



Handbook of second level educational research: Breaking the S.E.A.L. Student engagement with archives for learning

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Handbook of Second Level Educational Research

BREAKING THE S.E.A.L. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
WITH ARCHIVES FOR LEARNING,
NUI GALWAY, 2017

EDITORS:
PAUL FLYNN AND BARRY HOULIHAN

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Foreword

A Chairde,

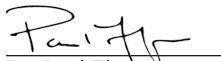
The second level subject of history covers a broad range of periods and events. It places demands on both teachers and students that can often eliminate opportunities to enjoy history. However, perhaps more importantly, such demands can prevent students from looking at history, their history, with a critical eye and asking questions about the perspectives that support the narratives presented to them.



The archival collections held at the James Hardiman Library offer students opportunities to engage with sources that are closely related to the region within which they live. The design of Breaking the SEAL encourages students to ask questions not permitted within the examination process and allows them room to explore these questions through to their natural conclusions while at the same time completing an important Leaving Certificate assessment module in a way that is personally relevant.

The students who participated in Breaking the SEAL this year engaged with the programme with energy, enthusiasm and, most importantly, critical eyes. It was quite clear that they left the programme with new perspectives and it is most certain that we learned quite a lot too.

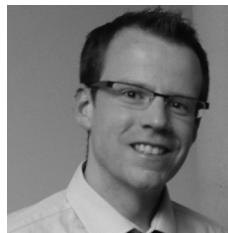
I would like to thank all of the students and their teachers for their engagement with the programme and wish all of the students who participated in this programme the very best for the future.


Dr. Paul Flynn

Breaking the SEAL - Programme Director

A Chairde,

It is my pleasure to congratulate all students on their completion of the 'Breaking the S.E.A.L. project at NUI Galway. At the heart of education, any level, is a spirit of enquiry and curiosity – to seek an answer to a question. Access to the right information and asking the right questions in our studies leads us inevitably to turn to our libraries.



The Archives service of the James Hardiman Library is a repository of unique archival collections dating from the 15th century to present day. It documents and preserves records from parchment to manuscript, from photographs to maps as well as born-digital and electronic records, creating an archive of life and culture of the west of Ireland and beyond.

This project, a partnership between the Hardiman Library and the School of Education, proudly made these unique records fully available to research for Leaving Certificate research projects, engaging a whole new audience with primary sources. It has been our goal to create a dynamic learning experience for our students, to engage them with a new thinking about history, to learn through encountering the archive, to handle and touch artefacts of the past and to consider our place in the world today by understanding where we have come from – our shared history.

The students of Galway Community College, Presentation College Headford, Coláiste Mhuire, Ballygar and St. Joseph's Patrician Academy, have demonstrated wonderful academic engagement, research skills, creative and critical thinking all through the course of this project. You have shared wonderful insights, invested much personal time and energy and developed inspiring projects. All students have done themselves and their schools and families proud.

I'd like to pay special tribute to all teachers of the respective schools for dedicated such time and energy to this project. Your commitment to the project and by engaging your students has made this all possible.

It has been a pleasure to be Co-Director of the 'Breaking the S.E.A.L.' project and offer sincere congratulations to all students.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry Houlihan".

Mr. Barry Houlihan
Breaking the SEAL - Programme Director

Introduction

This award winning programme, Breaking the S.E.A.L., is designed to help Senior Cycle History students engage with the resources of the NUI Galway library and archives to complete their mandatory Research Study Report, while at the same time introducing them to key transitional skills such as:

- collaboration
- critical analysis skills
- independent thinking
- academic writing
- digital skills

It has been well documented that these are the very skills that new entrants to undergraduate programmes find the most challenging. Therefore, our programme aims are two-fold:

- Provide students with an initial introduction to the aforementioned skills through onsite workshops and online support;
- To support students as they begin, develop and complete their mandatory Research Study Report projects.

This programme is suitable for both higher and ordinary level Senior Cycle History students at all stages of the RSR project development.

The works published in this booklet are the work of second level students who participated in Breaking the SEAL 2017. The schools that participated are:

- Moneenageisha Community College
- Presentation College Headford
- Colaiste Mhuire, Ballygar
- St. Joseph's Patrician College

We hope that you enjoy reading their work as much as we enjoyed helping them with the process of conducting their research. Well done to all.

This project is jointly funded by the School of Education, James Hardiman Library and the Access Programmes at NUI Galway.

Moneenageisha Community College

Exciting Project Projects Just Under Way

Alanna O'Reilly

Deborah Sampson Gannett and Her Role in the Continental Army During the American Revolutionary War.

Mitchelle Dupe

The Death of Emmett Till and its Effect on American Civil Rights Movement.

Andrea Duma

Joan Parlea: His Role in the Germany Army Between 1941-1943.

Paddy Hogan

An Irishmans' Role in The Suez Crisis.

Presentation College Headford

Michael McLoughlin

Trench Warfare in World War 1

My research project is on the use of trench warfare in World War 1. I chose this topic as I felt it played a major role in major world conflict. The war started on the 28th of June 1914 and by the end of that same year both sides on the western front had trench lines stretching from the North Sea and going through Belgium and France. It is estimated that there was over 2,490km of trenches dug through out the war.

By late 1914 when the Germans and Allies confronted each other ,their advancements in technology, heavy artillery, machine guns and rifles made it impossible for a successful frontal attack and so the two sides were forced to dig in. They had dug long trenches to prevent flanking and landed down elaborate networks of barbed wire to prevent frontal advancements. Little forward progress was made as a result of the trenches, however this did not stop the heavy casualties experienced by both sides due to the heavy artillery bombardments that decimated the front lines. The fronts of trenches reinforced with sand bags were about ten feet high because of the constant threat of snipers. Trenches were often dug in zig zag patterns to reduce an enemy line of fire if your defensive line was broke.

Life in the trenches took many forms, and varied from sector to sector and from front to front. There were many problems troops had to deal with in their day to day life. There was prolonged rat problem in most trenches due to the unsanitary conditions troops lived in. Rats often feasted on the dead bodies that littered the trenches and were recored to be able to grow to about the size of a cat. While many attempts were made to get rid of the rats none proved effect and the problem remained. Daily life in the trenches was often accompanied by chores. Troops were assigned various jobs such as the refilling of sand bags, repairing duckboards on the floor of tenches and draining of flood water from the tenches. Boredom was also problem with movement during the day being restricted by snipers. Troops encountered deadly diseases every day these included trench fever, influenza, trench foot, malaria and diabetes due to their poor conditions.

Trenches impacted the war by forcing both sides into a back and forth fighting style, where troops constantly tried to out flank each other, leaving long lines of trenches behind. In the early stages of the war, both sides raced toward the sea for protection as both sides also tried capture the channel coast. This ended in a draw and both sides readied for a long war. Majority Of the battles fought in the war were done so from the trenches, this included the infamous battles of the Somme and Verdun. Many troops died from such battles as they were less about complicated strategies and more of a battle of attrition, in hopes to out number the enemy.

Ezra Heraty

The Gallant Heroics of Pigeons during the Great War

The First World War took place between the dates of July 14, 1914 to November 11, 1918. It claimed the lives of approximately 17 million people and wounded nearly 20 million. That figure, big enough as it is, may have been quiet a bit bigger if not for the gallant heroics of Pigeons during the Great War. A staggering number of over 100,000 pigeons are said to have served during the war. It should also be known that the success rate of carrier pigeons was much higher than you may think. Of every 20 pigeons that took flight with a message, 19 would make it through with the important information which totals to a 95% rate of success in message delivering which is very reliable in a time of war. Pigeons, by many soldiers were seen as a symbol of hope and endurance by soldiers as often times their lives relied on a pigeon carrying a message. For any trapped soldier or stuck tank lost deep in enemy territory with no escape, pigeons were the only lifeline left.

One of my area's of research was to discover why exactly pigeons were chosen as a form of communication. For a start pigeons have a superb sense of direction and can find their way back to home from anywhere due to their abilities in the navigation form known by magnetoreception. Magnetoreception allows pigeons to be able to navigate by using the earths magnetic field, this gives pigeons extraordinary accuracy at pin-pointing where their home is as they always know where they need to fly. Pigeons were also chosen for how simplistic they are, being that they are small, easy to keep and take up very little space when being housed made them perfect for the job. Wires and radio lines would have an extremely high chance of being damaged by exploding shells and the cost of repairing them would be too high risk.

Another area of research looked at was the work of some of the famous pigeons of World War 1 who were honoured with medals of bravery such as the Dickin Medal and the Croix De Guerre. One pigeon called Cher Ami is most well known for an event where the small bird single handedly saved the lives of almost 550 trapped men under heavy German gunfire. Cher Ami was the last pigeon left as the previous five had all been shot down by the German Marksmen. Cher Ami managed to escape and fly through the barrage of bullets and fly 25 miles to headquarters where the artillery team was waiting. Its incredible think that one small animal could have such a big impact in such a vast battlefield.

The work of pigeons can not be underestimated in History. Any soldiers fighting in the war would have fought bravely with security knowing that a pigeon was there ready to fly incase all turned bad. For every 650 men fighting, there was a pigeon fighting along side them.

Sophie Smith

The White Rose Movement

Resistance is the refusal to accept or comply with something. The White Rose movement was a resistance movement in Germany during the Second World War. Its members resisted peacefully. According to Hans Mommsen "Die Weiss Rose" was the name of the predominantly Catholic anti-Nazi group founded by a brother and sister, Hans and Sophie Scholl, at Munich University. From 1939 until 1943 they distributed newsletters and leaflets detailing Nazi crimes, including the mass killing of Jews. They also called for a return to democracy, social justice and a federal state in Germany. In February 1943 the Scholls and some of their associates were arrested, tried and executed. (Hans Mommsen- Germans against Hitler: the Stauffenberg plot and resistance under the Third Reich.) There were six active members in the group; Hans and Sophie Scholl, Willi Graf, Christoph Probst, Alex Schmorell and Kurt Huber (a philosophy and musicology professor at Munich University)

They resisted by making seven anti-Nazi and anti-war leaflets and also orchestrated a graffiti campaign within the city of Munich. They copied at most, a hundred leaflets on a typewriter, and distributed them around Germany by leaving them in telephone booths, mailing them to professors and students and couriering them to other universities for distribution. They also left them at their own university in Munich. On 3rd, 8th and 15th February 1943, Hans, Alex and Willi used paint and tar to write anti-Hitler and anti-Nazi slogans on the walls of houses in Ludwigstrasse, Munich.

The leaflets referred to Goethe and Germany's former glory; they condemned Hitler and they illustrated the terrible actions of the Nazis. The reader was instructed on how to passively resist Nazism, the leaflets mentioned Catholic morality and they looked to the future when the war was over and imagined a new Europe. They encouraged nationalism unconnected to the Nazi party, they mourned the defeat of the German army at Stalingrad and they praised Roosevelt.

