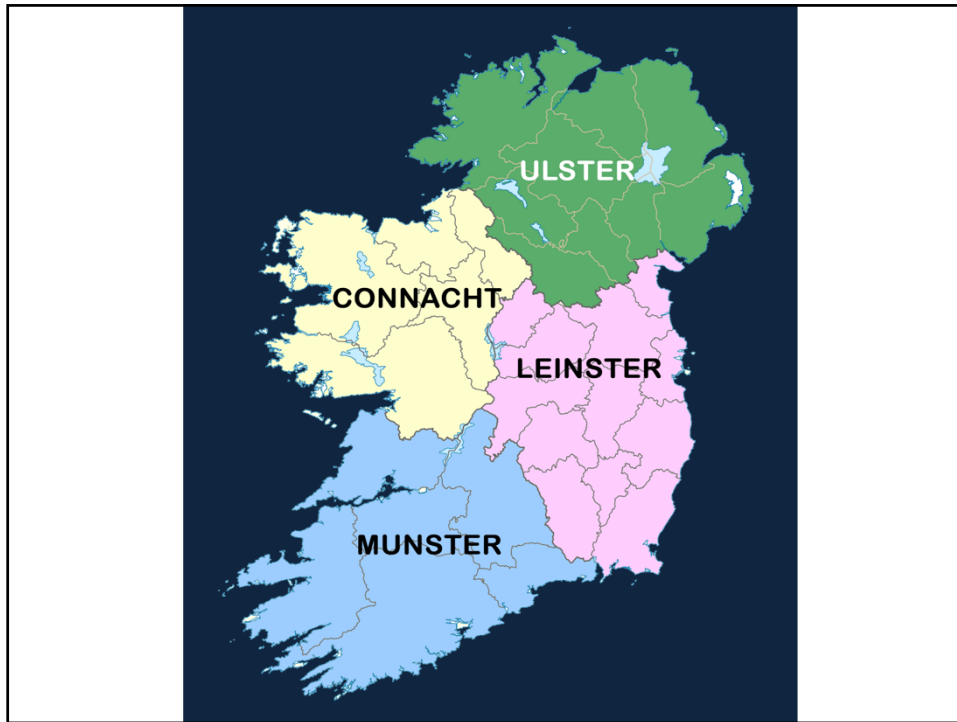




Introduction

- Ireland suffered through a number of English invasions and occupations throughout the past thousand years or so.
- Even after Irish independence in the early Twentieth Century, armed conflict continued as the Irish Republican Army waged armed conflict against the British government and against Northern Ireland Protestants.
- This session will review the Anglo-Irish Wars in general, but focus on the Nine Years' War of 1594-1603, commonly called Tyrone's Rebellion.









Significant Anglo-Irish wars


1169-1171	(Strongbow's) Norman Invasion of Ireland	Earl of Pembroke
1171-1175	English Invasion of Ireland (Treaty of Windsor)	Henry II / Norman lords
1177-1204	Norman Invasion of East Ulster	Sir John de Courcy
1529-1603	Tudor (Re) Conquest of Ireland	Ireland & Spain vs. England
1594-1603	The Nine Years' War (Tyrone's Rebellion)	Earl of Tyrone
1641-1652	Irish Rebellion of 1641 plus ongoing troubles	Irish Catholic Confederation
1652-1654	Anglo-Irish War	Anglo-Irish War
1795-1797	The United Irishmen Revolt	The United Irishmen
1798-1803	The Wicklow Mountains Guerilla Campaign	Michael Dwyer
1803	The Robert Emmet Rebellion	Robert Emmet
1867	The Fenian Rising of 1867	Fenian Brotherhood
April 24, 1916	The Easter Rising	Irish Republican Brotherhood
1919-1921	Irish War of Independence	Resulted in Irish Free State
1939-1940	The IRA Sabotage (England) Campaign	IRA
1956-1962	The IRA Border Campaign	IRA
1969-1998	The Northern Ireland Troubles	IRA

Nine Years' War (1594-1603)

Belligerents

 Confederation of Irish lords	 Kingdom of England
 Spain	 Kingdom of Ireland

Commanders and leaders

 Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, The O'Neill	 Sir William Fitzwilliam
 Hugh Roe O'Donnell, King of Tyrconnell	 Sir Henry Bagenal
 Hugh Maguire, Lord of Fermanagh	 Robert Devereaux, Earl of Essex
 General Juan del Águila, Spain	 Charles Blount, Baron Lord Mountjoy
Numerous others	 Cahir O'Doherty
	 Niall Garve O'Donnell

Strength

8,000 in Ulster (1594) (thousands joined)	~5–6,000 (before 1598)
9,000 in Munster	~18,000 (after 1598)
3,500 Spanish (1601)	

Casualties

~100,000 soldiers and Irish civilians (the vast majority died due to famine)	~30,000 soldiers (though more died from disease than in battle) and hundreds of English colonists
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English policy on Ireland

Henry VIII ● Sir Antony St. Leger and his advisor Thomas Cusack guided Henry VIII's Ireland policy. They aimed to conciliate the local Irish leaders, using money and patronage to buy acquiescence.

Mary I ● In 1556, Mary I appointed Thomas Radcliffe, 3rd Earl of Sussex, who had an uncompromising approach to the locals, as Lord Deputy.

- Conflicts with the MacDonnells (O'Donnells), a clan of Scottish descent in Ulster, resulted in battles in 1557 in Leix and Offaly. He confiscated territory and gave it to English settlers.
- Unsuccessful engagements were fought against the Ulster chieftain, Shane O'Neill.
- Radcliffe's approach created resentment in the Pale, and he was removed in 1564.

English policy on Ireland

- Elizabeth I**
- Sir Henry Sidney (1529-86) became Lord Deputy in 1565. His policies aimed to destroy Gaelic power in Leinster and Scottish power in Ulster.
 - Elizabeth had an uneasy peace with Shane O'Neill (1530-1567), who dominated Ulster.
 - Rivalry between the earls of Ormond (Butler) and Desmond (Fitzgerald) erupted into feuds between the minor chieftains.
 - Sidney's approach produced some success when the MacDonnells murdered Shane O'Neill in 1567.
 - His scheme to colonize Munster with English settlers led to a major rebellion led by the Earl of Desmond, who joined a small force of Italian and Spanish troops who landed in Ireland in 1589.

