**Battle of Collooney**

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| **Battle of Collooney / Carricknagat** | | |
| Part of the [United Irishmen Rebellion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Rebellion_of_1798) | | |
| [Collooney - Teeling monument.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Collooney_-_Teeling_monument.jpg) The monument commemorating the battle. | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Date** | 5 September 1798 | | **Location** | [Collooney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collooney), [County Sligo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Sligo)  https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[54°11′30″N8°29′36″W﻿ / ﻿54.1917°N 8.4932°W﻿ / 54.1917; -8.4932](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Battle_of_Collooney&params=54.1917_N_8.4932_W_region:IE_type:city) | | **Result** | United Irish/French victory | | | |
| **Belligerents** | | |
| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/08/Green_harp_flag_of_Ireland.svg/23px-Green_harp_flag_of_Ireland.svg.png[United Irishmen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_of_United_Irishmen) https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/3a/Flag_of_France_%281794%E2%80%931815%2C_1830%E2%80%931958%29.svg/23px-Flag_of_France_%281794%E2%80%931815%2C_1830%E2%80%931958%29.svg.png[French First Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_First_Republic) | [Kingdom of Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain)[British Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Army) | |
| **Commanders and leaders** | | |
| [Jean Humbert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Joseph_Amable_Humbert) | [Sir Gerard Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerard_Lake,_1st_Viscount_Lake) [Charles Vereker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Vereker,_2nd_Viscount_Gort) | |
| **Strength** | | |
| 2,000–3,000 | ~500 | |
| **Casualties and losses** | | |
| 50 dead and wounded | 60 dead, 100 captured | |
|  | | |

The **Battle of Collooney** refers to a battle which occurred on 5 September during the [Irish Rebellion of 1798](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Rebellion_of_1798) when a combined force of French troops and Irish rebels defeated a force of British troops outside of [Collooney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collooney) near [Sligo Town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sligo_Town). It is also known as the **Battle of Carricknagat**.

**Background**

A long-anticipated French landing to assist the Irish rebellion had taken place on 22 August, when almost 1,100 troops under the command of [General Humbert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Humbert) landed at [Cill Chuimín Strand](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cill_Chuim%C3%ADn_Strand&action=edit&redlink=1) (Kilcummin), [Killala Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killala_Bay), [County Mayo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Mayo). Although the force was small, the remote location ensured an unopposed landing away from the tens of thousands of British soldiers concentrated in the east in [Leinster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leinster), engaged in mopping up operations against remaining pockets of rebels. The nearby town of [Killala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killala) was quickly captured after a brief resistance by local [yeomen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yeomen) and [Ballina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballina,_County_Mayo) was also taken two days later, following the rout of a force of [cavalry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cavalry) sent from the town to oppose their march. [Irish volunteers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_volunteers) began to trickle into the French camp from all over Mayo following the news of the French landing.

The victory of [General Humbert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Joseph_Amable_Humbert) at [Castlebar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Castlebar), despite gaining him c. 5,000 Irish recruits, had not led to a renewed outbreak of the rebellion as hoped. A massive British army of some 26,000 men was assembled under [Field Marshal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_Marshal_(United_Kingdom)) [Lord Cornwallis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Cornwallis,_1st_Marquess_Cornwallis), the newly appointed [Lord Lieutenant of Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Lieutenant_of_Ireland), and was steadily moving towards his forces. Abandoning Castlebar, [Humbert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Joseph_Amable_Humbert) moved towards [Ulster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster) via [Sligo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sligo) with the intention of igniting a rising there.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Collooney#cite_note-1)

**Battle**

The combined Franco-Irish forces marched north east towards [Sligo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sligo) on their way to [County Donegal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Donegal) in [Ulster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster). When they got to the village of Collooney they were confronted by a unit of British troops from the garrison in Sligo, which is approximately 5 miles to the north of Collooney. A minor battle ensued at Carricknagat, a small townland to the immediate north of Collooney, hence the alternate name for the battle: the *Battle of Carricknagat*.

On 5 September 1798, the Franco-Irish troops pushed north through [County Sligo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_Sligo) but were halted by a cannon which the British forces had installed above Union Rock near [Collooney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collooney).

A young Irish aide to General Humbert, [Lieutenant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lieutenant) [Bartholomew Teeling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartholomew_Teeling), distinguished himself during the encounter. Teeling cleared the way for the advancing Irish-French army by single-handedly disabling a British gunnery post located high on Union Rock when he broke from the French ranks and galloped towards the gunner's position. Teeling was armed with a pistol and he shot the cannon's marksman and captured the cannon. After the loss of the cannon position the French and Irish advanced and the British retreated towards their barracks at [Sligo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sligo), leaving 60 dead and 100 prisoners.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Collooney#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Collooney#cite_note-3)

[Colonel Charles Vereker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Vereker,_2nd_Viscount_Gort), who commanded the Limerick militia in the standoff, was awarded a peerage for his role in the battle.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Collooney#cite_note-4)

**Teeling monument**

In 1898, the centenary year of the battle, a statue of Teeling was erected in Carricknagat. Far Famed Johnnie Woods of Aughamore, Sligo (St John's Parish, Carraroe, Co Sligo) was a far-famed reliable scaffolder and it was him who erected the spire for this monument.

**References**

* 1. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Collooney#cite_ref-1) *Jim McGarry.* [*"Collooney"*](http://homepage.eircom.net/~jas/collhist.html)*. Collooney Parish History. Retrieved 13 May 2007.*
  2. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Collooney#cite_ref-2) [*"Bartholomew Teeling biography"*](http://www.breifne.ie/content.asp?ID=1769)*. Breifne Tourism. Retrieved 30 May 2007.*
  3. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Collooney#cite_ref-3) *Bill Peterson.* [*"In the Footsteps of Général Humbert: The French Invasion of Ireland, 1798"*](https://web.archive.org/web/20080131101358/http:/www.wargame.ch/wc/nwc/newsletter/September2001/Newsletter15/Ireland.html)*. The Napoleonic Wargaming Club. Archived from* [*the original*](http://www.wargame.ch/wc/nwc/newsletter/September2001/Newsletter15/Ireland.html) *on 31 January 2008. Retrieved 30 May 2007.*
  4. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Collooney#cite_ref-4) Wickwire, Franklin & Mary. *Cornwallis: The Imperial Years*. p. 226

**External links**

* [Photos of Battle site and current monument](https://web.archive.org/web/20070926215255/http:/www.castlebar.ie/photos/pj/1798CollooneyWeb/)