The members of the White Rose movement were punished for resisting by being guillotined. On 18 February 1943, Hans and Sophie Scholl were caught distributing the 6th leaflet around the University of Munich. They were immediately arrested by the Gestapo who proceeded to interrogate them, and the other members who had also been arrested. The trial of Hans, Sophie and Christoph was set for 22 February in the People's Court in Berlin. Roland Freisler was the head judge and convicted them of treason and sentenced them to death. They were guillotined a short time later. The other active members were also executed in the same year. Alex Schmorell (age 25 on 13 July), Kurt Huber (age 49 on 13 July) and Willi Graf (age 25 on 12 October).

The White Rose movement is an inspirational resistance group as its members were prepared to die for what they believed to be right. Hans Scholl's last words were "Long live freedom!" which reflected the sentiments of all of the members.

Maggie Larson

The Hollywood Blacklist: Influences on Film Content 1933-50

The Hollywood Blacklist, which began with the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) hearings of October 1947, was the blacklisting of film industry professionals who had been named as having Communist affiliations. Central to HUAC's investigation was the question of Communist influence on film content. To address this, it is necessary to examine the factors which influenced film content in the 1930s and '40s, including the Popular Front, wartime propaganda and the Cold War.

The struggle between studios and screenwriters for creative control of films goes back to the Depression-era labour movement. The Screen Writers Guild (SWG), which was formed in 1935, was met with hostility from producers, who feared that writers would use the union to gain more influence over films[1]. Many screenwriters were involved with the anti-fascist Popular Front in the 1930s. The Communist Party USA became more socially accepted in this liberal political climate and in 1938 there were about 300 CPUSA members in Hollywood[2]. The Party never officially tried to control members' creative work; many believed that it was not even possible to influence film content[1]. A Party-run writers' clinic did offer criticism on scripts and may have put pressure on writers, but in general the aim of Communist screenwriters was simply to work against "anti-human pictures"[1].

The CPUSA lost much of its support after the Nazi-Soviet Pact, but recovered somewhat when the US entered WWII alongside the USSR. Roosevelt and the Office of War Information encouraged the production of pro-Russian films such as 'Mission to Moscow'[2], which was later cited by HUAC as an example of Communist influence[3].

The attitude to Communists changed drastically with the Truman Doctrine and the start of the Cold War, and liberal writers came under intense scrutiny. Following several previous investigations, HUAC again opened investigations into communism in the motion picture industry in 1947. A group of so-called "friendly witnesses" identified several suspected Communists, who were subpoenaed to appear before the Committee in October. Studio head Jack Warner told the Committee that he refused to employ several "un-American" screenwriters and that he had personally "cut out" their attempts to insert propaganda into films[3]. Ten of those called to testify, known as the Hollywood Ten, refused to answer HUAC's questions and were sentenced to time in prison.

During the hearings, committee members explicitly encouraged the blacklisting of "subversive" writers and the production of anti-communist films[3]. The Hollywood Ten were blacklisted by producers in late 1947. HUAC hearings continued for several years, and anyone named as a Communist faced the choice of naming others or being blacklisted.

Although films in these years were influenced by liberal writers, the studios maintained a vice-like grip on creative control. The blacklist crushed liberalism in Hollywood, essentially censoring writers with the threat of losing their career. As Albert Maltz, one of the Hollywood Ten, noted, "One is destroyed in order that a thousand will be rendered silent and impotent by fear." [1]

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Diarmaid Conway

Michael Cusack – Gaelic Games Pioneer

Michael Cusack who was a passionate Irishman was born on the 20th September 1847 into Carron County Clare. Carron, which is a poor, rural area in Ireland badly affected by the Great Famine. In my project I aimed to examine Cusack's role in the foundation of the GAA but also his surprising interest in so-called foreign games such as rugby and cricket. Cusack was enthusiastic about all sport in his earlier life, including sports he would later reference as 'foreign sports' later in his life (S1). He was one of the main founders of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). The creation of the GAA made him one of the most famous historical figures in modern day Ireland. Little did he know what he and six other men were making on the 1st November 1884, in Hayes hotel.

Cusack learned to become a teacher in Model school, Enniscorthy at the age of 17 and went on to teach in many other schools such as St Colman's in Newry where he met the woman he would marry called Margaret Woods (S2). He set up an academy to prepare people for civil service exams and in that academy he set up a rugby club which gained affiliation to the IRFU in 1879. In 1882 he was still playing rugby, which is surprising because he set up the GAA just 2 years later. Cusack was influenced by his nationalism that made him change his mind on the sports he was playing and showing love for. On the 1st November 1884, 7 men assembled at a meeting that Cusack organised by sending anonymous letters to newspapers such as the 'United Ireland' and the 'Irishman' (S1). This meeting was held in Hayes hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The 7 men were Archbishop Thomas William Croke, Michael Davitt, Charles Stewart Paraneil, Maurice Davin, John Wyse Power, John McKay and himself Michael Cusack (S2). Cusack spread these games through the same newspaper through which he promoted the meeting. He published the rules through the newspapers also. Hurling was the first game they made while football was shortly made after.

Cusack was supposed to be a very difficult man to deal with, a trait that would ultimately see him banned from his own organisation, and he either made you English or Irish by the sports you played. All the issues surrounding the GAA were all to do with Cusack. 1886 was the year that led to his downfall. Cusack criticized the Catholic Church who was heavily involved with the GAA. Archbishop Croke won this argument, which led to Cusack losing his position as secretary in the GAA. He started to drink heavily due to this and because of the loss of most of his family except for 1 son and by 1890 had no involvement in the GAA whatsoever. This ultimately led to his death in 1906. Even though he died as a hated old man, he will still go down as the father of modern day hurling.

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Ciara Varley

Emily Hobhouse in the Anglo-Boer War

Emily Hobhouse was an English humanitarian. When the Second Anglo-Boer War broke out in October 1899, the Liberal MP Leonard Courtney invited Emily to join the South African Conciliation Committee (SAAC), an anti-war organisation (1). During her time at the SAAC Hobhouse became aware of the difficulty women and children were enduring in the camps and decided to set up an apolitical organisation, the South African Women and Children Distress Fund to raise money for them (1). Money was raised quickly and soon there was enough for the distribution of aid to begin. Emily volunteered to go to Cape Town to plan for the spread of aid.

Hobhouse arrived in Cape Town after a 2-day long journey and soon left for Bloemfontein. When Hobhouse reached the first camp 2000 residents, 900 of which were children, resided there (1). Hobhouse was appalled by the conditions she discovered in the camps. She found the water supply to be unsafe as it was taken from a nearby river infected with typhoid, the fuel to be scarce and the rations, which were given uncooked, meagre (2). The poor medical care in the camps meant many captives died of typhoid. Emily had great sympathy for the Boer women and children, and told the British authority on hand there that she would hold them 'personally and publicly responsible for the deaths' of them should conditions not improve(3).

Emily administered aid to the camp in Bloemfontein as well as other camps over the course of the next few weeks. However, opposition from authorities and her dwindling budget meant she soon began to consider addressing the issue politically. She knew this would be difficult as most British people supported the war and her message would embarrass the government. Still, Emily went to meet with the Secretary for War, St. John Brodrick to solicit assistance (1). Brodrick put forward Emily's requests to the British High Commissioner, Alfred Milner but he rejected most of her proposals (1). Emily decided that all she could do was get the support of the British public and so began a speaking tour (1). Thanks to Emily's efforts word spread and funds from around the globe streamed in. As fatalities continued to rise in the camps, Brodrick eventually arranged for a committee of six women, headed by Millicent Fawcett, to inspect the camps in South Africa and return a report (1). This report detailed the horrors of the camps and forced Milner to tell the camp administrators that expenses should no longer stand in the way of care for the Boer people (1).

The Boer War eventually ended on May 31, 1902. The death toll was cut down from a peak of 2.9% in the middle of the war to 0.2% at its end(S1). Emily established schools to teach the women textile skills so that they could earn a wage and this helped the women to improve the quality of both their own and their families' lives. It is thus clear that Emily Hobhouse greatly assisted the Boer people during and after the war.

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- 2: Letters from Emily Hobhouse -> <http://spartacus-educational.com/Whobhouse.htm>
- 3: Emily Hobhouse [1984 Documentary] -> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeaA9gulV7U>

Andrew Egan

The Hunger Striking in Irish Republicanism

Hunger striking is a very fascinating, dark and controversial topic with no real right answer on whether it is wrong or right, coming in to my project I assumed that hunger striking in republicanism was done as a protest to British occupation in Northern Ireland as a whole but I was surprised to learn that it was used as a tactic to get prisoners the proper rights they wanted such as being granted prisoner of war status which would allow them to not have to wear a prison uniform and they would not have to work hours of hard labour, it was for these rights many men and women gave their lives

Throughout the late 1910s and the early 1920s when the Irish fight for independence was in its most intense and all out civil war was fought, in 1917 after the rising as Thomas Ashe and Eamon De Valera both imprisoned in Frongoch internment camp, led a hunger strike on the 28th of May 1917 to reduce the mistreatment and abuse they were suffering in prison, it lasted just 22 days and on the 18th of June, David Lloyd George the British prime minister had the prisoners released after some pressure from the press, Ashe was again arrested and again went on hunger strike and was force fed he died after lung and heart failure, other high profile hunger strikes in the 1920s were Terence MacSwiney Mayor of Cork at the time, Michael Fitzgerald and Joseph Murphy 3 strikers out of 12 from Cork, The use of hunger striking was quite subdued till the troubles in the 1960s-1990s

The troubles was a was an conflict fought between the Nationalists who supported a united Ireland and the unionists who favoured the partition of Ireland and northern Ireland being a part of Great Britain in which over 3,600 people were killed and thousands more injured over the course of 30 years, the troubles are most relevant to my essay as in 1981 the most notorious hunger strikes took place and resulted in the death of 10 people one of which was a member of the British parliament at the time they were allowed to starve in prison as the British would not concede and give them what was dubbed the “five demands” which were the right not to wear a prison uniform,

The right not to do prison work, the right of free association with other prisoners, and to organise educational and recreational pursuits, the right to one visit one letter and one parcel per week, full restoration of remission lost through the protest. The protests were largely unsuccessful till members started to die and media started to pressure the British government it took until the 3rd of October 1981 for the strikes to be called off and the prisoners got their demands

As I've already stated hunger striking is a large grey area and the morality is up for debate but in many of these cases they achieved what they wanted

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Joey Maguire

Michael Cusack

Michael Cusack was best known for his role in establishing the GAA. The aim of my project was to look at him in a broader context: to examine his life before and after the setting up of the iconic sporting organization and to look at how he was influenced by the Gaelic Revival.

