

Name of memorial: I.R.A. Memorial

Inventory No. 1441

Place: Clashmelcon/Clashmealcon

Address and map reference: Clashmelcon, Co. Kerry (on the coast, south-west of Ballybunion; a side road off the North Road near the Hopper Inn, signposted Clashmelcon Memorial).
Map reference: Q 817 365 (Sheet 63).
Co-ordinates: N 52.4679°; W 9.7405°.

Access: at all times **Parking:** adjacent. **Disabled access:** yes.

Position: at the roadside, in a walled enclosure, with a storyboard.

Description and dimensions: Celtic cross on a stepped plinth, within a low wall.
Height: appx. 350cms. Width of plinth: appx. 120cms.

Recorded by: Edward Bourke 21 May 2021.

Text: (Front)

1916

I nDúl cúimne

AR NA LAOCRACALMA

A FUAR BÁS AR SON

POBLACT NA héIREANN

IN AIBREÁN 1923

CPT TADÓIS Ó LAIGINN

FO CAP SÉAMUS MAC ÉINRÍ

ÓIS RAIGNALL HATAOBAE

ÓIS PÁDRAÍIS Ó SEAGHDA

ÓIS ÉAMONN Ó SHRÁINIIS

ÓIS TOMÁS MAC CRAC

R I P

ERECTED BY

THE NORTH KERRY

REPUBLICAN SOLDIERS

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

(East side)

The text of the song 'Beautiful Clashmealcon' (see photo).

(West side)

The text of a poem (see photo)

*MAINTAINED BY
NORTH KERRY
REPUBLICAN
SOLDIERS MEMORIAL
COMMITTEE 2001*

(Storyboard)

Siege Of Clashmealcon Caves

The last major tragedy of the civil war in north Kerry was the siege at Clashmealcon caves and the subsequent death of Timothy ("Aeroplane") Lyons and five companions. After spending almost a week about the middle of April 1923 trying to round up Lyons and his column in Causeway, the Free State troops on April 16 were led by James (Jimmy) McGrath to Dunworths cave, deep down on a cliff facing the Atlantic, where the Republicans were hiding. Two soldiers were killed while attempting to enter the cave. Failing to dislodge the Republicans, the Free State troops decided to starve them out. During the night of April 16 two of Lyons' men, Thomas (Tommy) McGrath (brother of Jimmy McGrath) and Patrick O'Shea were drowned while attempting to escape from the cave. Lyons himself surrendered on Wednesday morning April 18. While being raised to the cliff edge the rope on which he was dangling snapped and he fell back to the rocks below. He was seriously injured but the Free State troops above opened fire and riddled him with bullets. The other three trapped men, Edward Greaney, Rudge Hathaway (an Englishman who had deserted from the British forces) and James (Jim) McEnery, surrendered soon afterwards and were executed at Tralee on April 25.