera, he and James Grace accounted for scores of British “Sherwood Foresters” who were passing their stronghold at 25 Northumberland Road, heading for the centre of the city. While Grace had his Long Lee Enfield rifle, as noted earlier, and a magazine-fed automatic pistol, Malone only paused in using his Mauser pistol when the barrel heated up, and then took up his “Howth” gun. In one instance, Malone, reputed to be one of the best shots in the Dublin Brigade, knocked over ten British soldiers in ten shots with his pistol. In all, the 17 Irish Volunteers engaged in the extended battle at the bridge killed and wounded some 240 British soldiers (O’Brien 2008, 80).

Pistols and revolvers of all types, makes and calibres are mentioned in existing accounts of the battle, and many more simply refer to “revolvers” and “pistols”, regrettably interchangeably in many instances. It is safe to say that Webleys, Colts, Smith & Wessons, and Belgian, Spanish, and other revolvers were used, as well as Colt, Mauser, Browning, Webley & Scott, and souvenir Luger semi-autos, in addition to the “Peter the Painter” Mausers. Many of these same types of handgun would later see action in the War of Independence (also known as the “Black and Tan” war) a few years later.

Conclusion

The wide variety of arms used in the Easter Rising was a result of a disarmed populace trying to end foreign domination by using whatever firearms they could find. This same motley array of weaponry would again plague Irish men and women who would fight another war, just three years later, in their later, but successful, bid to free their country from British rule. Indeed, until recent times, when the ubiquitous AK-47 assault rifle (chambered in the 7.62x39mm cartridge) has become commonplace on battlefields across the globe, a mixed bag of available arms has always presented a problem to any group which has been forced to resort to arms, in order to achieve its freedom, or to overthrow an oppressive regime.

While a few examples of the arms used in and around Dublin during Easter Week of 1916 can be found in museums in Dublin, in London, and in small local museums across Ireland, firearms with indisputable provenance are scarce. It has been postulated that many of these arms have been exported to the United States in the past 60 years, but, sadly, the records of their importation and their actual use in the cause of Irish freedom have been lost.

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Lar Joye of the National Museum of Ireland, Niall Bergin of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum, Pádraig Óg Ó Ruarda, Major Richard Keogh, USA (Ret), and Robert M. McDonough for their assistance in the preparation of the article and this paper.

This paper is largely based on an article that was originally published in the September 2013 issue of the National Rifle Association's monthly magazine, *The American Rifleman*.

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List of Illustrations

Fig. 1. Sepia rotogravure of 'Birth of the Irish Republic' by Walter Paget (Author's collection).

In this rotogravure of Walter Paget's masterpiece, 'Birth of the Irish Republic', the leaders of the Easter Rising are grouped around James Connolly of the Irish Citizen Army (on stretcher) during the last hours of the rebels' defence of Dublin's General Post Office. Although the artist depicted British mounted infantry style bandoliers being worn by many of the Irish Volunteers, they were a rarity in the Easter Rising.

1 pav. Walter Paget „Airijos Respublikos gimimas“ rotograviūra, sepija. (Autoriaus kolekcija)

Šioje Walter Paget šedevro „Airijos Respublikos gimimas“ rotograviūroje Velykų sukilimo lyderiai susibūrę aplink James Connolly iš Airijos piliečių armijos (ant neštuvų) per paskutiniąsias Dublino Centrinio pašto sukilėlių gynybos valandas. Nors menininkas pavaizdavo daugelį Airijos sukilėlių su britų raitųjų pėstininkų stiliaus šovininėmis, Velykų sukilimo metu jos buvo retenybė.

Fig. 2. Photograph of living history participants set against original photograph of the GPO. (Courtesy of Robert M. McDonough).

In this modern photocomposition, living history re-enactors are carrying typical rifles used by the Irish Volunteers in the Easter Rising. These include "Howth" Mausers, Long Lee Enfields, Martini-Enfields, and Boer Mausers.

2 pav. Gyvosios istorijos dalyvių nuotrauka, sugretinta su originalia Centrinio pašto nuotrauka. (Gavus Robert M. McDonough sutikimą)

Šioje modernioje fotokompozicijoje gyvosios istorijos atkūrėjai nešasi šautuvus, kuriuos Velykų sukilime naudojo Airijos savanoriai. Tai Houdo „Mauser“, ilgieji „Lee Enfield“, „Martini-Enfield“ ir būrų „Mauser“.

Fig. 3. Photograph of National Volunteers with Vetterli Rifles (Courtesy of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum – 16 PO IA55 10).

Irish National Volunteers on parade with their Vetterli-Vitali M1870/87 Italian rifles. Although many sources cite the use of these weapons during the Easter Rising, only a handful of the Irish Volunteers actually carried them, as ammunition for these obsolete rifles was in very short supply.

3 pav. Tautos savanorių su „Vetterli“ šautuvais nuotrauka. (Gavus „Kilmainham Gaol“ muziejaus sutikimą – 16 PO IA55 10)

Airijos tautos savanoriai žygiuoja su italų gamybos „Vetterli-Vitali M1870/87“ šautuvais. Nors daugelyje šaltinių nurodoma, kad šie ginklai buvo naudojami Velykų sukilimo metu, tik nedidelė grupelė airių savanorių iš tikrųjų juos turėjo, nes labai trūko šių pasenusių šautuvų šaudmenų.