Michael Cusack was born to Irish speaking parents during the great Irish potato famine, in the parish of Carran on the fringe of the burren, County Clare, on the 20th of September 1847. Cusack lived in a small cottage with four brothers and one sister. Cusack attended Carran national school when it was first opened in the year 1858 and had ambitions to become a national school teacher. Cusack had always had a romanticised view of Ireland influenced by his parents and the harsh life in the west of Ireland. (1) The stories of famine stricken Ireland and the British landlords no doubt resonated with Michael. He was passionate about Irish culture and was active in the Gaelic revival and later the Gaelic league.

The Gaelic Revival was a movement of the late 1800s when there was 'a real attempt to give renewed life to Gaelic culture, Gaelic sport and the Gaelic (Irish) language in Ireland.' (2) Previous attempts to 'deanglicize Ireland had failed, most notably that by the Young Irelanders in the 1840s. It included the founding of the Gaelic League, an organization committed to reviving the use of the Irish language. Douglas Hyde - later President of Eire was its founding member. The establishment of the GAA was a major element of this movement. In the late 19th century Dr Thomas W. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, stated: 'What the country needed was an Irish organization to bring order and unity to sport on a nation wide basis.' (3)

Cusack, as we know, was instrumental in the establishment of such an organisation. He saw jumping and weight-throwing as traditional Irish sporting events and racing and cycling were dismissed and regarded as English importations. On the 1st of November 1884 Cusack with seven founding members established the "Gaelic Association for the cultivation and preservation of national pastimes" Ireland's most successful amateur sporting organisation was born.

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2 www.Gaelicmatters.com

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Coláiste Mhuire, Ballygar

Mártin Quinn

The Iranian Hostage Crisis: How the Canadian Embassy Workers Helped to Rescue the Six Escaped Hostages.

On the 4th November 1979 the American embassy in Tehran was stormed by angry Iranian students protesting against asylum given by President Jimmy Carter to the 'The Shah' of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He was leader of Iran for 38 years when he was displaced from power on the 11th February. He was seen as an instrument of the western governments and was wanted back in Iran to stand trial for the treacheries he had committed during his time in power. When the embassy was taken over, the new government in Iran gave their support to the rioting students. This incensed the American public as this threatened the embassy's diplomatic immunity and thus the safety of their diplomats. The Americans tried to use diplomacy as a method of resolving the hostage crisis, however the Iranians completely disregarded these attempts. The Americans couldn't fix the problem by using democratic means. This paved the way for a more elaborate plan to solve this crisis. I will use this essay to outline the major role that Canada and Mendez had in the emancipation of these six embassy workers(Mendez, Antonio, & Baglio, Matt, 2012)

During the storming of the embassy in Tehran, six American office workers escaped from the embassy. Kenneth Taylor, the Canadian ambassador had a key role in the safe keeping of three Americans, with John Sheardown another diplomat, in the Canadian offices housing another three American workers at his house on the outskirts of Tehran. Although the movie 'Argo' provided us with a biased view that the CIA and Hollywood achieved this amazing feat on their own while the Canadian diplomats were simply watching this is not the case. These two consulate workers along with a spy from the CIA called Antonio Mendez helped to rescue the six embassy workers from a volatile Tehran. (Mendez and Baglio, 2012).

Codenamed the 'Canadian Six' within the CIA, these six hostages hid out in the two houses from 10th November 1979 until 28th January 1980 (Mendez and Baglio, 2012). The CIA was in awe of the friendliness and willingness of the Canadians to break their passport laws in order to help American embassy workers.

'We were stunned. I tried to imagine what it would take for a reprehensive of a foreign government to come to Washington and ask the US Congress to pass exception to our own passport law.'

(Mendez and Baglio, 2012)

Mendez and his team then came up the Hollywood cover story as they believed,

'It wasn't implausible to imagine a group of self-absorbed Hollywood eccentrics travelling there in the middle of a revolution to find the perfect locations for their movie.'

(Mendez and Baglio, 2012)

With plans in place Mendez flew to Iran to prepare the six houseguests with their cover stories to be utilised to leave the country. With Mendez, studio producer of 'Argo', an invented Sci-Fi movie from 'Studio Six Productions', the six embassy workers were all given jobs in the 'film' immediately after Mendez arriving. They were all told to learn their parts as they would be questioned at the airport 'You will be tested'. The diplomats were given five days to prepare for the escape in the airport. Both Taylor and Sheardown put their own freedom at risk to help the Americans to escape. This shows courage on behalf of the Canadians. 'On January 28th, the six departed Iran, right under the noses of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard'.

The six hostages arrived in the US Air Base in Florida. These six hostages were hidden until the fifty three other hostages were released (Mendez and Baglio, 2012). The movie had a clearly bias point of view, celebrating the excellence of the CIA. I tried to use this essay to highlight the role Canada had in the rescuing of the six hostages and the fabrication of the movie. In my opinion, the six escapees from the consulate would not have escaped from Iran without the backing of Kenneth Taylor and the Canadian government. The escape set the foundations for a good relationship between the two countries.

Sarah Scott

An Appreciation of the Historical Significance of the Feakle Peace Talks

In 1972, a British-IRA truce had been agreed upon and had lasted until the IRA increased the momentum of their campaign, hoping to accelerate British withdrawal in the North. After several bombings occurred in Birmingham, Guilford, Dublin and Monaghan, which injured over five hundred people and killed thirty-five, the Provisional IRA were condemned and President of Republican Sinn Féin, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, was 'personally outraged' (WHITE, ROBERT W. (2006) Ruairí Ó Brádaigh The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary. P221. Indiana, University Press). 'Let's put it on record, the fact is that everyone wants peace, but the difference is that, different people have different terms'. (<http://www.clarepeople.com/2013/06/11/the-death-of-ruairi-o-bradaigh-and-the-feakle-peace-talks-of-1974/>) This was the general feeling amongst the Protestant clergymen and IRA key figures which sparked the meeting in Feakle, County Clare in 1974.

Rev. William Arlow, deputy Secretary of the Irish Council of Churches, requested a meeting with the IRA leadership and arranged for the talk to take place on the 10th of December, Smyth's Village Hotel in Feakle. The IRA decided they should meet in Feakle, a 'mistake when viewed in hindsight' (Ó MHUIRCHEARTAIGH, Joe. (Jan 7 2005) Clare Champion) according to Ó Brádaigh as two of the clergymen had ministered in Clare. Despite Rev. Arlow's disappointment upon arriving at the Hotel to see only members of Sinn Féin there, he was assured by Ó Brádaigh that the Army Council of the IRA were taking the matter 'very seriously' (The Ó Brádaigh Papers. James Hardiman Library, NUIG, POL28/23), all members of the council did turn up aside from one. Ó Brádaigh, Marie Drumm, Billy McKee, Ó Conaill, J.B.Hagan, Séamus Loughran, Séamus Twomey along with Kevin Mallon, represented the 'political and military leadership of the Republican Movement' (The Ó Brádaigh Papers. James Hardiman Library, NUIG, POL28/22). The 'heart of the provo movement' (BOWYER, J. BELL. (2008) The Secret Army; The IRA. Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick and London) were joined by Stanley Worrall, Dr. Butler, Dr. Morton, Reverends Arlow, Gallagher, Weir, Baxter and McArthur.

The two sides met and discussed what it would take for a permanent cessation of violence to be achieved. Surprised by the willingness of the IRA, Arlow later remarked; 'Ó Brádaigh was brilliant and Ó Conaill was even better. They weren't stupid Irishmen from the bogs- these were intelligent men who were fighting for a cause' (James Hardiman Library, NUIG, POL28/24). The Republicans were open to the prospect of a ceasefire, if the British responded with the intent to withdraw from the North. The clergymen adjourned upstairs to work on the proposition, but all hope of further engagement that day was cut short as the IRA received information that the Gardaí were en route to raid the hotel. Ó Brádaigh greeted the Gardaí and told them 'the men you're looking for are upstairs' (Ó MHUIRCHEARTAIGH, Joe. (Jan

7 2005) Clare Champion). Surprisingly the three Republicans in question had fled, leaving only the clergymen.

Despite the talk being cut short, they had achieved something; the clergymen passed on their information to the British and the IRA declared a temporary ceasefire on December 22, 1972. Originally it was meant to last until January 2nd, but it was extended to midnight on the 16th of January 1975. As no contact had been made by the British, the IRA returned to their military campaign when the ceasefire expired on the 17th of January. However, Ó Brádaigh was contacted at 2am by an intermediary who disclosed that the British were still 'very interested' (The Ó Brádaigh Papers. James Hardiman Library, NUIG. POL28/25) in maintaining contact in order for further truce developments to occur.

Feakle has been regarded by many as a 'what if', what if the talks were never interrupted? What could have been achieved if so? Would violence in the North have ended much sooner than it did? Feakle was a turning point, it was the first time that the IRA were seen to be more than mere violent militants. 'Feakle gave the IRA the chance to prove they could be trusted' (<http://www.clarepeople.com/2014/12/09/feakle-talks-40-years-ago-this-week/>). Most significantly, Feakle was the catalyst for future talks between the British and the IRA. Secondly, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Rev. Arlow proved to be two key figures in the negotiations for peace. It created hope for the people who had suffered at the hands of both the RUC and IRA. Perhaps, we should leave the conclusion to Ó Brádaigh himself: 'It's a great 'what if'- We don't know but the possibilities seemed wide open. Here we were getting at the heart of the thing with the people who had the say so.' (Ruairí Ó Brádaigh,2004.<http://www.clarepeople.com/2014/12/09/feakle-talks-40-years-ago-this-week/>).

Maeve Gilmoew

The Dudgeon vs. United Kingdom Court Case

Great Britain had dominance over Northern Ireland's homosexuality ruling as early as the twelfth century. This coincided with the Catholic Church's over powering influence in Northern Irish society in the 1970s. Homosexual relations between women was legal although illegal for men. The actions of buggery or attempted buggery were offences under sections 61 and 62 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861. In the amended law, Section 11 of the 1885 Act, it is an offence, punishable with a maximum of two years' imprisonment. Homosexuality was referred to as a mental health issue. Fortunately, there were those who challenged this theory, "For a mental condition to be considered a psychiatric disorder it should either regularly cause emotional distress or regularly be associated with generalized impairment of social functioning; homosexuality does not meet those criteria!" (Time Magazine, September 8 1975). Later in 1975, a ship clerk named Jeff Dudgeon was arrested by the Royal Ulster Constabulary drug squad after marijuana was found along with personal information about his homosexuality. He felt mistreated after being intensely interrogated for four hours and pressured to sign a statement in connection with his sexual activities. Dudgeon himself was a gay activist in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

As a result, he filed a complaint which was then passed on to the European Court of Human Rights. (<https://rightsinfo.org/stories/being-gay-is-not-a-crime/>) The NIGRA and the Irish Gay Rights Movement supported him morally and financially. Dudgeon alleged that the laws were unenforceable on two grounds: 1. He believed that his sexuality coincided with his right to respect for private life in violation of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. 2. Dudgeon felt a victim of discrimination on the validations of sex, sexuality and other conducts like residence in accordance to Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The European Convention states that "The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms ... shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion." (http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf).