English policy on Ireland

- Sidney was replaced by Arthur Lord Grey, but it still took four years to suppress the revolts.
- Turlough O'Neill (1531-95) became Lord of Tyrone on Shane's death and tried to establish an independent Ulster power-base. The English backed Hugh O'Neill (1550-1616) as rival leader.
- When Hugh's father was murdered in 1560, the English raised Hugh in England as Elizabeth I's protégé. He returned to Ulster in 1567 under Sir Henry Sidney's protection. During the 1580 and 1584 rebellions, Hugh sided with the English.
- In 1585, Hugh was appointed the Earl of Tyrone.
- Hugh O'Neill had higher ambitions than being Elizabeth's favourite, and in the later 1580s began to make contacts with Rome and Spain.

English policy on Ireland

- ◆ In the 1590s, England governed Ulster through a Provincial Presidency, held by Sir Henry Bagenal. In 1591, Hugh eloped with Bagenal's sister, Mabel.
- ◆ Hugh showed loyalty to the crown by military support for Bagenal's 1593 campaign at Belleek against Hugh Maguire of Enniskillen Castle. Hugh directed his brother Cormac O'Neill to revolt, but himself pretended continued loyalty.
- ◆ Unfortunately, Mabel died in childbirth.
- ◆ Hugh O'Neill was effective at playing both sides. England saw rivalry between Turlough and Hugh as a means of weakening the powerful O'Neill clan, but as Hugh's power grew, the men reached agreement and Turlough abdicated in 1595. Hugh became "the O'Neill", the hereditary O'Neill chief.

THE NINE YEARS' WAR (TYRONE'S REBELLION) 1594-1603

The largest conflict of Elizabeth I's reign - one of the largest since The Hundred Years War and the War of Roses - was fought from 1594-1603 in Ireland. A hard fought and bloody conflict, the Irish Rebellion cost the crown a fortune.

A few of the Main Characters



Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone (1550-1616)



Hugh Roe O'Donnell*
Lord of Tyrconnel
(1572-1802)



Sir Henry Bagenal
(1556 - 1598),
Marshal of Ireland
Tyrone's brother-in



Robert Devereux**
Earl of Essex (1566-
1601)



Juan Del Águila y
Arellano (1545-1602)



Phillip II of Spain
(1527-1598) Elizabeth
I's brother-in-law



Elizabeth I of England
(1533-1603)



Sir Charles Blount**
Baron Mountjoy,
(1553-1606)

Overview of the Nine Years' War

- Revolt in Ireland came about with the rise of the O'Neill's of Tyrone in Ulster, led by Hugh O'Neill (b.1550-1616), who was popular with Elizabeth and her courtiers as well as in Ulster.
- The Irish Clans fought a successful guerrilla campaign despite large numbers of English soldiers in the field and heavy-handed occupation tactics. Disease and the poor command by Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex and his officers decimated English forces and cost the crown millions in coin.
- Hugh O'Neill, the Earl of Tyrone, led the Irish of Ulster against the Tudor claims to rule over all of Ireland and began a bloody war in 1594. This conflict finally ended only after the end of Tudor rule throughout Ireland and perhaps 100,000-125,000 casualties on both sides due to combat, famine, and disease.
- England under Charles Blount, Baron Mountjoy, eventually defeated the Irish rebels.

- The Tyrone rebellion collapsed after the siege and battle of Kinsale with the newly proclaimed English and Scottish King James then offering peace terms and amnesty to the rebels.
- James' actions were influenced by the 1604 *Treaty of London*, which ended the nineteen-year Anglo-Spanish War and influenced the Dutch Revolt, the French Wars of Religion, and the Nine Years' War. It didn't stop the 1605 Guy Fawkes plot.



IRELAND

during the
Nine Years' War
1594-1603

Although the Nine Years' War began as a regional conflict in Ulster in 1594, it eventually spread all over Ireland. Initial battles and sieges were contained in the north east with the Irish rebels gaining the upper hand. By 1600, the tide had turned in favour of the English who avenged their humiliating defeats with widespread victories.



- Although England was preoccupied with the threat of Spanish invasion and initially sent only limited forces to Ireland, early Irish successes provoked uprisings all over Ireland, with English settlers driven from their dwellings.
- Major defeats at the Battles of Clontibert (1595) and Yellow Ford (1598), and attempted Spanish invasion by sea in 1599 stopped only by weather convinced England that half-hearted measures would also fail.
- Charles Blount, Baron Mountjoy (1563-1606) who replaced Essex as Lord Deputy in 1600 set about defeating the Irish rebels militarily. He established a reliable supply chain, and then set about the systematic destruction of resistance.
- After decisively defeating Spanish and Irish troops at Kildare in 1602, Montjoy pursued Tyrone's army north and forced his unconditional surrender in 1603.
- While militarily successful, this war set the stage for Catholic-Protestant and Irish-English strife over the next four centuries.

