

ÉIRE

8768

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF



COMHAIRLE NA MÍRE GAILE

For the Year ended 31st December, 1947.

PRESENTED TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE.

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Comhairle na Míre Gaile,

Tigh Laighean,

Baile Átha Cliath.

Gerald Boland, Esq., T.D.,

16 Feabhra, 1948.

Minister for Justice,

Government Buildings,

Dublin.

I have the honour to present the first Annual Report of Comhairle na Míre Gaile for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

The Comhairle came into existence on the 22nd April, 1947, with the passing of the Deeds of Bravery Act, 1947. Four meetings were held during the year.

It was decided that awards should take the following forms :

- (a) a Gold Medal and Certificate in recognition of deeds of outstanding heroism;
- (b) a Bronze Medal and Certificate where the degree of risk, while not of the exceptional standard necessary to qualify for the Gold Medal, is nevertheless, deemed to merit special recognition; and
- (c) a Certificate for efforts to save human life where the element of personal risk is substantial.

The Medal was designed by the well known artist, Mr. Richard King, 2 Vico Terrace, Dalkey, whose design was accepted by the Comhairle after a competition had been held. The Comhairle desires to acknowledge the expert assistance afforded by Mr. Michael Burke, A.R.H.A., A.N.C.A., Director of the National College of Art, Dr. George Furlong, Ph.D., Director of the National Art Gallery, and Mr. M. S. Dudley Westropp, who scrutinised the entries for the competition and whose final recommendation in favour of Mr. King's design was unanimously adopted. The Certificates were also designed by Mr. King.

The Act empowered the Comhairle to make awards for deeds of bravery performed since the 4th July, 1945, the date on which Dáil Éireann first agreed to make provision for the recognition of brave deeds. Eighty-three rescues since that date have been reported to the Comhairle and awards made in respect of 29 of them.

The table hereunder summarises the position :

	Considered	AWARDS MADE			No award made
		Gold Medal and Certificate	Bronze Medal and Certificate	Certificate only	
Rescues from drownings	74	—	—	23	51
Runaway Horses ...	3	—	—	3	—
Fire ...	1	—	—	—	1
Extrication from machinery ...	1	—	1	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	4	—	—	2	2
	83	—	1	28	54

More than one person took part in some of the rescues, so that awards were made to 40 persons, 39 of whom received Certificates. Only one rescuer was awarded a Bronze Medal. Two of those whose bravery was recognised died in their efforts to save persons from drowning.

The President has graciously consented to present any gold medals which may be awarded. The Comhairle decided that other awards would most fittingly be presented by Lord Mayors or Mayors, in County Boroughs or Boroughs, and outside these areas by Justices of the District Court. Supplies of Certificates are now available and arrangements are being made for presentation of those Certificates which have already been awarded. The die for the Medal, which is being produced by the British Mint, will not, however, be available for some months.

In connection with three rescues, the Comhairle recommended to the Minister for Justice that compensation should be paid for losses incurred by the rescuers, although the actions themselves, while exhibiting considerable bravery, did not qualify for awards having regard to the high standard which the Comhairle has set in those matters. The recommendations were implemented by the Minister.

The names of those to whom awards were made during the year are given in the Appendix to this Report.

(Signed) PROINNSIAS Ó FATHAIGH.
Cathaoirleach.

(Signed) PÁDRAIG Ó TERRAQIMH.

Secretary.

A P P E N D I X .

*List of Recipients of Awards made by Comhairle na
Mire Gaile during the year ended 31st December,
1947.*

BRONZE MEDAL AND CERTIFICATE :

Mr. Louis Gordon, Abbey Street, Portumna, Co. Galway.

MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES :

Francis McKenna, deceased, late of 7 Clarinda Park West,
Dunlaoghaire.

James Smith, deceased, late of 1 Richmond Crescent, North
Circular Road, Dublin.

CERTIFICATES :

Mr. Frank Byrne, 30 Sandmall, Limerick.

Mr. Patrick Brennan, 45 Barrack Street, Dundalk.

Mr. Michael Carr, Church Street, Charlestown.

Mr. Richard Carr, Sullivan's Quay, Cork.

Mr. John Carroll, River Street, Cloyne, Co. Cork.

Mr. Samuel Doherty, 61 St. Molleran's, Carrickbeg, Carrick-
on-Suir.

Mr. Louis Eiffe, Confey, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

Mr. James Faulkner, "Wayside," Salthill, Co. Galway.

Miss Antoinette Ferguson, Main Street, Rush, Co. Dublin.

Mr. Richard Flaherty, South Cross Lane, Youghal.

Mr. Gildas Gordon, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Sergeant John J. Hawkins, Garda Síochána, Ballyheigue,
Co. Kerry.

Mr. John Healy, South View, Clonmel.

Mr. Maurice Hickey, Windmill Hill, Youghal.

Mr. Richard Hickey, Windmill Hill, Youghal.

Mr. Patrick Jordan, 3 St. Kevin's Avenue, Blackpitts,
Dublin.

Mr. Joseph Lawless, 3 Pilot Cottages, Harbour Road, Dalkey.

Mr. Matthew Manning, 2 Galway's Alley, off Francis Street,
Cork.

Garda Eugene Monahan, Garda Síochána, Shandon, Cork.

Mr. Christopher Mulready, 128E Oliver Bond House, Dublin.

Mr. John Murphy, 26 North Main Street, Cork.

Mr. Patrick J. McCarthy, South View, Clonmel.

Mr. Michael McDonagh, Carrick Road, Dundalk.

Mr. John McNamara, Fort View, Larkin's Cross, Limerick.

Mr. Patrick O'Connor, 130 Howth Road, Dublin.

Dr. Séamas Ó Domhnaill, Providence Hospital, St. Helen's
Lancs.

Mr. Michael O'Donovan, 220 Cathedral Road, Cork.
Mr. James O'Hara, Barrack Street, Charlestown.
Mr. Michael O'Kane, 6 Moore Street, Dublin.
Mr. John O'Regan, Rosary Place, Midelton, Co. Cork.
Mr. Brian O'Reilly, 36 High Street, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.
Mr. Thomas Power, 2 Buttermilk Lane, Waterford.
Mr. Cecil Price, Church Street, Athlone.
Dr. James H. Sullivan, North Infirmary, Cork.
Mr. James Walsh, 8 St. Laurence Terrace, Waterford.
Mr. Patrick Walton, Ashtown Lodge, Castleknock, Co.
Dublin.
Master Thomas Woods, 19 Howth Road, Clontarf.

Mr. Michael O'Donoghue, 170 Cathedral Road, Cork.
Mr. James O'Hara, Barrack Street, Charlestown.
Mr. Michael O'Keefe, 6 Blaine Street, Dublin.
Mr. John O'Keefe, 100 North Strand, Dublin.
Mr. John O'Keefe, 100 North Strand, Dublin.
Mr. Thomas Power, 2 Balthamory Lane, Westport.
Mr. Cecil Price, Church Street, Athlone.
Mr. James H. Sullivan, North Limerick, Cork.
Mr. James Walsh, 8 St. Lawrence Terrace, Westford.
Mr. Patrick Walsh, 100 North Strand, Dublin.
Master Thomas Woods, 10 North Road, Clontarf.

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Houses of the Oireachtas