Human Rights advocate Kevin Boyle took interest in the case. Boyle, a successful academic holding a degree in Law from Queens in Belfast later receiving a diploma in Criminology from Cambridge in 1966, longed to find justice for victims of discrimination. Dudgeon and Boyle exchanged letters and based their defence on the following; The act was done in private, both the parties consented and the parties have attained the age of 21. Examples of other countries were also used such as Sweden, Switzerland etc. to make the statement that "It appears that only in the UK, The Republic of Ireland, Spain, Romania and the Soviet Union is male homosexuality illegal." (Extract from the 1977 International Gay Guide. Archives, NUIGalway)

Many people differed on the opinion that male homosexuality should be legalised. "Homosexuality law is quietly liberalised" McKittrick in The Irish Times on December 18 1982 wrote that Rev. Ian Paisley had a strong opposition to the cause. It reports he organised a motorcade to Stormont using the Slogan "Save Ulster from Sodomy." Other articles like "The forgotten 70,000- the case for homosexual law reform" show that people were sympathetic to the cause. (December edition of Alliance 1975)

On 22 October 1981, a resounding 15-4 majority vote in favour of Dudgeon stating that "no member nation had the right to impose a total ban on homosexual activity." This case was extremely momentous because it was the first winning case before the ECtHR on the criminalisation of male homosexuality. Secondly, it led to legislation bringing Scotland, England and Wales in line with Northern Ireland.

The significance of this case empowered individuals such as David Norris to challenge anti-homosexual laws in constitutions in other countries. In Norris v. Ireland, the identical application of the same 1885 law in the Republic of Ireland was used and established legal precedent that decriminalised male or female homosexual behaviour in Europe. To this day The Dudgeon vs. United Kingdom court case, is said to be one of the most important events which shaped modern society in Britain. (<https://rightsinfo.org/stories/being-gay-is-not-a-crime/>)

Joe Kerr

Thomas Edward Lawrence: A Collection of Deeds

Thomas Edward “Lawrence of Arabia” Lawrence is a significant subject known by most. Lawrence underwent many professions during his life. He began as an archaeologist in Syria, soon becoming a military officer for the British army, henceforth a diplomat and lastly an author. He was recognised for his role as a median of communication in the Sinai and Palestine campaign. But more significantly; the Arabic revolution against the Ottoman Empire that erupted behind the curtains of the First World War. His involvement in these events as well as his extensive and divergent capabilities to recall each moment with such vivid detail earned him the title as “Lawrence of Arabia.” However I will be exploring his life before the earning of this title.

Lawrence was a child born out of wedlock to Thomas Chapman, and his illegitimate mother, Sarah Junner in Tremadog, Wales, in August 1888. In 1914, Thomas inherited his ancestral home in County Westmeath, Ireland. From 1894-96, the Lawrence family lived in a private lodge (now demolished) between the east side borders of new forest and Southampton water in Hampshire. The lodge stood alone in a wood which allowed young Lawrence to embark on outdoor adventures and recreation. But the society in which the Lawrence family lived was a conservative one. They were mostly Christian and God-fearing. This society considered extramarital and premarital sex to be shameful. An illegitimate child was looked down upon and seen as a disgrace. Lawrence was never expected to achieve greatness of any sorts because of this. (Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East, Scott Anderson 2013 beginning of chapter 2)

However in October 1918, T.E Lawrence had returned back from his assistance in the Arab revolt and was still continuing his work as an author at this time. He was brought in front of Queen Mary to be commemorated for his wartime deeds. (“(Supplement) no. 30222”. The London Gazette. 7 August 1917. p. 8103. Retrieved 23 June 2010) Lawrence was aware of what was about to unfold. “It was a moment Lawrence had long dreamed of. As a boy, he had been obsessed with medieval history and the tales of King Arthur’s court, and his greatest ambition, he once wrote, was to be knighted by the age of thirty.”

But he did not kneel before the queen. He discretely told the king that he would not be accepting the award. Historians will debate as to why he did not accept it, as he did not give an explanation. (Anderson, Scott, Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East, 2013 p1-3)

During his teenage years, Lawrence and a school friend of his would cycle around their locality and visit villages’ parish churches, studying their antiquities. They recorded the markings of the brass monuments by making rubbings of them. Lawrence and his friend Cyril Bees Beeson would survey building sites and their progress. In 1906 and 1907, the two toured France in a similar fashion; collecting

drawings, photographs and measurements of medieval castles during the summer. (Beeson,CFC;simcock,A.V (1989) [1962]. "Clock making in Oxfordshire" 1400-1850(3rd edition).Oxford: museum of history of science p.3 isbn 0-903364-06-9.)

Lawrence studied from 1907 up till 1910 at Jesus College, Oxford. He graduated with first class honours. He went alone on a three month tour of crusader castles in Ottoman Syria during his studies. He travelled 1,600 kilometres on foot. Lawrence was fascinated by the middle ages and in 1937 he wrote, "Medieval research" for him was a "dream way of escape from bourgeois England."(Allen, MD. "Lawrence's Medievalists" p.53-70 The T.E.Lawrence Puzzle edited by Stephan Tabachnic, Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1984 p.53)

On 13th May 1935, two months after Lawrence left the military service, he was fatally injured in an accident on his motorcycle. Lawrence hit a hump in the road, which prevented him from seeing two boys cycling in front of him. In order to miss them he swerved the bike, lost control and died on May 14 1935. Hugh Cairns, neurosurgeon, consequently began a detailed study on the loss of a life by motorcycle rides through head injuries. Significantly, this research led to crash helmets. ("T. E Lawrence, to Arabia and back" BBC 24th August 2013)

In summation, St Paul's Cathedral, London has a Bronze Bust of Lawrence alongside the tombs of Britain's greatest military leaders. (David Murphy (2008) "The Arab Revolt 1916-18: Lawrence sets Arabia ablaze" p86)

Overview of the Black Panther Party: 1966 - 1983

Huey P. Newton born in Monroe, Louisiana, February 17, 1942 met Bobby Seale born in Texas in 1936 at a rally protesting the Kennedy Administration's blockade of Cuba. The pair quickly became friends. (<http://www.biography.com/people/bobby-seale-9477529>) In 1966, they founded the left wing Black Panther Party to promote self-defence of African-Americans, patrol African-American neighbourhoods and protect the citizens living there from police brutality. (<http://www.biography.com/people/huey-p-newton-37369>) Their agenda then changed to a party who wanted to the revolutionary establishment of real economic, social, and political equality across gender and colour lines.

The Black Panther Party was central to the Black Power movement. They were attractive to young blacks as they challenged police power and brutality. "Newton faced a number of criminal charges over the years and at one point fled to Cuba before returning to the U.S. and earning his doctorate." Seale grew up in poverty and with an abusive father. "Seale joined the U.S Air Force in 1955, but was discharged in 1959 following an altercation with a superior officer" (<http://www.biography.com/people/bobby-seale-9477529>).

2 prominent members of the BPP, Fred Hampton (21) and Mark Clark (22) were shot in 1969 by 14 police officers as they were sleeping in their apartment in Chicago." Despite the evidence provided by ballistics experts showing that police had fired 99 percent of the bullets and had falsified the report on the incident, the first federal grand jury did not indict anyone involved in the raid. Furthermore, even though a subsequent grand jury did indict all the police officers involved, the charges were dismissed." Survivors of the attack and the relatives of Hampton and Clark filed a lawsuit against Hampton and others, this case was finally settled in 1983. It was these kind of events that gave credence to the black power movement.

The arrest of Huey Newton affected the progress of the BPP as he "proved to be as violent as the party he helped to create when he was thrust into the national limelight in October 1967; accused of murdering Oakland police officer John Frey. In September 1968 Newton was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to two 15 years in prison" (www.encyclopedia.com/people/history/historians-miscellaneous.../huey-newton)

Some of the biggest achievements of The Black Panther Party were in health and education initiatives. They started free breakfast programmes and work in black communities in an effort to combat the problems of poverty there. By 1969, 49 Black Panther clinics were opened across America to help poor communities deal with illnesses and diseases they could ill afford to pay for treatment. Diseases like "Sickle cell disease", which describes a group of inherited red blood cell disorders". (<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/sca>) In 1972, National Sickle Cell Anaemia Control Act Set up, which gained Government funding as a result of

the work done by the Black Panther Party. The opening and success of these initiatives all show and highlight the achievements of the Black Panther Party.

I think it is important to say that, while the Black Panther Party began violently and the movement was synonymous with violence and ferocity, they did achieve some progress through peaceful efforts in their communities.

Grace Riordan

The Bombing of the North Wall - 1941

This essay will comment on the role, if any, Ireland played in World War II, but most notably on the bombing of the North Wall in Dublin by the Germans. I hope to identify the different occasions on which Ireland was bombed, if Germany had any motive to bomb Ireland at this time and how Ireland, Germany and Britain reacted to this event. I will be researching these events through various medias such as books I have attained from the library and the internet.

There were three separate bombings on the morning of Saturday 31st of May, 'the first on the North Circular at 1.30am, causing little damage, the second half an hour later in the middle of North Strand Road..... A third fell in Summerhill Parade in the north inner city.' Twenty-seven people were killed and twenty-eight were seriously injured. It is hard to believe that these bombings were incidental as they occurred on three separate occasions. (MacMahon Sean, Bombs over Dublin, 2009)

It appears that Germany did not have any motive to bomb Ireland in May 1941, but perhaps in December of 1940 as this was the time of the highest point of German Irish tension during the war. De Valera denied the flying of an extra four German military officers as they would be used as spies in the country. The German Minister to Ireland, Edouard Hempel refused to accept de Valera's answer and sent forward the aircraft codes, the radio frequencies they will be using and told him they will be landing in Shannon airport. Dublin once again denied these requests and the defence forces were out on alert in case this refusal was the pretext for an invasion. (<https://northstrandbombing.wordpress.com/interviewees/air-defence/>)

It is rumoured that Britain deflected the Luftwaffe bombers by interfering with the radio signals which caused the aircraft to lose their direction, this sent the aircraft in the direction of Ireland instead. It is also reported that Churchill felt justified in his pressuring of de v when he heard of the bombings because he saw this as karmic retribution, for not entering the war. (<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/why-the-nazis-bombed-dublin-1075966.html>)

Ireland being an independent state and having declared its neutrality at the beginning of the war did have an army albeit not a major one and did not pay a considerable threat to Germany. Northern Ireland on the other hand, played its part in the war[S1] and suffered the consequences. After the bombing of the North Strand, the ministry of public enlightenment and propaganda in Germany declared that Dublin was not intentionally bombed. Is it possible[S2] that the bombings on Dublin were a warning to stay out of the war as Ireland had sent rescue packs to Belfast in April 1941 after they were heavily bombed during the Belfast Blitz. When de Valera agreed to send fire-fighters to Belfast he breached the strict neutrality of southern Ireland. 'The people will remember the magnificent spirit which prompted fire brigades from Eire to rush to the assistance of their comrades of the North. Suffering can be a great leveller; cutting through all petty prejudices.' (The Belfast Telegraph, Belfast is Burning: 1941, 18)

(O'Donoghue, David (1998). Hitler's Irish voices: the story of German radio's wartime Irish service. Belfast: Beyond the Pale Publications. p. 61. ISBN 1-900960-04-4.)