Siege(s) of Enniskillen, 1594-1595

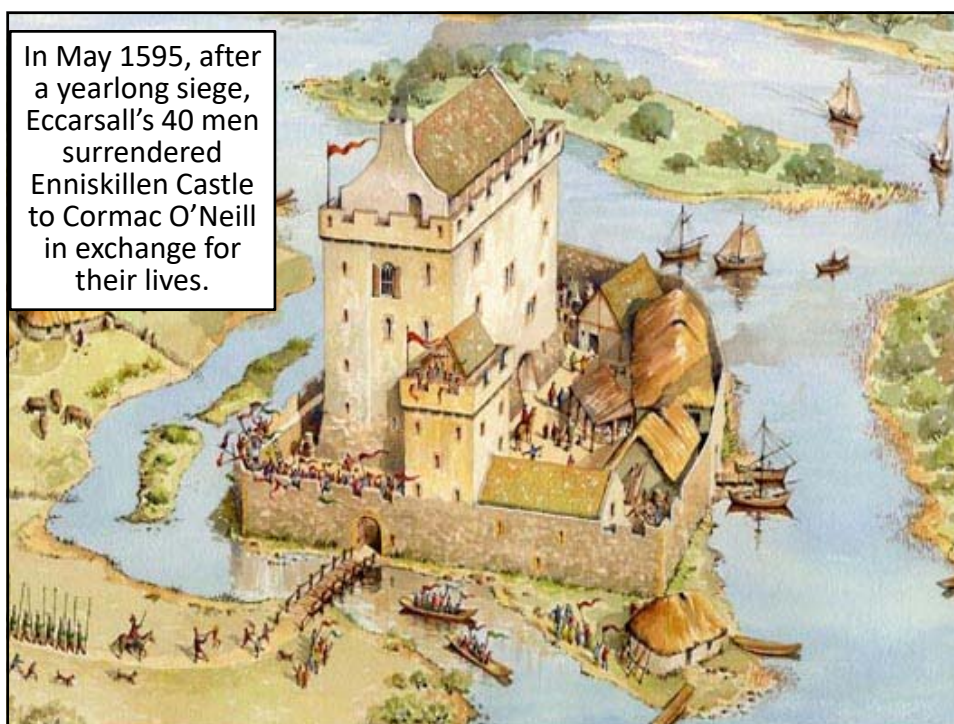
- This imposing castle of the Maguire clan changed hands multiple times before and during the Nine Years' War.

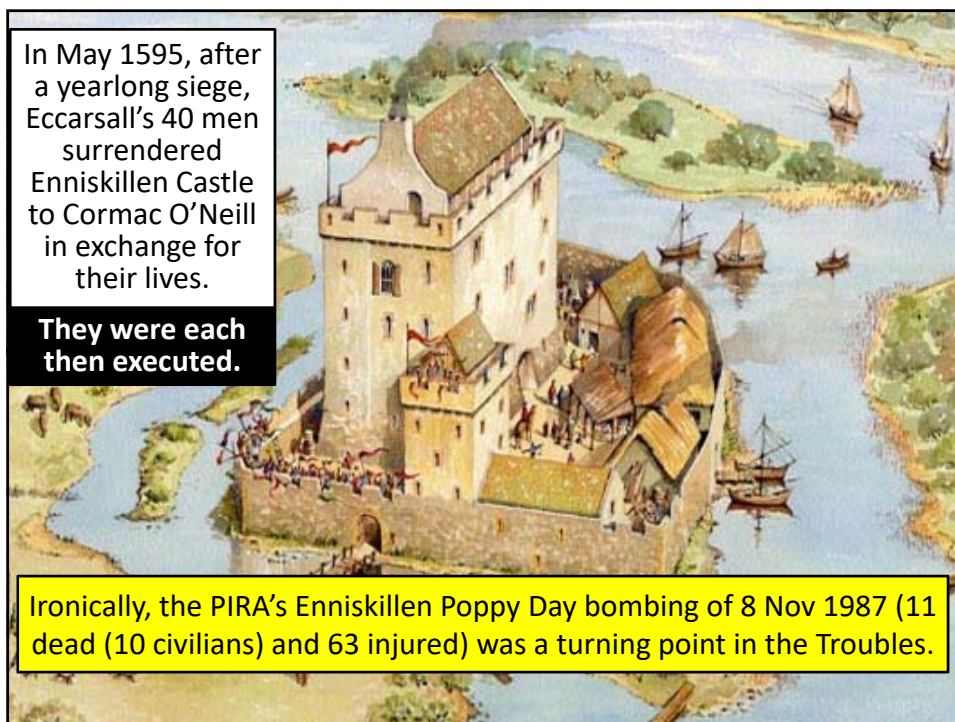
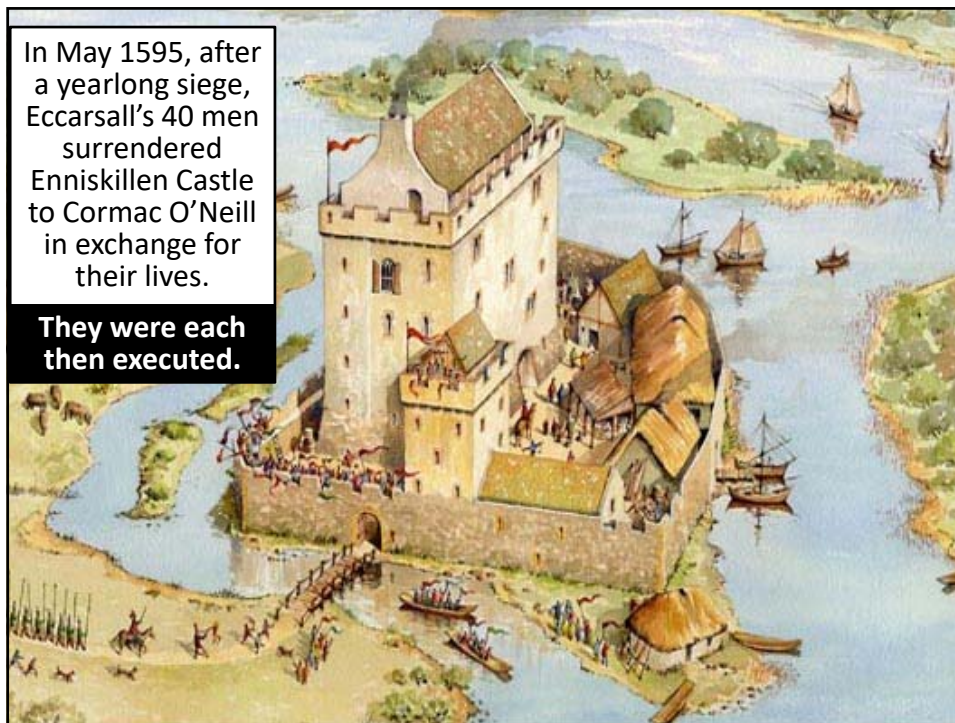


- After his defeat on 10 October 1593 by Sir Henry Bagenal and Hugh O'Neill at Belleek, Hugh Maguire retired to his Enniskillen Castle. Bagenal left Captain Dowdall with 300 soldiers 16 km south at Castle Skea to finish the Maguire rebellion.
- On 2 February 1594, Captain Dowdall captured Enniskillen Castle from the rebel Hugh Maguire. John Thomas, one of Dowdall's soldiers, drew a famous sketch of the capture.
 - The illustration conveys a message of Tudor power and triumph.
 - The state is represented by well-marshalled troops in battle order and its cannon pouring fire upon the traitor's castle.
 - Captain John Dowdall, stands openly in the centre of the action directing the siege in the face of his enemy.
 - In juxtaposition to this, no living Gaelic defenders are shown; the meaning is that they are cowering behind their walls, only poking their muskets out of the gun loops to fire inaccurately on the Crown soldiers. The only Gaelic defenders actually depicted are the bearded severed heads shown on stakes in Dowdall's camp.



