Press Release

December 5, 2018

Exhibition commemorating the Centenary of the Death of Richard Coleman-
Swords Volunteer

Atrium, County Hall, Fingal County Council, Main St. Swords

December 3-21st

As part of the Decade of Centenaries commemorations, Fingal Libraries have mounted an
exhibition to mark the centenary of the death of Richard Coleman, a native of Swords, who
died in Usk prison, Wales, on the night of December 7th, 1918.

The exhibition, which is on display in County Hall, Swords, tells the story of Richard’s short
life, and includes many original documents and items, donated to Fingal County Council by
his nephew, Risteárd Coleman (R.I.P.).
Richard ‘Dick’ Coleman (1890-1918), was one of eleven children living in Main St. Swords, his father a teacher in the Swords New Borough Male School on Seatown Road.

He played a major part in the fight for Irish freedom, as outlined in the exhibition, and spent time in many different jails and prisons, in Britain and Ireland, including Dartmoor, Lewes, Cork, Dundalk, and Mountjoy, where he joined Ashe on his ill-fated and ultimately fatal hunger strike.

His final destination after arrest for his part in the so-called ‘German Plot’, was Usk Prison, Wales, where the harsh conditions, a severe winter, and the ‘flu epidemic, led to his death from pneumonia. He was 28 years old.

His funeral in Dublin City was attended by massive crowds, who followed his cortege to Glasnevin, where he is buried beside many of his comrades-in-arms.

Commenting on the exhibition Betty Boardman, County Librarian said “Fingal Libraries are pleased to present this poignant exhibition of Richard Coleman’s short but eventful life as part of our Decade of Centenaries commemorations and I know the many original documents and items donated by his nephew will prove of huge interest.”

The exhibition runs from Monday to Friday during normal opening hours from December 3rd to 21st in the Atrium, County Hall, Fingal County Council, Main St. Swords.

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For information contact Press@fingal.ie