On the morning of May 31st 1941, the German Minister Edouard Hempel was summoned to Iveagh House by Eamon de Valera, the Taoiseach and Minister for External Affairs to account for the actions of the Luftwaffe over Dublin the previous night. As Hempel arrived, he knew he was in a 'terrible position'. Hempel was brought to meet the head of the Irish diplomatic service, Joseph Walshe and immediately expressed his 'very deepest sympathy with the relatives of those who were killed, the wounded, and with the Government in their great sorrow'. Hempel was 'moved and disturbed ... quite clearly horrified at the tragedy.' He did not attempt to put the blame on anyone, and simply accepted the fact that his airmen had accidentally dropped the bombs. There was no doubt in his mind that his German aircraft had accidentally bombed the North Strand. The chart for the actual day of the bombing is missing but you can see the confused pattern of air traffic off the Irish coast in the days leading up to the bombing. therefore, this was most likely a theoretical error. (<https://northstrandbombing.wordpress.com/interviewees/air-defence/>) (<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/why-the-nazis-bombed-dublin-1075966.html>)

Aisling Kelly

The Affair of the Stolen Necklace 1785

In my essay I will be discussing the queen of France Marie Antoinette's spending habits and how they led to her downfall. I will do this by accessing books and online sources to help me with my research.

Marie Antoinette was born on the 2nd of November 1755 in Vienna. She was the 15th child of Empress Maria-Theresa of Austria and Emperor Francis Stephen. Marie's relationship with her mother was one of fear and love Marie Antoinette once said in a letter that she wrote after she had left her home land 'I love the queen but I am afraid of her' (Jonathan Beckman How to ruin a Queen 2014 page 51) Marie's mother had a domineering attitude towards her children which she continued to have over Marie in her time in France. In 1770 at 15 years of age she was sent to France to marry Louis-Auguste .they were both married on the 16th of may 1770. Louis XV died in 1774 and was succeeded by Louis Auguste making Marie Antoinette a 19 year old queen of France.

Marie Antoinette was a woman of expensive taste she became notorious for her expensive fashion with buying many expensive dresses, shoes, jewellery and sculpted hair. She was also a lover of chocolate and flowers she had her own chocolate maker. She was greatly condemned for her spending habit and was thought to have a very poor attitude towards the poor and was accused of saying "if they have no bread let them eat cake" quote taken from <https://www.britannica.com/demystified/did-marie-antoinette-really-say-let-them-eat-cake>

However the scandal of the stolen neck lace was the final straw. However it wasn't an ordinary neck lace it was 2,800 carat diamond necklace worth 1.6 million which the jeweller Charles Boehmer and Paul Bassenge had fashioned in hope that the Queen would purchase. But Marie Antoinette had no interest in the necklace. Boehmer thought that he could convince the king to purchase the necklace the king was unaware that Marie had already rejected the necklace and agreed to purchase it for his wife.

The necklace was divided and sold but not by the jeweller but a con woman by the name of Jeanne de saint Remy coned the jeweller and others so she could make a profit for herself. She Jeanne told Cardinal de Rohan a man how longed to me part of the queens inner circle that the queen wanted him to obtain the necklace for her. Falling foe her trick Rohan claimed the neck lace and gave it to Jeanne who took it to London to make her fortune. When the jeweler demanded payment the king found out that Rohan had obtained the neck lace he arrested him and sent him to the basteil where he awaited trail and was a quitted when the trail was over. Due to the queens already tarnished reputation people believed that the queen had taken the necklace and blamed her lack of payment on others she was condemned for her reckless spending and blamed for the country swimming in death. The king demanded more taxes for the people and his wife was named "Madame Deficit." And the people who were angered by the taxes were about to start a revolution.

St. Joseph's Patrician College

Josh Thornton

The Munich Air Disaster

Being a huge Manchester united fan I immediately thought I should research them for my project, it would be a topic that would be of great interest to me and it would also keep me motivated , my project will be on who was most at fault for the Munich air disaster of 1958. Not only did I chose this topic for the reason of being a Manchester but also its one of the biggest tragedies in sporting history, I researched other peoples opinions on this topic who had done it before and they mostly all seemed to be positive responses I then knew this topic was for me.

For the first few weeks after the Munich air disaster of 1958 nobody knew the real cause of the plane crash. A few weeks later German authorities released that it was the captain of the planes fault for the crash taking place. His name was James Thain. They claimed to have investigated the event with a 20th century perspective. Investigators found ice on the wing, which they believed was the primary catalyst for this tragedy.

The report submitted by them claimed that it was the pilots responsibility to inspect the wings before the flight. They went on to say that because the ice wasn't washed from the wings, the Elizabeth failed to touch the required air borne speed. They belived this due to a photo taken by a united fan of the plane before it took off and they believed that they could see ice on the wings. In 1968, British investigators started their mission to find out who was really repsonsible for the 1958 Munich air disaster. They immediately found out that the photograph of the aircraft taken by the United fan didn't show any ice. The negative of that picture showed nothing on the wings, it was basically the reflection of light from the wet surface which made the Germans believe that it was snow. The results exposed out the big blunder of the German report.

That still didn't show that anyone was at fault for the disaster it is believed that the disaster could have been avoided if the team were not rushed home by the English FA, the weather was unsafe to fly in causing the accident. If the English FA did not want the Manchester united team home to play a cup game back in England so soon after a European game in Germany and just waited a few days until the weather was better and safe to fly in again I believe the disaster wouldn't have happened. In my opinion the English FA where most at fault for this tragic disaster.

Ryan Lally

Escobar's Impact on Domestic and Foreign Government Policy 1970-93

I learned about Pablo Escobar after the hit Netflix show "NARCOS" came out in August of 2015. I thought it was amazing but crazy at the same time that one man could have so much control in the US and South America by producing, transporting and selling just one item. Today I am going to show you my Leaving Certificate history project on Pablo Escobar. My project is going to investigate how impactful Escobar was to Columbia's Domestic and Foreign Policy.

On 1st December 1949, Hermilda de los Dolores Gaviria Berrío gave birth to her third child, Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria. His family were lower-class and grew up in Envigado, a suburb of Medellín. As a child he wanted to be rich, he started making money by stealing tombstones, taking the names off and selling to Panamanians. He moved on to stealing cars and selling the parts for riches. During this time he started to smoke dope on a regular basis with a few of his pals. This was where he saw wealth and power from drugs. He didn't succeed in this until the 1970's. This started in him buying coca paste from Peru and Bolivia, refining the substance, and transporting the goods to the US for sale.

In 1975, Pablo Escobar ordered the killing of Fabio Restrepo. Pablo stepped into the power vacuum and took control of Restrepo's organisation and expanded his operations. Before anyone from the US knew anything, he controlled all crime in Medellín and was responsible for over 80% of all cocaine transported into the US.

By the mid-1980's Pablo Escobar was one of the most powerful and wealthiest people in the world. Forbes magazine listed him as the 7th richest man in the world. He had control over all criminal activity, soldiers, and a private zoo private, mansions and apartments, private airstrips and planes all over Columbia. It was estimated that he had a personal wealth of USD\$25 billion(now \$57 billion). He had the power to do anything, kill any target, get whatever he wanted or made any do whatever he wanted.

Ethan Goodfellow

King Amanullah Khan: King of Afghanistan

King Amanullah Khan became the King of Afghanistan in 1919 after the country gained independence from Britain. Amanullah is renowned for his radical reforms and attempts at modernising Afghanistan. Immersing himself in all aspects of politics, King Amanullah tried to bring changes to the country's education, economy, infrastructure, tribal influence, women's rights and the country's monetary system and currency.

Undoubtedly, the reforms imposed by Amanullah were unheard of in Afghanistan and this greatly affected his diplomacy. Amanullah envisioned a country of greater freedom for women and children, attempting to withdraw tribal privilege and the practise of having multiple wives. As well as this, the veiling of women was banned and a greater emphasis was put on education for boys as well as girls, which was uncommon at the time. King Amanullah also granted women freedom of press through publishing, giving women a much more significant role in society. Although these were very Western ideals, Amanullah was distinctly opposed to the British who he fought against for independence.

Contributing to this, the King aimed at giving the country their own official constitution to guarantee civil rights. In an International sense, Amanullah established their own national bank, and introduced the domestic Afghani currency. Although these reforms were far-reaching, major changes were already being noticed as literacy rates were rising substantially and greater freedoms were enjoyed in the country.

However, the full potential of his reforms disintegrated when the native tribes, who refused to have their privileges being taken from them, rebelled and shifted Amanullah's support. His call for less tribal influence and greater freedom in the country antagonised too many political, social and religious elites who, in response, demonised him. The main opposition was against his reforms towards women, who have practised their way of living for generations.

By the late 1920's a strong rebellion faced Amanullah's leadership and, refusing to fight his own people, King Amanullah Khan abdicated in 1929, and Afghanistan descended into a civil war.

Aaron Glynn

Titanic: Decisions that Made a Difference

The Titanic disaster of 1912 is probably the most well-known maritime disaster of all time. With an Oscar motion picture and countless documentaries to its name, everyone has probably heard of how on its maiden voyage, the unsinkable ship hit an iceberg and how after only two hours the ship had split in two and had landed on the ocean floor miles below the surface of the Atlantic. Many may not know how this disaster could have been easily avoided and how the ship should have reached New York with its 2200 passengers alive and well.