- Maguire was determined to retake his stronghold. Soldiers were sent soldiers by Hugh O'Neill and Hugh Roe O'Donnell. O'Neill's brother, Cormac McBaron personally came to Fermanagh to aid Maguire at the head of Gaelic infantry.
- The Gaelic forces laid siege to the 40-man Enniskillen Castle garrison in mid May 1594. Eccarsall, constable of the castle, Eccarsall, sent letters to constable of Cavan for aid, to no avail.
- By 11 July, the siege had escalated, with Eccarsall's letters becoming more frantic in tone.
- On 7 August, a relief force was defeated less than 5 km away at the Battle of the Ford of the Biscuits.
- A second relief column brought supplies on 30 August.
- In January 1595, Maguire attacked at night and overran the outer defences, but the garrison held out in the tower. Taking their three boats, the rebels departed.







Battle of the Ford of the Biscuits

- The English sent 600 infantry and 40 cavalry under Sir Henry Duke and Sir Edward Herbert (Sheriffs of Cavan) and Captain John Fuller as Marshall on 4 August from Cavan 29 miles away to relieve the siege of Enniskillen. Heavily burdened with supplies, the trip was expected to take four days.
- The night of 6 August, rebels attacked and harassed the camp.
- As the column snaked north, it was harassed from both flanks.
- At the Amey River, 1,000-1,500 rebels under Hugh Maguire and Cormac O'Neill lay in wait in concealed positions.
- English scouts failed to spot the waiting rebels and dismounted in boggy ground near the ford. Approaching infantry received intense gunfire from across the river and halted. Then the main force attacked the rear of the column.

- English attempts to maneuver failed. Irish pike and Scots mercenaries charged the English rear, bunching them up.
- By now, English Div. 1 pike forced the crossing, pushed back the Irish shot, allowing the English to regroup north of the river.
- Engaged by rebel shot from the hills, a counterattack failed when its leader Captain Fuller was killed. Duke and Herbert retreated, using a nearby ford to recross the river.
- By now the rebels were looting the abandoned baggage train, giving the battle its name - "The Ford of the Biscuits" – and didn't pursue the defeated enemy.
- Due to that defeat and the ongoing Ulster troubles, Elizabeth I transferred 2,000 troops from northern Brittany to Ireland. Many "Brittany men" died in Ireland over the next eight years.

The Tyrone Rebellion begins, May 1595

- With the fall of Enniskillen Castle, Hugh O'Neill (2nd Earl of Tyrone) began a series of battles to remove a string of English garrisons along the southern border of his territory in Ulster.
- The Nine Years' War now officially began.
- The Irish leader promptly besieged the English garrison in the castle at Monaghan.
- Equally promptly, Sir Henry Bagenal went to its relief from the English base Dundalk.
- The bogs, hills and woods of the Irish countryside are perfect for guerrilla warfare.



Battle of Clontibret, May 1595

- Hugh O'Neill besieged the English garrison at Monaghan Castle.
- Sir Henry Bagenal marched to its relief on 25 May 1595 from Dundalk with an army of 1,750 troops. They were mostly infantry armed with muskets and pikes, but also some cavalry.
- During a two-day long running battle, Bagenal's men were ambushed to and from the Monaghan Castle.
 - The English lost 12 KIA and 30 WIA enroute to Monaghan to musket fire from woodlands along the route.
 - Using a different route, they left on 27 May only to meet a major ambush at a pass near Clontibret, where they were attacked by 4,000 Irishmen and Scottish mercenaries, supported by cavalry. The English had heavy losses (300-700 KIA) before night stopped the attack.
 - The Irish withdrew at night, having exhausted their powder.



Battle of Carrickfergus, 1597



The Battle of Carrickfergus, 1597

- With the rise of Tyrone's Rebellion in May 1595, the crown's only footholds in County Antrim were at Carrickfergus and a small garrison in Belfast Castle.
- The O'Donnell clan (transplanted Scots) played a wait and see game, facilitating Tyrone's arms shipments out of Scotland, but committing fully to neither Tyrone nor the crown.
- In 1597, the newly appointed governor of Carrickfergus Castle, Sir John Chichester, enjoyed some success against strongholds of the Clandeboye O'Neills. Chichester negotiated with Sorley Boy MacDonnell's nephew James MacSorley MacDonnell over a series of local raids. The Scots wanted reparations for certain cavalry raids carried out during the governor's absence and a meeting was set up for 4 November.
- Unknown to Chichester, MacSorley met with Tyrone on 1 Nov and been promised Tyrone's daughter hand and 500 Irish shot.

- At parley time, MacDonnell was approaching with 700 troops. Not to be one-upped, Chichester marched out five companies of foot four miles to meet them, and formed them up. Despite some veterans urging the governor to parley, he turned to his troop commander Captain Marmion and said:

"Now, Captain, yonder be your old friends. What say you? Shall we charge them?"

- As the English charged with Sir John and some mounted officers in the lead, the Scots pulled back over the hilly terrain, drawing them into a trap. MacDonnell had hidden 800 troops to his rear, including bowmen, swordsmen, pike and Irish shot.
- The Scots and Irish charged. Sir John fell and the English tried to fall back on the castle, from which streamed almost everyone left in the fort. Massacre was narrowly averted.
- Some 180 English died. Chichester's head was cut off, packed in a barrel and sent to the earl of Tyrone in Dungannon.



