

Cork City and County Archives

Series Level Description

Terence MacSwiney Letters 1917-1918 (Ref. IE CCCA/SM/759)

Identity Statement

Reference Code:	IE CCCA/SM/759
Title:	Terence MacSwiney Letters 1917-1918
Dates:	May 1917 – Apr 1918
Level of Description:	Series / Item
Extent:	3 items

Context

Creator

MacSwiney, Terence (1879-1920), Lord Mayor of Cork.

Archival History

Donated by Maura Morrish and Antoin O'Callaghan in 2010.

Biographical / Administrative History

Terence MacSwiney, republican politician and Lord Mayor of Cork, also Commanding Officer of Cork No.1 Brigade, Irish Volunteers / Irish Republican Army. Elected to the First Dáil as TD for the Mid-Cork area. Elected Lord Mayor of Cork following the murder of Lord Mayor Tomás MacCurtain in March 1920. Died on hunger strike at Brixton Prison, London in Oct. 1920. .

Content and Structure

Scope and Content

1. 16 May 1917

MS. letter from MacSwiney, 39 High Street, [Brown Yard, W. Worcester], to 'My dear Fred', Fred Murray, Sunday's Well, Cork. Concerns personal matters including hunting. 'I want the latest news from the Stalls. How about the Harriers ? ...there isn't a decent dog or a decent man in these parts. You could tramp the hills here any day without hearing a hound give tongue ! a most unhappy land....I can't help thinking of my last Sunday in the South side. I was out with three good dog fanciers, two of them from the South Parish....'.

(2pp)

2. 'Easter Monday Night' [?! Apr 1918]

MS. letter from MacSwiney to [Fred Murray, Sunday's Well], Cork, entitled 'Notes on Training contd.', relating to training of Irish Volunteers Cork Corps covering mobilisation, section commanders, attack and defence, night operations, cyclists, wireless, target practice, bayonet fighting, conscription plan , pistol and revolver shooting, close quarter fighting. 'My belief is that we should mobilise our men as a force [and] take the field....I hope to be with you before anything happens. I'm racking my brain to think of a plan for getting out of a crisis. Enemy on the alert. Police reported to Dublin that they could hear us drilling...Good luck to all the boys...!'

(7pp)

3. 3 April 1918

MS. letter from MacSwiney to 'F' (Fred Murray, Sunday's Well), 'This is my third letter. Concerns organisation and training of the Cork Corps Irish Volunteers, such as, 'Officers Class...try and keep this going...a lot of useful matter in Major Casserley's Book....most important matter [is] Demolitions and Barricades..!', and such as 'F, G & H Companies', Riverstown Coy (7) most important as they have a fair amount of stuff...!', and such as 'Camps', 'General Equipment', 'Conscription', '...This mornings papers show a toning down by England. If theyre going to wait on Convention - we may be out of time without any difficulty. Some think they may patch up a bit [and] give amnesty 'as usual', [and] then try conscription. They are idiots enough for anything....'.

(3pp)

Allied Materials

CCCA:

PR/4 Terence MacSwiney Lord Mayor Files

U/71 Terence MacSwiney, Diary and Memorial Card

CP/CO/M Cork City Council Minute Books

Conditions of Access and Use

Access: Open by appointment to those holding a current reader's ticket.

Language: English

Finding Aids: Series/Item Level Description.

Archivist's Note

Brian McGee
Archivist, CCCA
April 2011