

*The Mc Guire Family Donated
in 1917. For the Revivalised IRB*

Diarmuid Lynch: A Forgotten Irish Patriot

Michael Lynch, were present and that it was held under cover
of a Gaelic League dance. With the passing of almost thirty
years, Lynch admitted that he could not remember if the loca-
tion was An Grianán in Queen Street or the Capuchin Hall.
He was also puzzled as to why Seán O'Hegarty, as leader of
the Cork IRB, was not present.¹² Lynch's conclusion to the in-
vestigation was that due to MacNeill's countermanding orders
and because the German arms ship was lost, the insurgents
in the southern counties had no choice but to abandon their
plans.¹³ In 1922, in reply to a query from O'Donoghue, Cathal

Brugha had said, 'No blame attaches to the Brigade officers.'¹⁴
It was at this time of renewal and acceleration of activity
in 1917 that a divergence of opinion as to strategy became
apparent between de Valera and the revitalised IRB. Éamon
de Valera was a reluctant secret society member, and he now
distanced himself from his former comrades in the IRB,
arguing that the organisation was no longer needed in the
campaign for national independence. In contrast Lynch was
adamant, as was Michael Collins, that the IRB campaign had
to continue and that it was only through IRB methods that
independence would be achieved.¹⁵

As a member of the Supreme Executive Council of Sinn
Féin, Lynch had been appointed as Director for Food at the
way Ard-Fheis of October 1917. Consistent with the intention of
this new Sinn Féin administration, to bypass the British gov-
ernment or its agents in Ireland and to become, in effect, the
Provisional Government of an independent Irish State, Lynch

*Colluding
with
The British. M. S.*

*One Million Pounds to the IRB
in 1917. For the Revivalised IRB*

'The Most Senior IRB Leader'

initiated a survey of food supplies. Acting in the interests of
Irish food producers he began a campaign to have food ex-
ports from Ireland to England stopped.¹⁶ Food scarcity was
an issue in Ireland, a result of increasing exports to England
because of its war with Germany, and Lynch railed against
the wholesale exporting of native foodstuffs.¹⁷ In a letter to
the *Irish Independent* of 17 January 1918 he complained that
'100,000 barrels of oats, lying at the southern ports, have been
commandeered by the military'.

On 21 February 1918, he took the campaign a step further
when he masterminded, on behalf of the citizens of Dublin,
the seizure of a herd of pigs being driven from the market at
North Circular Road to the North Wall for export. They were
seized in Dorset Street by a team of twenty-four men led by
Lynch and brought to a depot belonging to the Corporation
Cleansing Department. The gates were secured against any
intrusion. Waiting butchers slaughtered the pigs, and the meat
was sold to local consumers. The owners were repaid for their
animals by the Sinn Féin administration.

Charlie Dalton was a schoolboy when he took part in this
Sinn Féin operation. In *With the Dublin Brigade (1917-1921)*,
he gives a vivid account.¹⁸ Charlie's role was to brush the blood
of the slaughtered pigs into the channels, from where it was
hosed away. The crowd that had gathered outside the gates ex-
claimed, in true Dubliner style, 'Ah! isn't it a terrible shame,
to be wasting all that blood which would make grand black
puddings!'

*Naughbun Hotel as the BHB
76 32 County election of 1918. To sit
with David Egan. Date Egan
wrote 4 county Mandate for W. of 1918*