

Irish War of 1689-91



• James II 1633-1701



King William of Orange 1650 1702

- Battle of the Boyne, July 1, 1690
- Battle of Aughrim, July 22, 1691
- Flight of the wild geese

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BATTLE OF THE BOYNE

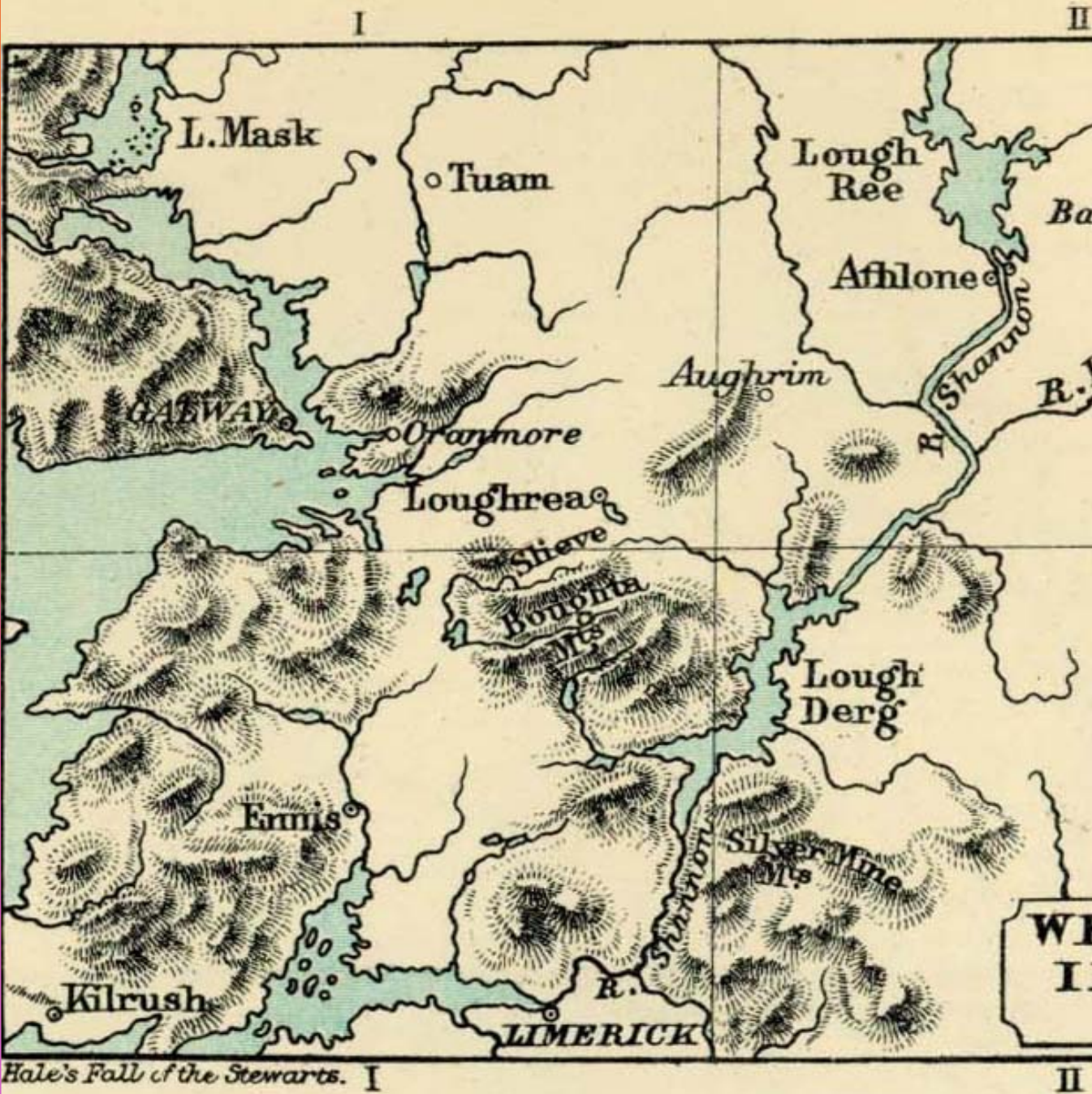
- **Date:** July 1, 1690
- **Location:** Along the River Boyne, Ireland
- **Combatants:** King William III (Protestant) vs. King James II (Catholic) and his Jacobite forces
- **Outcome:** Victory for King William III, with approximately 35,000 Protestant forces defeating around 25,000 Irish and French Catholic troops
- **Significance:** Decisive battle in the Williamite War in Ireland, marking the defeat of James II's attempt to regain the English throne and solidifying William's control over Ireland
- The Jacobites' disadvantages could, perhaps, have been mitigated by good generalship. But here, again, they were to be found wanting. James and Tyrconnell both had plenty of experience of war, but neither had commanded large forces in the field. More seriously, while James had shown great courage in earlier conflicts, he now exhibited a propensity to vacillate or panic.



Battle of Aughrim, July 1, 1691

- It was the deciding battle in the conflict between the Williamite (King William of Orange) and Jacobite (King James II) forces
- 7,000 lives lost makes it one of the bloodiest, if not the bloodiest battles in Ireland
- Battle that consigned Ireland to its fate of total English rule for the next 230 years





Aughrim - PRELUDE

- Fought a year after the Battle of the Boyne – July 1, 1690. Defeat for James II
- King Williams forces occupy Dublin
- King James wanted to surrender the war
- War Party led by Patrick Sarsfield said NO
- French General Charles Chalmont took over from Tyrconnell. Came with 146 officers and 16000 muskets
- 1st Siege of Athlone repulsed by the Irish in July 1690
- 1st Siege of Limerick repulsed by the Irish in August 1690



THE BATTLE

- Williamites took Aughrim Castle and rolled up the Jacobite left flank
- To plug the gap on the flank, Jacobite commander St Ruth was hit with a lucky cannon shot, that took his head off. Morale crumbled which in turn spelt the doom of the Jacobite army.

The Aftermath

- Galway Town surrendered
- Patrick Sarsfield held Limerick until he too finally surrendered
- The ensuing Treaty of Limerick on Oct 3, 1691 effectively ended the Williamite War in Ireland
- The term **Flight of the Wild Geese** was the departure of the Irish Jacobite army (14,000 fully armed men) under the command of Patrick Sarsfield from Ireland to France, as agreed in the Treaty of Limerick. More broadly, the term **Wild Geese** is used in Irish history to refer to Irish soldiers who left to serve in continental European armies in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries
- The end of the war effectively ended the chances of Stuart Catholic restoration to the Thrones of England, Ireland or Scotland.

The Aftermath - continued

- The Protestant Ascendancy was a supremacy of that proportion of the population, about one-tenth, that belonged to the established Protestant Episcopal church. They celebrated their position as a ruling class by annual recollections of their victories over their hated popish enemies, especially at the Battle of the Boyne, which has been commemorated on July 12 with parades by the Orange Order from the 1790s until today
- Not only the Catholic majority but also the Presbyterians and other Nonconformists, whose combined numbers exceeded those of the established, were excluded from full political rights, notably by the Test Act of 1704, which made tenure of office dependent on willingness to receive communion according to the Protestant Episcopal (Church of Ireland) rite
- The 17th-century confiscations made Ireland a land of great estates and, except for Dublin, of small towns decaying under the impact of British restrictions on trade. Except on the Ulster plantations, the tenantry was relatively poor