Battle of the Yellow Ford, 1598

- In 1597, Lord Deputy Thomas Burgh built a new fort on the river Blackwater five miles from the government's garrisoned town Armagh and 6-½ miles from the O'Neill HQ Dungannon. The river is the border between counties Armagh and Tyrone.
- The Blackwater fort was intended to facilitate later military excursions against O'Neill but soon after it was built, Hugh O'Neill, 2nd Earl of Tyrone, laid siege to it.
- In 1598, with the besieged garrison still intact but running out of supplies, Dublin debated whether to abandon or resupply it.
- Sir Henry Bagenal argued for resupply and in August 1598, was appointed to lead the expedition. About 4,000 troops were assigned to the expedition, a large number in those days.
- Naturally, O'Neills G2 picked up word of the approaching army.

Preparation for battle

- Bagenal marched from Dublin to the Armagh without incident. His main concern was that O'Neill would avoid a decisive fight. After all, he led the largest force yet deployed in Ulster, 4,000 experienced soldiers (3,500 infantry, 350 cavalry and artillery).
- O'Neill had been busy:
 - He received troops from O'Donnell and others.
 - He had English and Spanish advisors and many experienced officers and men.
 - Unlike prior Irish armies, over 80% of his 5,000 men carried calivers (portable muskets). They were supported by light pike and targeteers provided close protection.
 - Trenches and breastworks now covered the hilly terrain.



The battle of Yellow Ford

- Six regiments, about 4,000 men (infantry, cavalry and artillery) left Armagh at 0800 on 14 August in a mile-long formation, marching along low hills to the right of the River Callan.



- Sir Henry was highly experienced with Ulster warfare, and still bore a grudge against his brother-in-law O'Neill.

- Bagenal had six regiments of foot, two at the van, two in battle, and two in the rear. The cavalry were in the centre and the artillery pieces were being drawn by oxen. Drums played.
- Almost immediately, they came under gunfire from the woods. Individual regiments deployed to deal with the hit and run attacks, losing march formation.
- The artillery carts became stuck in a bog, so the rear regiment was ordered to stay with the artillery and catch up later.
- Then the lead regiment struck a mile long trench, 4 feet deep and 5 feet wide. They assaulted it under fire and got across, but then suffered heavy losses from massive firepower. It retreated in disarray over the trench, incurring more losses.
- At this point, Sir Henry was killed by a round through the head. He was later criticized for leading from the front.
- Sir Thomas Maria Wingfield took command and immediately the English gunpowder store exploded. He ordered a retreat.

- Alas, the forward commander (Captain Crosby) didn't retreat and tried to maintain his position at the Yellow Ford. Seeing their confusion, Gaelic cavalry and swordsmen rushed them and killed them to a man (including wounded survivors).
- The Irish moved to cut the English off at the River Callan, but the retreat had caught up to the cannon, whose fire checked the attack.
- Finally, Irish fire slackened as the rebel's ammunition was exhausted. English Captain Cuney stated:

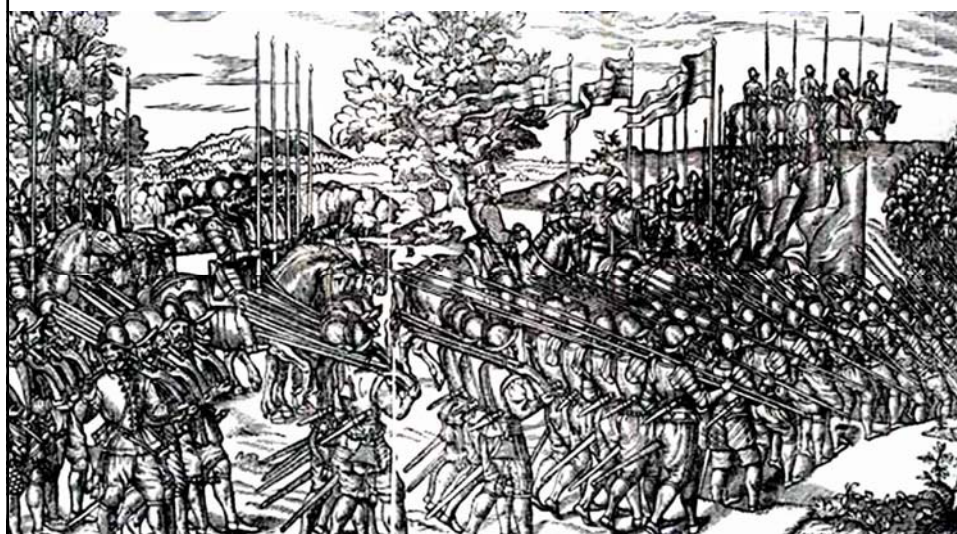
“If O'Neill's pike had come on as his shot, none of our men would have survived.”
- Across the River Callan, the English army returned to Armagh. Only 2,000 returned out of the 4,000 who departed, and they became virtual prisoners inside the town.
- In contrast , the Gaelic forces lost some 200-300 killed.

The aftermath

- The cavalry broke under Montague broke out and took the bad news to Dublin.
- After three days of negotiations, the rest of the crown troops were allowed to leave Armagh in peace provided:
 - The garrison of the Blackwater Fort capitulated.
 - Their arms and ammunition were left behind.
- This was Tyrone's last major victory. Rather than finish off the enemy in Dublin, he settled for an eight month uneasy peace while England went berserk.

England arrives to bring law and order to Ireland

- A 17,300 man English Army under Earl of Essex landed in April 1599 to put down rebellion of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone.



- Following the English defeat, many southern Gaelic clans began to come out to the side of Hugh O' Neill. Munster clans tried to rid their territories of the hated Protestant invaders.
- In Leinster, the O'Byrnes , O'Moores and other clans pressed hard on the Pale around Dublin to drive out settlers.
- Connaught fell under the almost total control of Hugh Rua O'Donnell.
- The Irish believed that the King of Spain and the Pope would send troops and weaponry. Dublin English authorities feared destruction and wanted to make a treaty with Hugh O'Neill.
- **Queen Elizabeth I, though, was angry with her former favourite.** She also knew that Ireland in the hands of the Spanish would place England in great danger.
- Thus was raised the largest army ever to invade Ireland under the control of the earl of Essex, Robert Devereux, another favourite.

