

# THE IRISH MARITIME FORUM

Increasing Awareness of Ireland's Maritime Dimension

## **REVOLUTION ON AN ISLAND MARITIME ASPECTS OF THE 1916 REBELLION THE NATIONAL MARITIME COLLEGE OF IRELAND 02 APRIL 2016**

### PROGRAMME

- 1030 Registration and coffee.  
1100 Introductory remarks - Captain James Robinson, The Irish Maritime Forum  
Chairman of the Morning Session, Dr John Borgonovo, School of History, UCC.  
1115 Dr Ian Speller, Maynooth University - The Influence of Sea Power on the  
1916 Rebellion,  
1200 Dr John Treacy - The Silent Shore; The attempt to land arms from the Aud.  
1240 Dr Gerard Dooley, UL - An underwater exploration of the Aud  
1310 Questions and general discussion.  
1330 Lunch  
Chairman of the Afternoon Session, Commander Brian Fitzgerald NS  
1415 Jerome Devitt - The Royal Navy; Insurrection and War Planning in Ireland -  
1840-70  
1455 Daire Brunicardi - The Royal Navy during the Easter Rebellion.  
1535 Questions and general discussion.  
1550 Closing statements.  
1600 Close of seminar.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

**Dr John Borgonovo** lectures in the School of History at University College Cork. He has published numerous books and articles relating to Ireland's First World War and Revolutionary experiences during the 1914-1923 period. His research extends to the US Navy's presence in Irish waters during the First World War and the National Army's amphibious landings in County Cork during 1922. He also co-organises UCC's maritime history conference series, 'A Safe Place for Ships'.

**Dr Ian Speller** is Director of the Centre for Military History and Strategic Studies and Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at Maynooth University. He also lectures at the Military College and has provided lectures and advice on military history and maritime strategy to a wide range of organisations that include the Irish Department of Defence, the UK Defence Academy and NATO Allied Maritime Command in Northwood. He is the author of numerous books and articles on naval warfare and maritime strategy including the recent books: *Understanding Naval Warfare* (Routledge, 2014) and *Small Navies. Strategy and policy for small navies in war and peace*, (Ashgate, 2014). The second edition of his co-authored book, *Understanding Modern Warfare* will be published by Cambridge University Press later this year.

**Dr John Treacy** was recently awarded his PhD from Mary Immaculate College in Limerick under the supervision of Dr Maura Cronin. His doctoral research focussed on the operational and administrative difficulties faced by the Irish Naval Service 1946-84. Dr Treacy is a regular contributor to both national and international conferences on defence and naval analysis. He is currently an official with the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

**Dr Gerard Dooly** received his Honours Degree in Electronic Engineering in 2003. Following this he worked on optical fibre based sensors at the Optical Fibre Sensors Research Centre at the University of Limerick and was awarded his PhD in 2008. He is currently working as a research fellow in the Mobile & Marine Robotics Research Centre at University of Limerick. He also has a keen interest in underwater shipwreck discovery, survey and identification and has participated in many deep water diving expeditions worldwide.

**Commander Brian FitzGerald** is the Officer in Charge of Planning, Policy and Enterprise at Naval Headquarters. He joined the Navy in 1982 and is a former captain of L.E. Ciara. Commander FitzGerald holds a Bachelor in Civil Law and a Masters degree in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies. He is also a member of the IMERC Board and the Spike Island Project Steering Committee.

**Jerome Devitt** is a final year Doctoral Candidate in Trinity College, Dublin. He was an Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholar between 2013-15. His thesis examines British Counterinsurgency in Ireland during the mid-Victorian period. In 2014 he won the inaugural Alan Villiers Postgraduate Naval History Essay Prize in Oxford.

**Daire Brunicardi** is a retired Senior Lecturer of the NMCI. He holds a BSc (Hons) in Nautical Science, is a Master Mariner and a Fellow of the Nautical Institute. He has served at sea in a variety of positions including service in the Navy, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He commanded LE Grainne for two years. He is the author of two books, 'The Seahound', the story of the Helga/Muirchu and 'Haulbowline', the story of the naval station in Cork Harbour. He is a founder member of The Irish Maritime Forum.

**Captain James Robinson** is retired from the Navy where he served for 36 years having spent 6 years in Irish Shipping. He has commanded LE Fola, Aisling, Emer and Eithne. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 1986 for actions while in command of LE Aisling. He has served as a UN Military Observer in the Lebanon and Sinai Desert and on the High Level Planning Group at the OSCE in Vienna. He retired as Officer Commanding Naval Operations Command. He was subsequently President of The Nautical Institute for two years and is the current Chairman

of the Executive Board. He is a Fellow of the Nautical Institute. He is a founder member of The Irish Maritime Forum.