

# BLACK & TAN: THE IRISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1919-1921



**GAME SUBJECT:** Irish War of Independence 1919-1921

**EXPECTED PUBLISH DATE:** 2009

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**DESIGNER:** Keith Cumiskey

**DEVELOPER:** Rich Lechowich

**TYPE:** Two-player card driven wargame

**SCALE:** Operational

## DESCRIPTION:

**Black and Tan War** is a historical game simulation on the Irish War of Independence 1919-1921. Game turns are bi-monthly, Irish units are Active Service Units (20-150 men), Crown force units represent British Army battalions, Auxiliary battalions and local constabulary forces. The map represents Ireland divided into regions, generally following county lines.

The complexity of **Black & Tan War** is between *We The People* and *Wilderness War*. One player controls forces of the British Crown while the other player controls the forces of the Irish Republic. Each region may contain RIC (Royal Irish Constabulary), British Army and Auxiliary garrisons. The game centers on "operations" which are conducted through card play.

Operations include Barracks Attack and Ambush for the Irish, Patrols and Raids for the Crown Forces.

Playtest Game Cards



The game focuses on some key points:

- This guerilla war was primarily fought between the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), with later, limited involvement by the British Army proper
- The Irish are chronically short on arms/ammo meaning consecutive operations in a region are difficult
- This is not a "war of maneuver." Irish forces generally fought within their locale. Crown forces raided and patrolled from established garrisons
- Lots of historical "chrome." Events such as the Sack of Cork, Kevin Barry, DeValera returns, Cabinet Indecision, Thompson submachine guns and a few key leaders on each side
- The famous "Flying Columns" come into play as an upgrade to the Irish units making them more effective in ambushes but are easier to catch in a raid

## PROBABLE COMPONENTS:

- 22" x 34" full color map
- 320 5/8" counters
- 110 cards
- 20-page Rule book
- 3 Player Aid Card

## DISCUSSION BOARD:

On [Consimworld Forum](#) > Boardgaming > Individual Game or Series Discussion > Era: Between the Wars, 1918-1939 > Black and Tan War: Irish War of Independence, 1919-1921 Clash of Arms.