- Devereux arrived as the new Lord Lieutenant with an army of:
 - 16,000 foot soldiers (20 regiments)
 - 1,300 mounted troops
- As he neared Dublin a ship carrying the pro-English 13th Earl of Kildare, William FitzGerald, and 18 other chiefs of Meath and Fingall came out to meet him. However there were heavy seas and their ship capsized taking the lords down with it.
- Turning south to relieve the Pale rather than north to fight The O'Neill. He left 1,000 men as defenders before turning north, bleeding men from numerous small ambushes and battles and sicknesses like dysentery and typhoid.
- He took the advice of the Irish privy council, to settle the south of the country with garrisons before making an attempt on Ulster, but this dissipated his forces and he ended up suffering numerous setbacks and desultory progress, largely due to lack of administrative efficiency in Dublin and England.

- Meanwhile, Hugh O'Neill was marching on Dublin, so Essex turned around and the armies faced off on the river Lurgan near Drumcondra. The two leaders signed a six weeks renewable peace treaty with a two weeks break-off clause.
- **Elizabeth was not amused!** (She did admit later that it was "so seasonably made...as great good...has grown by it.")
- Under heavy criticism in London but trusting in his personal relationship with the Queen, Devereux travelled to London without the Queen's permission. He burst in on her in her bedchamber. **Elizabeth was not amused!**
- Devereux was imprisoned in the Tower, then beheaded.
- In November 1599 O'Neill sent a 22-paragraph document to Queen Elizabeth, listing terms for peace like a self-governing Ireland, restitution of confiscated lands, freedom of movement and a strong Roman Catholic identity. Elizabeth's adviser Sir Robert Cecil wrote "Ewtopia" on the document.





Battle of Curlew Pass, 15 Aug 1599

- Irish rebels led by Red Hugh O'Donnell ambushed 2,800 English (1,500 infantry and 300 heavy cavalry) under Sir Conyers Clifford. This was the worst of Devereaux's disastrous expeditions, which Red Hugh O'Donnell absolutely mauled.



- Marching to relieve a siege at Irish ally O'Conner's Collooney Castle in Sligo, the experienced Sir Conyers Clifford was sent to relieve the castle with 2,500 English infantry and 300 cavalry.
- As in other battles, several thousand Gaelic rebels prepared an ambush site in the Curlew Mountains along the English line of march. The felled trees over the roads to be used.
- Musketeers, archers and javelin men were placed along the road; the main body of infantry with pikes and axes were out of sight behind ridge of the mountain.
- In hot August weather, Clifford's exhausted men pushed into the mountains only to face gunfire, javelins and arrows. They pushed on, oblivious to 600 rebels moving behind them.
- The English vanguard continued forward, driving the Irish back. The further they advanced the more intense the opposition. Finally, there was a 90 minute firefight. Although English powder was getting low, the Irish continued to blast away.

- Just as the English thought things couldn't get worse, and men were already deserting, MacDermott ordered the pipes blown.
- At this point, badly wounded Sir Alexander Radcliffe was ordering a recalcitrant Henry Cosby to lead an attack:

"I see, Cosby, that I must leave thee to thy baseness, but will tell thee ere I go that it were better to die in the hands of thy countrymen than at my return to perish by my sword".

- Cosby's half-hearted attack failed, further destroying morale.
- Then Brian Og released his 160 gallowglasses.

"...pycked and scelested men of great and mightie bodies, crewell without compassion. The greatest force of the battell consisteth in them, chosing rather to dye than to yeelde, so that when yt cometh to handy blowes they are quickly slayne or win the fielde."

- Vanguard commander Sir Alexander Radcliffe could no longer control his troops. Leading a charge with his remaining pikemen, he was shot dead.
- Now the main body closed in from the front, and the other 600 from the rear. Attempting to rally his men, Sir Conyers Clifford was shot through the chest and died. Despite this, the rearguard managed to maintain discipline.
- Something weird now occurred. Cavalry under Sir Griffin Markham charged uphill ("*amongst rocks and bogs where never horse was seen to charge before*") and drove the enemy back and the surviving English regrouped.
- Og led his gallowglasses against the cavalry and ran them off, but they had given time for many of the infantry to escape and flee to Boyne, pursued all the way by the gallowglasses.
- The English lost some 1,400 KIA out of 2,800. If the 2,500 Gaelic fighters, some 240 were killed or wounded.

Lord Deputy / Lieutenant of Ireland

Essex



Robert Devereaux
Earl of Essex

Lord Deputy / Lieutenant of Ireland

Essex



Robert Devereaux
Earl of Essex

Lord Deputy / Lieutenant of Ireland

Essex



Robert Devereaux
Earl of Essex

Lord Mountjoy



Sir Charles Blount
Earl of Devonshire

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Essex



Robert Devereaux
Earl of Essex

Lord Mountjoy



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Earl of Devonshire

Lord Deputy / Lieutenant of Ireland

Lord Mountjoy



Sir Charles Blount
Earl of Devonshire



- Lord Mountjoy proved to be a more able commander than Earl Essex, though his greater success could just as well have been because he was provided with all of the administrative support Essex lacked.
- In addition, two veterans of Irish warfare, George Carew and Arthur Chichester, were given commands in Munster and Ulster respectively.



Battle of Moyry Pass, Sep-Oct 1600

- The Battle of Moyry Pass was the first significant engagement of forces following the ceasefire agreed in the previous year between the Irish leader Hugh O'Neill and the Earl of Essex.
- With Essex's death, the new commander, Lord Mountjoy, sought to establish a garrison near Armagh in Ulster as one of a ring of fortresses on O'Neill's borders. To do this, he had to get through Moyry pass, defended by Rebels.
- The Irish had constructed three lines of barricaded trenches, with additional stone works and plashed trees on the heights.
- English reconnaissance on 26 September lost 12 dead and 30 wounded, but scouted out the defences.
- When weather cleared on 2 Oct, Sir Samuel Bagnall led a 5 regiment frontal assault and penetrated the first line, only to find themselves in a trap fired on from three sides. It took 3 hours to extricate themselves. Report: 46 KIA, 120 WIA.