Fig. 4. Photograph of Doyle and McGrath in the GPO (Courtesy of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum – KMGLM 2011.0166)

Two volunteers pose for a rare photograph in Dublin's General Post Office. The volunteer on the right (Sgt Tom McGrath) has a C96 "broomhandle" Mauser pistol carbine hanging from his belt, along with the P1888 bayonet for his Long Lee Enfield, while the other volunteer (Jack Doyle) has a "Howth" Mauser and a French M1874 Gras rifle bayonet.

4 pav. Doyle ir McGrath nuotrauka Centriniam pašte. (Gavus „Kilmainham Gaol“ muziejaus sutikimą – KMGLM 2011.0166)

Du savanoriai pozuoja retai nuotraukai Dublino Centriniam pašte. Savanoris dešinėje (seržantas Tom McGrath) turi „Mauser C96“ pistoletą-karabiną su „šluotos koto“ formos rankena, kuris kaba ant jo diržo, ir P1888 durtuvą savo ilgajam „Lee Enfield“ šautuvui, o kitas savanoris (Jack Doyle) turi Houdo „Mauser“ ir prancūzų „M1874 Gras“ šautuvą su durtuvu.

Fig. 5. Photograph of a group of Irish Volunteers in the GPO (Courtesy of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum – KMGLM 2011.0180)

Also taken in the GPO by a photographer named Joseph Cripps, this image of a group of defenders shows the variety of weapons used by the Irish Volunteers - "Howth" Mausers, Enfields, and single-barrel shotguns. Volunteers Doyle and McGrath are also in this photograph.

5 pav. Airijos savanorių grupės nuotrauka Centriniam pašte. (Gavus „Kilmainham Gaol“ muziejaus sutikimą – KMGLM 2011.0180)

Šioje gynėjų grupelės nuotraukoje, padarytoje Centriniam pašte fotografo Joseph Cripps, matome Airijos savanorių naudojamų ginklų įvairovę: Houdo „Mauser“, „Enfield“ šautuvus ir vienavamzdžius šratinius šautuvus. Savanoriai Doyle ir McGrath taip pat yra nuotraukoje.

Fig. 6. Photograph of M1871 Mauser fore end cap (Author's collection).

The Irish Volunteers bought bayonets for their "Howth" Mausers, but they were the wrong bayonets - both M1866 Chassepot and M1874 French Gras bayonets. Many of the bayonets were altered to fit the rifles, but the rifle seen at the top (also acquired from Interarms) has had the bayonet lug crudely altered to fit the bayonet. Research is ongoing to determine whether Interarms imported actual "Howth" Mausers in the 1960s.

6 pav. „Mauser M1871“ prisukamo dėtuvės dangtelio nuotrauka. (Autoriaus kolekcija)

Airių savanoriai nusipirko durtuvus savo Houdo „Mauser“ šautuvams, tačiau jie netiko – nei „M1866 Chassepot“, nei prancūzų „M1874 Gras“ durtuvai. Dauguma durtuvų buvo perdaryti, kad tiktų šautuvams, tačiau aukščiau vaizduojamas ginklas (taip pat įsigytas iš „Interarms“) turėjo durtuvo fiksavimo mechanizmą, kuris buvo primityviai pakeistas, kad tiktų durtuvui. Vyksta tyrimas siekiant nustatyti, ar 7-ajame dešimtmetyje „Interarms“ importavo tikruosius Houdo „Mauser“ šautuvus.

Fig. 7. Photograph of M1871 Mauser stock carving (Author's collection).

The Boers often personalised the stocks of their rifles and carbines with ornate carvings, and it is possible that the "R M" who carved his initials into the stock of this M1871 Mauser may have previously served with McBride's Irish Transvaal Brigade during the Boer War, as there are several men with those

initials listed on the unit's muster rolls. This rifle was purchased from Interarms in the 1960s, when that company was importing obsolete surplus arms from the Republic of Ireland.

7 pav. „Mauser M1871“ buožės raižinio nuotrauka. (Autorialaus kolekcija)

Būrai dažnai personalizavo savo šautuvų ir karabinių buožes įmantriais raižiniais, todėl gali būti, kad R. M., kuris išraižė savo inicialus ant šio „Mauser M1871“ buožės, yra dalyvavęs Būrų kare su McBride Airijos Transvalio būriu, nes dalinio karių sąrašuose yra keletas vyrų su šiais inicialais. Šis ginklas buvo nupirkta iš „Interarms“ 7-ajame dešimtmetyje, kai įmonė importavo pasenusius perteklinius ginklus iš Airijos Respublikos.

Santrauka

Kenneth L Smith-Christmas

VELYKŲ SUKILIMO GINKLAI

1916 m. per Velykų savaitę, po beveik 800 metų nenutrūkstamo britų dominavimo Airijos sukilėliai pabandė išvaduoti savo šalį iš britų valdžios. Kaip daugelis ir tikėjosi, Airijos savanoriai buvo sutriuškinti po aršių, savaitę trukusių kautynių Dubline. Nors sukilimas jau iš pat pradžių buvo pasmerktas žlugti, pralaimėjimą lėmė sena ginkluotė ir naujų ginklų trūkumas. Savanoriai turėjo ir veiksmingai naudojosi kai kuriais moderniais ginklais, pvz., žymiuoju „Mauser C96“, tačiau savanorių ginklų įvairovė – senoviniai vienašūviai „Mauser“ ir „Martini-Enfield“ karabinai, pasenę Būrų karų šautuvai, šratiniai šautuvai – neprilygo moderniems britų „Lee-Enfield“ trumpiesiems šautuvams su dėtuve.

Reikšminiai žodžiai: *Didžioji Britanija, Airija, Velykų sukilimas, ginklai.*