Moments before the ship collided with the iceberg the call was made to the deck from the crow's nest stating that an iceberg was dead ahead of the ship. In utter panic, the decision was made to try and turn to avoid the mammoth iceberg that lay before them. This quick decision may have sealed the fate of the Titanic. The Titanic did not turn fast enough and struck the iceberg on its starboard side piercing a total of five watertight compartments, one more than the ship could withstand. From my investigation I have found out that the turning of the ship may have caused the terminal damage. In a similar story to the Titanic, the ship SS Arizona also collided with an iceberg on a trans-Atlantic journey. The difference between the Titanic and the SS Arizona is that the Arizona did not sink, it limped back, broken and worn to the Canadian town of St. John where it went under repair. The main reason it survived was because instead of turning the ship struck the iceberg head on, destroying the front of the ship but only flooding the front 2 compartments of the vessel, leaving it afloat. I believe and am going to try and prove that if the Titanic had struck the iceberg from the front and if the decision was made to do so, the Titanic would not be the story that it is today and that most if not all of the 2200 passengers would have made it to New York.

I am also investigating how a fire reaching 1000 degrees Celsius, which may have raged in the coal bunker on the starboard side of the ship since leaving Southampton. This may have weakened the outer structure of the ship's hull enough to cause the damage received once the ship hit the iceberg. The idea that the shipyard used cheap rivets is also being investigated.

To complete this project I will need to find sources on the promising idea of a fire and also look into the use of cheap rivets on the ship after they ran out of the expensive ones used. I will get the help of the NUIG Archives to see if there is any information there which I can use to my advantage.

Daragh Conneely

Michael Cusack and the GAA's effect on the History of Irish Society

Coming from a GAA background and having a natural love for history meant that when the opportunity arose to combine both in my history project I couldn't turn it down. I always was intrigued about the foundation of the GAA and how it affected Irish culture following its foundation. The man who springs to mind when you think of the foundation of the GAA it's none other than Michael Cusack the founding father of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael [also known as CLG or GAA] if you were to translate CLG into English you would get Gaelic Athletic Association [GAA]

Michael Cusack himself was an intriguing and controversial character he came from a family of five in a remote part of the Burren North County Clare. Spotted in school from a young age Cusack was seen as better than average student and was made senior monitor elected to help the teacher. According to the District Inspector A.S Cowley, Michael was 'the most promising monitor in the district'. Michael went on to be a teacher and whilst he had not spent much time in Clare after this, his boyhood in the Burren had shaped his outlook, character and personality.

As a qualified teacher Cusack set up his own academy in Dublin. Sports were central to everyday life in the academy. Cusack was an active participant in rugby, cricket and athletics but soon turned his attention to the revival of hurling. His latent love for the game of hurling coupled with his desire for athletics led to his decision to found the GAA. On the first of November 1884 Michael Cusack along with Maurice Davin called a meeting in Hayes hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Together they founded the GAA with Davin becoming president and Cusack becoming secretary. Not only was Cusack a key part of the revival of the native Irish games but also a key member of the preservation of the Irish language. As part of the Irish language movement he set up a newspaper called the Celtic Times focusing on Irish culture.

For modern Irish history, sport and language no other trait has carried with him more from his Burren boyhood than that love for the national game of hurling and his grá for his native tongue of Irish

To further complete my history project I will hopefully gain access to the archives in NUIG as well as the James Hardiman library to gain additional information on Michael Cusack and with the help of the Breaking the S.E.A.L initiative I will be able to complete my project to a high standard.

A. Campbell

The Apollo 11 Moon Landings

Apollo 11 was the space flight that landed the first two humans on the Moon. Mission Commander Neil Armstrong and pilot Buzz Aldrin both American, landed the lunar module Eagle on July 20, 1969, at 20:18 UTC. Armstrong became the first to step onto the lunar surface six hours later on July 21 at 02:56:15 UTC; Aldrin joined him about 20 minutes later. They spent about two and quarter hours together outside the spacecraft, and collected 47.5 pounds (21.5 kg) of lunar material to bring back to Earth. Michael Collins piloted the command module Columbia alone in lunar orbit while they were on the Moon's surface. Armstrong and Aldrin spent just under a day on the lunar surface before rendezvousing with Columbia in lunar orbit.

I was in history class learning about the space race and Apollo 11 and I was mostly interested and also intrigued about Apollo 11 as it was the first spaceship to land a man on the moon and it had never been done before however as I got home I watched a documentary outlining the conspiracies of the Apollo 11 mission such as seeing.

The astronauts not being able have survived the trip because of exposure to radiation from the Van Allen radiation belt and galactic ambient radiation There are no stars in any of the photos; the Apollo 11 astronauts also claimed in a post-mission press conference to not remember any stars. The angle and colour of the shadows' are also inconsistent which has lead me to investigate whether or not the Apollo 11 moon landing took place and the lead up to it.

What will be involved in completing this project will be me going about looking for sources going to the library to go look for books on the Apollo 11 mission and also looking at my history textbook and also checking the archives in the NUIG college and watching some documentaries which will also help me complete this project as well as looking and interviews which will be salubrious towards completing this project

Sampson Ogundeko

Bloody Sunday: The Bog Side Massacre

I found this topic really enjoyable to do. During the Northern Ireland section on the Junior cert course I was really intrigued by the casualties suffered by innocent civilians. On how British soldiers could open fire on unarmed people. Bloody Sunday – sometimes called the Bog side Massacre – was an incident on 30 January 1972 in the Bog side area of Derry, Northern Ireland, when British soldiers shot 26 unarmed civilians during a peaceful protest march against internment. The events that took place in Derry on that day marked a major crossroads in Irish and British during the heart of The Troubles during the late 60s, through the 80s and to the late 90s. This made the project really easy to do as it interested me a lot. In this project I've explored the different debates between Catholics and Protestants and also the fierce debates between Unionists and Loyalists. Bloody Sunday – sometimes called the Bog side Massacre – was an incident on 30 January 1972 in the Bog side area of Derry, Northern Ireland, when British soldiers shot 26 unarmed civilians during a peaceful protest march against internment.

I learned that Bloody Sunday was a turning point in the Troubles. It led to direct imposition of direct rule from parliament in London. An estimated fifty thousand people attended the Derry marches and began to demand anti-Catholic discrimination. The Bloody Sunday Inquiry, which officially opened on Monday March 27, 2000, is headed by Lord Saville and his co-judges, John Toohey and William Hoyt. Since the Inquiry was announced in January 1998 they have amassed at least 60,000 pages of written submissions regarding the events. They have also interviewed nearly 1,500 civilians, soldiers, police officers, journalists and government officials. Many moving eyewitness accounts were given and shed light into the dark on who was responsible for the shooting. After the massacre in Derry the British Army's presence in Northern Ireland was frowned upon by the public and outcry for justice arose from the relatives of the deceased.

In order to complete this project I had to attend to different tasks. I had to go to the magnificent NUIG archives to look up valuable information for my project. I found the information very beneficial. I had to search up various accounts written up by journalists on various news outlets. I read many books on the event to enlighten my knowledge on the subject. The Breaking the Seal programme is very beneficial to me as it gives me a head start and a great foundation for my project and Leaving Certificate. The program offers the students taking part to increase their chances of receiving the grade they want. It also improves their skills as historians as they are required to research sources from the archives and various other places like the internet, books, newspapers, journals and etc.

Mark Boyle

The Assassination of Father Michael Griffin

My research project is based on the assassination of Father Michael Griffin, the series of events leading up to it and the key results of the assassination itself. I will be investigating both the social and political impacts the assassination had and how it was perceived by the general public.

Michael Griffin was born on the 18th of September 1892. After I looked at the National Census reports of the year 1901, I saw that he had five other siblings; Laurence, Patrick, Bridget, Annie and Sarah. All of his family were practicing Roman Catholics, and I believe this may have had an impact on the choice of his career in his adult years: a priest.

Using one of my sources, a book written by Brian Heffernan entitled 'Freedom and the Fifth Commandment: Catholic Priests and Political Violence in Ireland, 1919-21', I learned that on the night of the 14th of November 1920, in the midst of the Irish War for Independence, Father Griffin was abducted from his place of residence - 2 Montpellier Terrace - and taken to Lenaboy Castle, where he was interrogated for information regarding the War. Little was known of his whereabouts until exactly one week later, on the 20th of November, his body was found dumped in a bog near Barna. Upon further examination of the body, it was found that he had been shot in the head.

Father Griffin's funeral was held on the 23rd of November, and his funeral cortege took place through the streets of Galway. Huge masses of sympathisers attended (roughly 12,000) including three bishops and 150 priests.

A group of sports enthusiasts gathered in 1948 and in memory of Father Griffin, decided to name the football club they established after him: Father Griffins. Also, there is a road in Galway City called 'Father Griffin Road' in memory of his death and in honour of his legacy.

I feel attached to this project, and one of the reasons I decided to do my research project on this topic is because the monument erected in his memory is only a few minutes walk from where I live, and I would count myself lucky to do my research project on such a man.

Patrick McLoughlin

The Sinking of the Lusitania

My research topic is about the sinking of the Lusitania. I picked this as I found that it was really interesting and looked more and more into the topic. In my project I will write about how and why it happened and the consequences from this sinking.

This tragedy occurred on the 7th of May 1915 and was possibly one of the more cruel events that happened in history as it was just a cruise ship carrying many innocent people and did not deserve to be hit by a German U-boat. The Total number of people on the ship at the time was a huge figure of 1,959 passengers where sadly only 764 passengers had been saved which lead to 1,195 deaths. I will address all of this in my project and furthermore.

Another big part of the Sinking Of The Lusitania that i will discuss is why the German U-boat hit an innocent cruise ship. Although it was during World War 1 it still wasn't a good enough reason to attack an innocent cruise ship. Before the people left pier 54 (New York) most people were excited as it was the 201st passing made by the Lusitania and people were just there to get home to to even go on holidays.

A small majority of people however did think it was a bit dodgy as it was in the middle of war and they would basically be entering a war zone at times. Another reason people were confident that nothing was going to happen was because the Lusitania was one of the fastest boats out at sea and could flee from any enemy U-boat or any boat in general.

I will address what I have said above and a lot more in my actual project as this is a summary. I will also mention many other things and maybe give a small bit of detail from the captain at the time Commander William Thomas.

Adam Cameron

The Use of Torture by the French in the Algerian War of Independence

My project is The Use of Torture by the French in the Algerian War of Independence. The North African nation of Algeria (at the time considered by the French as a "département" of France) was a French colony from the 1830s until its eventual independence in 1962 following a bloody war which had begun 7 years earlier. Although exact figures are difficult to come up with, it is estimated that approximately 1.5 million Algerians died of war-related causes during this period.

The war is notable for its brutal and controversial use of torture, mostly on the part of the French, although they accused the Algerians of similar atrocities so as to justify their own actions. Hundreds of thousands of instances of torture were carried out on the Algerian population, particularly on those suspected of being involved in the FLN (Front de Libération Nationale, a nationalist movement during the war), with the methods of doing so including electric shock, hanging by the arms or legs, among other methods. Algerian women were raped, forced to remove their veils, and otherwise publicly humiliated.