- On 5 October, Mountjoy tried to bypass the line with two regiments over the west hill while cavalry and another regiment again tried the centre. Reported 50 KIA, 200 WIA.
- On 9 October, Mountjoy gave up and retired to Dundalk.
- On 14 October, word reached the English that Red Hugh had abandoned the Pass (low on food? ammunition? afraid of a flanking attack? his levied troops wanted to go home?).
- 17 October, Mountjoy reached the unguarded pass and dismantled the defences. After a stay at Carrickban, Mountjoy built a fort at Mountnorris and garrisoned it, and returned to Dundalk.
- On 13 November, Red Hugh ambushed the English near Fathorn Pass. Reported 20 KIA and 80 WIA.

Mountjoy reported 900-1200 Irish casualties vs 200 English KIA and 400 WIA from 20 September to 13 November. These figures are widely seen to be political rather than actual.



Battle of Lifford, October 1600

- Lifford, a traditional stronghold of the O'Donnell clan, stands where the River Finn and Mourne meet to form the Foyle. A mixed Anglo-Irish force of 500 under Sir John Bolles and the Gaelic leaders Niall Garve O'Donnell and Sir Arthur O'Neill captured strategic Lifford from 30 Rebel defenders, who tried unsuccessfully to burn the castle before withdrawing.
- Niall had fought alongside Hugh O'Neill and his brother-in-law Red Hugh, but changed sides when English landed at Derry. Furious, Red Hugh O'Donnell killed Niall's younger son. Niall and Red Hugh now both claimed O'Donnell clan leadership.
- Red Hugh immediately assaulted Castle Finn, but withdrew leaving about 12 dead on each side. Red Hugh then besieged the town to starve out the defenders, aided by Scotsmen hired by his mum. After three weeks, the battle was joined.



Siege of Donegal, 1601

- Red Hugh Roe O'Donnell laid siege to a settlement at Donegal, garrisoned by a mixture of Irish Army troops and Gaelic forces loyal to the Crown led by Niall Garve O'Donnell and Conn O'Donnell. Heavy fighting took place during the month-long siege in which Donegal Abbey was wrecked by an accidental gunpowder explosion.



Donegal Friary, County Donegal

- Having suffered several repulses Hugh Roe O'Donnell abandoned the siege and moved his army southwards to Munster to take part in the Battle of Kinsale. In his absence Crown forces were able to use Donegal as a base to capture the strategic town of Ballyshannon.

- Neither side gained ascendancy. Finally, Red Hugh called off the siege.
- Having made terms with the English government and serving them during the rebellion, Niall Garve tried to become chief of the O'Donnells after Red Hugh departed Ireland in 1602, but was disputed by Red Hugh's younger brother Rory. They went to London to resolve the issue, where Rory was elevated to Earl of Tyrconnell as territorial Lord; Niall was granted some land by James I for his service to the crown.
- As an aside, Niall Garve's wife Nuala (Red Hugh and Rory's sister) left Niall when he joined the English.
- Niall Garve was later accused of turning against the crown and charged with complicity. Rightly or wrongly, he and his son were imprisoned for life in the Tower of London.







Battle of Kinsale, Oct 1601-Jan 1602

- Though not the final battle of the Nine Years' War, the Battle of Kinsale was the most significant.
- On 21 September 1601, 28 Spanish ships occupied the Irish port at Kinsale with 3,300 men under General del Águila. Another fleet with 1,000 turned back at sea due to weather.
- They should never have gone into marginally defensible Kinsale. O'Neill had sent word that unless the army exceeded 6,000 it should land in the north where O'Neill and O'Donnell could link up. But the winds didn't cooperate.
- Mountjoy's response was rapid and decisive; arriving in Cork on 27 September with 3,000, he sealed up the Spaniards in Kinsale, seized the forts around the harbour and sealed off the haven. 4,000 more join the siege on Kinsale.
- O'Neill and his chief ally O'Donnell reluctantly marched south, O'Donnell on 23 October and O'Neill a week later.

Battle of Kinsale, 2 Oct 1601 - 3 Jan 1602

Belligerents

 Confederation of Irish lords	 Kingdom of England
 Spain	 Kingdom of Ireland

Commanders and leaders

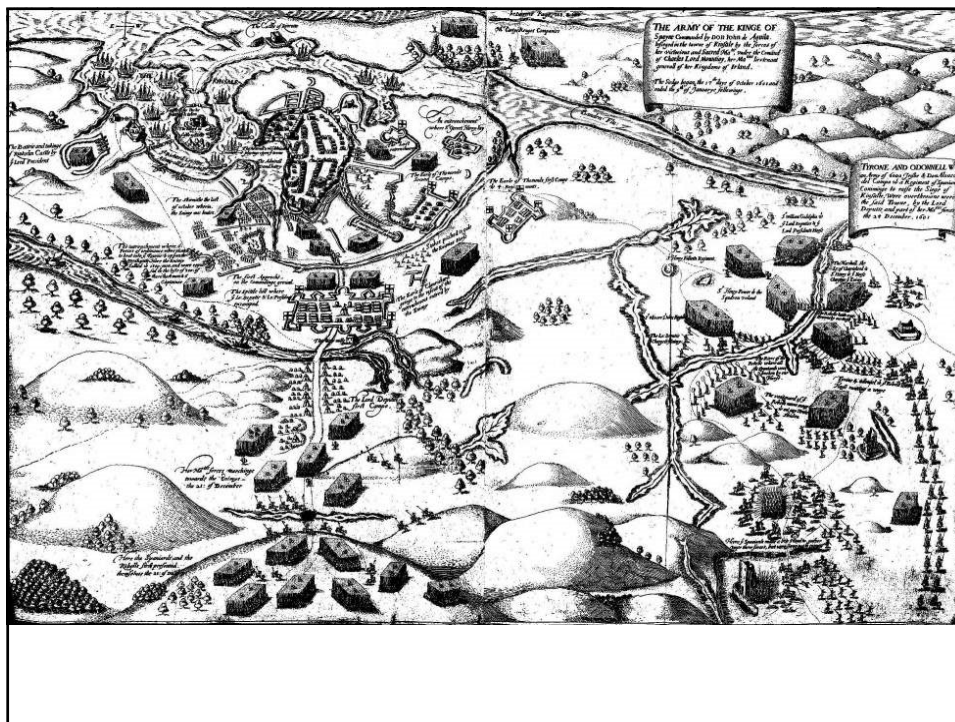
 Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, The O'Neill	 Charles Blount, Baron Lord Mountjoy
 Hugh Roe O'Donnell, King of Tyrconnell	 George Carew
 Captain Richard Tyrell	 Richard Leveson
 General Juan del Águila, Spain	 Donogh O'Brien

