



The Moss Twomey Papers

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**The Special Collections and Archives Department
Glucksman Library
University of Limerick**

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Reference Code: IE 2135 P44
Title: The Moss Twomey Papers
Dates of Creation: 1923-1925
Level of Description: Fonds
Extent and Medium: 48 items (15 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator(s): Twomey, Maurice ('Moss') (1897-1978).

Biographical History: Maurice 'Moss' Twomey was born in Fermoy, County Cork, on 10 June in 1897. He was educated by the local Christian Brothers. He joined the Irish Volunteers on its formation in 1914 and proved to be an able recruit. He quickly rose to the rank of Battalion Adjutant Fermoy Battalion by 1918. By 1919, he had attained the rank of Brigade Adjutant to the Cork No. 2 Brigade of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). By 1920, Twomey was a staff officer on the general staff of the 1st Southern Division. He was heavily involved in operations during the War of Independence.

After the Anglo-Irish Treaty and during the Civil War, Twomey was a staff officer to General Liam Lynch. He was a member of the occupying force in the Four Courts in 1922, the action that precipitated the Civil War. He had however left the building before it was bombarded by the Free State Army.

Following the Civil War, Twomey was tasked with the entire root and branch reorganisation of the IRA, including the West Clare Brigade. Twomey succeeded Frank Aiken as Chief of Staff of the IRA in 1927, a post he would hold until 1936, when he was interned by the De Valera Government. While incarcerated in the Curragh Camp, Twomey argued with the IRA leadership concerning its policy of supporting Nazi Germany and resigned his position as Chief of Staff. Upon his release, Twomey left the IRA but remained sympathetic to the Republican cause. He subsequently opened a general confectioners and newsagents in Dublin, which became a centre for Republican activities. Maurice Twomey died in Dublin of a heart attack on 8 October 1978.

Archival History: This archive was originally part of a larger collection of papers discovered in a derelict shop in Dublin that had once been owned by Maurice 'Moss' Twomey. The collection was broken up and put forward for auction in separate lots.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Purchased at Adam's auction in a single lot in Dublin on 20 April 2010.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: The collection comprises primarily correspondence between Frank Aiken, IRA Chief of Staff; Mr McAuliffe Acting Officer Commanding Limerick Brigade

IRA; and Maurice Twomey Inspecting Officer. They are almost solely concerned with the reorganisation of the IRA command structure in Limerick, Clare and Kerry owing to the shortage of men and equipment during and following the Civil War.

Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information: All records have been retained.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

System of Arrangement: The correspondence has been arranged into fifteen files according to the activities to which they relate and thereunder arranged chronologically by date.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted access to all items.

Conditions Governing Reproduction: Standard copyright regulations apply to all items. For photocopying or reproducing material, please consult with the staff.

Language/ Scripts of Material: English.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Paper documents in good condition.

Finding Aids: A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections Department, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related Units of Description: University College Dublin houses an extensive collection of Moss Twomey's papers donated by Father Maurice Twomey. A descriptive catalogue of these papers is available at <http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/p0069-twomey-moss-descriptive-catalogue.pdf>.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note: Papers arranged and described by John Harrington under the supervision of Anna-Maria Hajba.

Rules or Conventions: This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000; *Irish Guidelines for Archival Description*, 2009; *National Council on Archives: Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names*, 1997; and *EAP Guidance on Data Protection for Archive Services*, 2018.

Date of Description: July 2015. Revised in May 2021.

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- 1 23 October 1923 and February-May 1924
Correspondence between Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], General Head Quarters, Dublin; Officer Commanding West Limerick Brigade Gearóid MacAmhlaoibh [Gerald McAuliffe]; Acting Officer Commanding Limerick Brigade E. Hanrahan; and Inspecting Officer Maurice Twomey relating to plans to amalgamate the West, Mid and East Limerick brigades of the IRA into a single independent command area. Also see P44/14.
15 items

- 2 1 March 1924
Letter from Maurice Twomey, Inspecting Officer, Head Quarters of the 1st Southern Division, to [Frank Aiken], Chief of Staff, [Dublin], relating to the difficulty in arranging the court martial of 'B'; and the need to have army regulations in booklet form.
1 p.

- 3 3 March 1924
Letter from Gearóid MacAmhlaoibh [Gerald McAuliffe], Officer Commanding West Limerick Brigade, to [Frank Aiken], Chief of Staff, Dublin, seeking money towards his brigade's expenses.
1 p.

- 4 3 March 1924
Letter from Gearóid MacAmhlaoibh [Gerald McAuliffe], Officer Commanding West Limerick Brigade, to Director of Intelligence, Dublin, giving instructions for communication with the West Limerick Brigade.
1 p.

- 5 3 March 1924
Letter from Gearóid MacAmhlaoibh [Gerald McAuliffe], Officer Commanding West Limerick Brigade, to Director of Communications, Dublin, giving instructions for communication with the West Limerick Brigade.
1 p.

- 6 6 March 1924
Letter from Gearóid MacAmhlaoibh [Gerald McAuliffe], Officer Commanding West Limerick Brigade, to Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, relating to a complaint from the secretary of Tournafulla Sinn Fein Club concerning an expenses claim submitted by John Sheahan.
1 p.

- 7 1 and 21 May 1924
Letter from Liam Forde, 2 Church Street, Limerick, to Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, disputing allegations made against him for being an IRA deserter and seeking a court martial to clear his name. Also a cover letter [from Frank Aiken] to an unidentified recipient attaching Forde's letter and discussing its contents.
2 items
- 8 5 and 17 September 1924
Correspondence between Officer Commanding Limerick County to Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, relating to the campaign to have William Bourke reinstated to his job as bank manager in Abbeyfeale.
3 items
- 9 November-December 1924
Correspondence between Officer Commanding Limerick County and Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, relating to the former's non-attendance at a training course owing to a misunderstanding concerning the payment of travel expenses.
4 items
- 10 November 1924-March 1925
Correspondence mainly between Officer Commanding Limerick County and Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, relating to the proposed resignation of the former owing to a lack of funding to enable him to carry out his duties, and efforts by the General Head Quarters to rectify the matter.
10 items
- 11 [c. 1924]
Letter from Pádraig Ó hÉigceartaigh [?], former adjutant of the Mid Limerick Brigade, to the Director of Communications, Dublin, relating to the unsuitability of the current Officer Commanding Mid Limerick Brigade as he may be a Free State spy, and recommending Commandant Dundon as a more appropriate candidate.
1 p.
- 12 12 January 1925
Letter from Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, to Officer Commanding Limerick County, relating to on-going efforts to improve the training of officers.
1 p.

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- 13 5 June 1925
Letter from Officer Commanding Limerick County to Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, explaining his reasons for not acknowledging recent communications from the General Head Quarters.
1 p.
- 14 5 and 17 June 1925
Correspondence between Officer Commanding Limerick County and Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, Relating to the collection of monies towards a Memorial Book Fund.
2 items
- 15 June-July 1925
Correspondence between Officer Commanding Limerick County, Chief of Staff [Frank Aiken], Dublin, and Staff Captain Mack, concerning the difficulties of communication between the General Head Quarters and Clare Brigade and Mack's efforts to resolve them. Also Mack's observations of the state of the brigades in Limerick and Clare following an inspection tour.
4 items