Henri Alleg, a communist and director of the pro-independence "Alger républicain" newspaper in Algiers, the Algerian capital, recounted his personal experience of torture at the hands of the French in his biography "La question" ("The Question"). Published in 1958, the book caused a stir in France and was officially banned, however the book had already become a best-seller so any attempts at stopping its momentum were futile. Many leftist publishers also continued to publish the book in an act of defiance during the war. I used this book as a source, as well as the book "La torture et l'armée pendant la guerre d'Algérie (1954-1962)" ("Torture and the Army During the Algerian War") by Raphaëlle Branche.

How the torture was carried out, as well as French public opinion on it, was something I hoped to research for my project. The use of torture in the war, as well as the war itself, and France's colonial history remain controversial topics in France to this day, with recent French presidential candidates having differing opinions on the issues.

Kyle Guest

The Irish Involvement in the Battles of Jadotville and Elizabethsville

The Congo was a former colony of Belgium which gained independence on the 30th of June 1960. Not long after conflict was stirred up as the province of Katanga wanted to leave and become its own independent country under Moise Tshombe. The leaders of the new Republic of the Congo appealed to the UN to keep peace and prevent the new country breaking up. The UN answered and sent its peacekeepers from Sweden, and the main focus of this project, the Irish.

In the 4 year conflict 5,237 members of the Irish army served in the Congo as peacekeepers. It was to be the first time the Irish army fought abroad as we had a neutral stance in all wars. It would prove to be an invaluable experience to all the soldiers involved. The men were enthusiastic to be sent and the mood leaving for the Congo was that of optimism. The men were excited to be going abroad.

The equipment of the men will also be explored in this piece. The equipment was a mixed bag. Some men were equipped with modern weapons such as the FN FAL, while others were issued with WW2 weapons such as the Lee Enfield rifle and the Bren Gun machine gun. Armour support was more or less non-existent apart from a few old armoured cars.

Two battles will be examined in this project, Jadotville and Elizabethsville. At Jadotville 158 Irish soldiers found themselves besieged by Katanganese forces and their mercenary allies for 6 days. They only surrendered after exhausting all supplies, but not before inflicting heavy casualties on the Katanganese, and didn't lose a single life in the process. I have chosen also to take a look at Elizabethsville as my great-grandad was a medic among the Irish fighting there.

This project will also show how the men were treated upon arriving home to Ireland. This was different from soldier to soldier. For those who fought at Jadotville they were shunned for surrendering and were told they had brought shame to Ireland and the UN. However, for the vast majority of the troops returning home they were greatly respected as they had done the nation proud and showed that Ireland was a valuable part of the UN peacekeeping force, and that even though we were untested in combat we could hold our own.

Conghal Forde

Jesse Owens: The 1936 Berlin Olympics and the Impact of his Success

My research project is on Jesse Owens the black American athlete and his achievements in the 1936 Berlin Olympics and the controversy and drama that came with it. This topic intrigued me because these things. The fact that simply just because this man Jesse Owens was black could cause such up-roar and drama is in my opinion insane but it wasn't seen as insane instead it is seen as the 'norm' in our society. The colour of one's skin should not depict how we react and see them. People may not want to believe this is the truth but it very simply is the case and in the 1936 Olympics which was over 80 years ago and racism has gotten dramatically better since then. Even though Germany won most Olympic medals overall the fact that Jesse Owen beat German track and field athletes to four Olympic gold medals damaged Hitler and his aryan races reputation.

I really enjoyed researching and reading about how Hitler responded to Jesse Owen and even what the general public thought of him in America and of course in Germany. It would have been surreal to have been in Jesse Owen's shoes in the aftermath of his winnings and seeing the drama unfold from his point of view. I also found it very interesting learning about how Owen's teammates reacted to his success especially his white teammates. For me it was insightful to see whether they were truly happy for what he won for the USA nation or was race a bigger issue for them and would they have preferred him to have lost to a white athlete from another country. Owen is definitely one of the most interesting sportsmen I have ever read about or researched because unlike most other sportsmen his achievements go beyond the world of sport and his story gave a real image of racial conflict that shone a light on the corruption in this society and was one of the first big steps for civil rights movements in America.

Aside from the racial aspect in Owens achievements was how amazing he in fact achieved. He won four gold medals in the 100-meter dash, long-jump, 200-meter dash and the 400-meter relay. He is one of the most dominant Olympic track and field performers of all time. Not many other athletes would be capable of performing the way he did and probably won't see anything like it again for quite some time. Even though I would have found that very interesting I don't think I would have learnt so many new things and have been as fully invested as I was while researching this topic and I genuinely enjoyed researching it. At the beginning of this project I was dreading all the work, time and effort that I would have to put into it but by the time I was heading into my conclusive part of my project it was no longer felt like school work instead it was something I enjoyed.

Mark Pollard

Michael Cusack and the Gaelic Athletic Association

In Irish society, the GAA plays a major role in what we as a country value and support. In 2016 alone attendance at all senior intercounty championship matches not including the Allianz leagues was 1,384,996. This number shows the importance of the GAA in nearly all our lives. All of this wouldn't have been possible without one of the most famous GAA men of all time, Michael Cusack. This one man from Clare helped to shape the game that I love. He created the now biggest amateur organisation in the world in a small hotel in Thurles in that famous meeting in Lizzie Hayes's billiards-room. Born on 20 September 1847, in Carran in the region of the Burren in Co. Clare, Cusack was born into an Irish speaking family which could be where his love of everything Irish stemmed from. After becoming a teacher and moving to Dublin he became involved in the athletics scene with the Dublin Athletics Club (DAC) and after he successfully brought interest back into athletics he turned his attention to another neglected sport at the time, hurling. His involvement in the DAC can be seen in his foolscap diary of the minutes with a note on the inside of the foolscap. This can be viewed at NUIG library archive.

He wanted to bring interest back to nationalism and he wanted to do this through old Irish games such as hurling and Gaelic football. He got the incentive to find the GAA after the Dublin Hurling Club collapsed and decided to try and set up an organisation to promote Irish culture including his love of the language. During the athletic season of 1883\1884 he spent his time canvassing for support of this new organisation he was setting up. There was a hidden desire for this old game of hurling which originated from the legend of Cú Chulainn in the athletic clubs throughout Ireland. Cusack focused on areas outside of the capital which led to one of the first hurling games played at Ballinasloe Fair Green between the Metropolitans of Dublin which Cusack was a member of against Killimor of Galway. There was a very big crowd for such a game and spectators apparently continually encroached onto the pitch. "it ended abruptly when the home team scored and Cusack called off his men on the pretext that their opponents were too rough" *1. He also wrote in a newspaper article that the Galway men "slashed in a reckless and savage manner" *2.

After gathering a number of followers Cusack met with Bishop Dugann of Clonfert in his house in Loughrea in mid-August 1884 looking for his support of this new organisation he was creating. He directed them to seek sponsorship from Archbishop Croke of Cashel where the name 'Croke Park' originated. With sponsorship and some sort of following Cusack sent out letter to Athletic clubs throughout Ireland about a meeting in Hayes's hotel in Thurles 1st November 1884.

Bibliography:

*1&2 'Michael Cusack and the GAA' Marcus De Burca

Ethan Murphy

The Lived Experiences of People During the Berlin Blockade

The title of this research project is 'The Lived Experiences of People Living in Berlin during the Berlin Blockade, 1948-1949.' I am interested in this because this was a time in history like no other where a situation arose in which the Allies took action to protect and sustain a population of people with whom, only a few years previous, they had been at war with, bombing their cities and killing this same population. Additionally, this mass operation also became personalised in the actions of both the individual pilots of the Allies and the stories of the civilians. From the materials I have found on this topic, the vast majority of them are concerned with the logistical task of sustaining a city of more than 2 million people, and focus mainly on the stories of the pilots. There is little concerning the German civilian population. I think it will be interesting to try to re-address this balance and find the German's voices in this story.

The aims of this project are to firstly establish the political climate that produced the crisis of the Berlin Blockade. Secondly the project will aim to gain an insight into the lived experiences of the Allies in providing the Berlin Airlift, and then thirdly will investigate the lived experiences of the German civilians living and working through this crisis.

To meet these aims, the project will employ the following research questions:

1. What was the political climate that led to the Crisis in 1948? Who were the major political actors, and what were they trying to achieve?
2. What was it like for the Allied Forces trying to accomplish the massive task of the Berlin Blockade? What was their relationship to the German civilians?
3. What was it like for the German and other civilians trying to survive under the conditions of the imposed Berlin Blockade, in terms of safety and survival (food and shelter), and in terms of morale?

So far the materials I have been able to gather are, 'The Berlin Blockade' by Ann and John Tusa; 'Blockade: Berlin and the Cold War' by Eric Morris, and 'The Unheralded: Men and Women of the Berlin Blockade and Airlift' by Edwin Gere.

Dylan Keogh

British Policy In Response to the Hunger Strikes

While studying Junior Cert History, I learned of various people who had carried out hunger strikes as forms of protest. People like Ghandi in India fasted in protest of unfair treatment by his British colonial masters and in Cuba, a poet named Pedro Luis Boite died on hunger strike in prison for holding views against bot Batista and Castro. I find this form of protest fascinating and decided that I would look into the Hunger strikes in Ireland during 1981.

My project will look into the policy of the British in response to the hunger strikes as well in particular the propaganda used by the British and the IRA during this time. I will explore in depth, the reasons why both sides today claim the Hunger Strikes as a victory and the role the media played in this also. further more i will research the impact of the British propaganda on Irish society. In turn I will explore the impact the strike itself and the treatment of it in the media had on society in Ireland. I have three sources witch i will use to gather information to but into my essay, they are ten men dead by David Beoesford, Brendan Duddy's diary and Irishtimes.com.

While researching, One interesting thing I learned was about its impact, for example, the hunger strikes divided the Catholic Church along national lines, with the Irish hierarchy taking a markedly different approach to their English counterparts who were “stuck between a rock and a hard place” according to Marianne Elliott in her book ‘The Catholics of Ulster’.

The biggest issue for the Church was suicide. No matter how vociferously it denounced violence, (and in Catholic, but perhaps not secular, terms it was at times startlingly direct) it was either seen to be betraying its community by speaking out at all or not being tough enough by refusing to excommunicate the “men and women of violence”. This brought the spotlight onto the Catholic Church in a way that questioned its role in society.