Strength

Irish Alliance: 6,182	11,800 infantry
Spanish: 3,500	857 cavalry

Casualties

Irish alliance 1,200 KIA, WIA + CIA (later executed)	Unknown battlefield casualties
Spanish 100 KIA or WIA; 3,400 surrendered	~6,000 soldiers deserted, sick or dead to disease



- Some Spanish reinforcements arrived on 1 December, while O'Donnell and O'Neil linked up on 15 December.
- Mountjoy's forces could not fully surround Kinsale, but they occupied higher ground and fired artillery constantly. Admiral Levenson's ten ship fleet cut the town off from the sea. English cavalry plundered the surrounding country destroying livestock and crops.
- O'Neill and O'Donnell's forces cut the English supply lines.
- Fighting began the evening of Christmas Eve. Tyrell, O'Neill and O'Donnell each led a column through the night, but failed to reach their destination by dawn.
- Aware from scouts of the movements, Mountjoy moved his troops to meet the enemy at a ridge northwest of town.
- O'Neill controlled the ridge, and intended to fight for it, with support from the others. Del Águila put up a fierce defense.

- But Del Águila instructions were to hold the town until relieved, and the Irish forces under Tyrell and O'Donnell failed to move.
- O'Neill then ordered a withdrawal into marshes hoping to draw in the English cavalry, but it didn't work. The cavalry made mincemeat of O'Neill's force and charged through them to stop a flanking attack by O'Donnell.
- The Irish levies simply weren't well-enough trained for pitched battle against a professional military force.
- The Spanish tried to hold up the English charge and prevent a massacre of the retreating Irish. In the end, about 80% of the Irish fled back to Ulster, but about 20% - or some 1,200 men - didn't leave the Kinsale battlefield alive.
- Nine days later after a standoff, Mountjoy offered honourable terms to the Spanish and they sailed back to Spain.



Battle of Castlehaven, 6 Dec 1601

"... s  k   the Spanish fl  t   at Castlehaven, to take them if he could, or otherwise to distress them as much as he might."

- A naval battle that took place on 6 December 1601 in the bay off Castlehaven between a Spanish naval convoy of six ships and an English fleet of four warships (*Warspite*, *Defiance*, *Swiftsure*, and *Merlin*) commanded by Admiral Richard Leveson.
- Although protected by fortified positions on shore, a castle and 600 Spanish and Irish footmen, five out of six Spanish ships were either sunk, captured or run aground in the battle.
- Despite 150 casualties, no English ships were lost, but the fleet had suffered damage. *Warspite* was hit by 209 cannonballs and suffered 12 killed and 40 wounded. Ammunition exhausted, Levenson had his battered fleet towed back to Kinsale.



Siege of Dunboy Castle, 5-18 Jun 1602

- After Kinsale, Donal Cam O'Sullivan Beare, Prince of Beare, 1st Count of Berehaven, resolved to continue the fight and rallied his forces at Dunboy. Capturing the castle from a small Spanish force, he left 143 of his best men to garrison it, taking most of his force to get money and supplies from a newly arrived Spanish ship near Ardea Castle.
- George Carew, Lord President of Munster, arrived with 5,000 men, artillery, and O'Sullivan's cousin.
- Learning of a weak point in the castle walls at a staircase from Owen O'Sullivan, Carew began the siege with artillery. Within 10 days, the castle was in ruins. CPT Richard Mac Geoghegan sent a messenger requesting terms; Carew hung him in sight. They held out another day, fighting hand to hand in the ruins. Any captured alive were hung, lastly Friar Dominic Collins.



- O'Sullivan then went on a campaign of guerrilla warfare around West Cork, taking at least six castles. Faced with overwhelming odds and starvation, he and a 1000 men, women and children set to march to the north of Ireland ("O'Sullivan's March").
- Besieged by enemies, exposure and hunger throughout the journey, only 35 arrived at the refuge of O'Rourke's castle in Leitrim. Most had died, but some had settled along the route, where their descendants are known to this date as 'the Beres'.
- O'Sullivan joined with northern chiefs in Leitrim to fight the English, but resistance ended when the Earl of Tyrone successfully sued for peace and swore an oath of loyalty to the English crown.
- O'Sullivan declined this option and sought exile in Spain, where he was later murdered.

The ruins of Dunboy Castle



The Aftermath of the War

- Since 1541 (Henry VIII) English power had been restricted to the area around Dublin called the “Pale”.
- Elizabethan England aggressively settled Ireland with English and Scots Protestant settlers. They did not intermarry.
- Half a million acres of the depopulated Munster lands were given to English settlers who saw themselves as an English garrison surrounded by a hostile inferior people. However they did not clear the Irish off their lands.
- After Kinsale, things were different. Post-Elizabethan policy adopted in the northern counties of the province (plantation) of Ulster brought about the systematic clearing of the fertile lands of Ulster, bringing in very large numbers of Lowland Scottish farmer families and the establishment of towns. Irish inhabitants allowed to remain shared only 10% of the poorer land or remained simply as labourers.

- Things got even worse under Cromwell. In the late part of the century the Irish supported the Catholic King James II of England against the Protestant William of Orange.
- The defeat of James brought further confiscation and trials. Penal Laws were enacted designed to eradicate the practice of the Catholic religion. Priests were hunted, Catholics could not own a horse worth more than five pounds and most lived in abject poverty. Catholics were looked upon as dangerous traitors in their own country.
- These “Irish laws” remained in force up to the 1780's. Compare them with what the British did to the Highland Scots after Culloden from 1746 onwards.
- O'Donnell went to Europe to seek further assistance, but died (poison?); O'Neill went back to Ulster but his power was broken. Elizabeth I agreed to open negotiations in 1603.