Pearce Geoghegan

Dr. Mengele: Experimentation at Auschwitz-Birkenau

My aims for this project was to discover the extent of Mengele experimentation on twins and what he appeared as to the children and what he did to the twins regarding experimentation conditions and how they were treated in the Auschwitz Birkenau camp. To find a reliable source for the on goings of Dr. Mengele was difficult as he escaped Auschwitz taking his life's work and destroying all of what was left in his laboratories and experimentation rooms so the allies would not know the extent of his crimes against humanity. The most reliable source I could find was that of a pair of twins Eva Mozez Kor and Miriam Mozez were the pair of twins. And in the book Eva Mozez Kor speaks about how she and her sister survived and what they went through under the cruel guidance and directing of Mengele. I began to discover from her first hand experience about the lie she lead inside the gates of Auschwitz and how she survived the angel of death.

The two girls arrived on a train to the Auschwitz Birkenau camp and were greeted by crowds of thousands of Jews. They were being escorted like a normal prisoner until a German soldier rushed up screaming "Twins twins" and they were ripped away from their parents and taken to be prepared for their new life. They began like all twins they were given short hair cuts they were allowed to keep the bear minimum as a privilege of Mengele twins , they were given showers clothes were fumigated with an anti lice , their own clothes were returned to them as another privilege although they had a red cross on the back. They were then cataloged using tattoos and moved in to their housing. The barracks they would live-in were standard for all Mengele twins no windows permanent stench and bunk beds. The twins were straight away faced with the reality of being a Mengele twin with three dead bodies

The twins would face a large variety of struggles throughout their time as a Mengele twin and they would learn just what it was like to be one. They would have a strict regime to live by waking early bed late roll every morning. They would originally receive basic examinations with measurement being taken with by nurses of all their body parts. They measured the head with a calliper a metal device nurses gave number to the assistants and compared the sets of twins or every possible measurement, the size of ear lobes bridge of noses , size of our lips , the width o our and colour of our eyes. They compared the colour with each twin and it took three to four hours just to measure one ear. They were than photographed artist sketched and technicians took x-rays 5-6 times. This is the basics of what life as a Mengele twins entailed and the experimentation that was preformed on them

They underwent a strict regime of testing, three days a week they were marched to a lab or intensive studies leaving them exhausted the other 3 were in the blood labs in Birkenau. These examinations ranged hugely from experimentation at gender reassignment to the inner workings of the body. The blood tests were brutal and would leave patients very ill and when they passed or recovered their sibling would be given a shot of poison directly to the heart and immediate examination of the effects would occur.

Liam Brannigan

British Government Forces in Northern Ireland During the Troubles

I chose to do the British governments violations of human rights in northern Ireland during the troubles as my research project because of a book I found in the NUIG archives. My project is based on the human rights that the British violated and who did they do it to and why. I used two sources to get information on the topic , the first source is based on laws established by the British to obtain confessions which was done through torture, the second source I used has accounts of killings by British security forces.

The troubles, which began in the late 20th century in northern Ireland was fought between the protestant and catholics. The British army were sent over as peacekeepers but they broke many laws and human rights. There were ways the British government was able violate the rights of Irish people, this was because of laws established by the British government to obtain confessions usually by the use of torture. These laws are the first of my sources and the first law established was the emergency provisions act and the intimidation of human rights attorneys was set up as a result of increasing violence in 1973. The second act was the the prevention of terrorism act 1974. These laws set by the british government “ established a system designed to obtain confessions during extended periods of detention without criminal charge or access to counsel” this violated to right that no one can be subject to arbitrary arrest , detention or exile.

The second source I used is ‘violations of human rights in northern Ireland 1968-78’. This source by Fr. Denis Faul describes torture methods used and killings by the British. Torture methods include beatings electrical torture and many more including psycholological torture. These would be done at RUC interrogation centres. One victim Bernard o Connor stated “ I was kicked around the room by both men” and “ they held by nose and sealed my mouth closed”. This source also contains murders committed by the British, including john Gallagher who was shot dead by British security forces at a protest.

As much as 60 innocent people were killed from 1971-72 including a 22 year old “retarded boy” who was shot dead from 120 yards away for having his hand in his pocket while British soldiers were approaching.”Not only were these innocents” but they were also gunned down in front of there parents in a field. These killings and tortures violated the human rights “everyone has the right to life “ and “ no one should be subject to torture”

Patrick Egan

Adolf Hitler's Drug Use During World War Two

Adolf Hitler's Drug Use during World War Two is a topic that interests me greatly. I feel that it is important to know what state of mind Hitler was in and how his health fared during World War Two. My aims for this project were to find out what drugs Hitler was taking, when he started taking these drugs and why, and if these drugs influenced Hitler's judgement during World War Two..

In the later stages of World War 2, Adolf Hitler became a drug addict. Medications were recorded 1100 times, along with almost 800 injections, nearly one per recorded day. The wide array of drugs he consumed consisted of steroids, vitamins, calcium, glucose, hormonal medicines made from animal extracts , hormonal doping agents and Pervitin, which consisted of methamphetamine in tablet form. Although he had been taking some of these drugs already, drug use began in earnest in August 1941 after Hitler fell ill for the first time in years and missed a day's work. To avoid future illnesses, Hitler was given stronger drugs by his personal physician, Dr. Theo Morell, who facilitated Hitler's drug use. Morell would become vital to Hitler, as the daily injections led to Hitler's immune system being replaced by an artificial shield. Hitler's increasing drug usage resulted in his gradual withdrawal from public appearances and by the summer of 1942, his injection intake grew so large that extra syringes needed to be ordered to his headquarters.

On the 18th of July 1943, Hitler fell seriously ill before a meeting with Mussolini and required an immediate cure. Morell decided to administer Eukodal, a drug almost twice as pain relieving as morphine that has potential to cause a euphoric effect significantly greater than that of heroin. After being injected with Eukodal, Hitler instantly recovered and was given another dose before leaving for the meeting. Following the attempt on his life in July 1944, Hitler spiralled into addiction. He began taking cocaine in the form of nose and throat dabs ease the pain from his injuries, but Eukodal remained Hitler's drug of choice. In a typical week, he would take Eukodal four times, with a day's pause in between - the typical rhythm of an addict. Between the autumn of 1941 and the second half of 1944, Hitler rarely enjoyed a sober day. By November 1944, his veins were so wrecked that a crunching noise was made every time he received an injection. According to the philosopher Walter Benjamin, when you are taking Eukodal, "the thought of the outside world becomes almost a torture".

Interestingly, Hitler remained fully aware of his actions, staying sane until the end. The chemist and author Herman Rompp states that long term opiate abuse impairs intellectual creativity, but "there is no actual loss of earlier intellectual possession". Hitler's addiction did not alter his earlier beliefs, and his drug use is not an excuse for the monstrosities he committed during the war.

Nathan Flaherty

The Siege of Jadotville

I chose to do the siege of Jadotville. I chose this as my topic because it was the first real battle for any Irish soldier of that generation and it was a huge thing in Ireland at the time. The U.N sent over what was known as the 35th battalion to interfere in the battle of Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo on July 1960. This 35th battalion was a battalion full of only Irish soldiers to keep the peace between the soldiers of the Katanga state and the rebels in Katanga. The operation to keep the peace in the DR was known as “operation Morthor”.

The Katangese men attacked while the Irish troops were attending an open air mass hoping to catch them off guard. They were quickly spotted by an alert sentry. Sgt Billy Reid fired a warning shot at the Katangese troops. This Katangese army was made up of Belgian settlers, Luba tribesmen and mercenaries. The Katangese were said to have had up to 5,000 men attacking 155 Irish peacekeepers.

The Irish peace keepers held Jadotville from the Katangese for 6 days against 5,000 men fighting 155. The Irish troops surrendered after 6 days of hard warfare. Over the course of the 6 days the UN troops had only 5 wounded and killed 300 and injured up to 1,000 Katangese men. These UN troops were taken prisoner by the Katangese troops. These troops were held for one month in Congo prisons. The UN had to make talks of a cease fire with Katangese men. This was embarrassing for the UN to have to deal with Katangese savages. The 35th battalion was sent home and the 36th battalion came in replace of them.

These troops came home from long hard days of warfare and expected to be treated as heroes in the eyes of the Irish government but instead were treated as cowards for surrendering. This was hidden from the Irish people until the 20th century the real story came out about what really happened in Jadotville that month. Now that the truth did come out many years later the troops who fought in this battle are remembered as Irish heroes and will go down in books like other Irish heroes like Michael Collins etc.

Oisín Flaherty

The Events of Bloody Sunday, 1920

The events of Bloody Sunday, 21 November 1920 are regarded as a turning point in the military struggle between the IRA and the British military. Although the British were entirely superior in military power and wealth, they were faced with the guerrilla tactics employed by Michael Collins. There was great tension throughout Dublin as it was the epicentre of the IRA actions. The fighting came to a head on the 21st of November due to both actions by the British and Collins IRA.

Between the hours 7:00 and 11:00 of Bloody Sunday the 21st of November IRA men across Dublin city, known as the “squad” or “the 12 apostles”, which were 15 groups of 15 men, scattered to dark alleys and into hiding for they had performed individual coordinated attacks and assassinations which were engineered by Collins to hit 35 British targets that same night simultaneously at the agreed time of 9:00. On that morning 19 British targets were shot, however only 14 had died, 9 of which died in their pyjamas and one had died of his injuries at a later date making the death count 15.

Of those killed by the IRA, Ames, Angliss, Bennett, Dowling, MacLean and Price were Intelligence officers. Baggallay and Newberry were Court Martial officers not involved with Intelligence - had they been murdered on any other day, their deaths would have been unremarked by history. McCormack and Wilde appear to have been incorrectly targeted, and were innocent ex-officers. Fitzgerald was a policeman, who was probably mistaken for someone else. Smith was the landlord of a house that some of the army men were staying at and was probably "collateral". Morris and Garniss were Auxiliaries on their way to warn the barracks and were "collateral", as was Montgomery who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

However by Sunday afternoon Collins knew that an English reply to the killings was inevitable and the obvious target was the match between Dublin and Tipperary which the IRA and Collins try to call off. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bray at three was sending his troops in jeeps along with armoured cars on route to Croke Park to take their positions. The RICs, Black 'n Tans and the auxiliaries roles on the day was to search the Tipperary team for IRA men and to screen spectators for weapons as they left the stadium. The Black 'n Tans would handle the bulk of these searches.

However when the first truck crossed over the bridge of the canal the ticket seller alerted, “ambush!”. The Tans then poured out of jeeps onto the turnstiles. IRA men positioned in strategic lines of sight, such as trees and high wall, were shot and killed first. A row of Black'n Tans took position on the bridge and began firing wildly into the grounds while the auxiliaries and Black 'n Tans continued sweeping the grounds and panicked crowds with gun fire, some aiming and some aiming from the hip.

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