

MR DE VALERA AT MULLINGAR.

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Mullingar Military Barracks was recently the scene of a colourful parade on the occasion of a giant Defence Rally.

Mr de Valera was present at this important ceremony and was accompanied by Lieut-Gen McKenna, ^{Chief} ~~Chair~~ of Staff, Maj-Gen Hugo MacNeill, and Mr Norton.

A special colour party and guard of honour were on parade at this spectacular gathering.

On the barrack square, the Leader made an inspection of regular troops, units of the Local Defence ^{Force} ~~Force~~, the Mullingar L.S.F. and units of the local St John Ambulance Brigade, Red Cross nurses, A.R.P. and auxiliary Fire services.

As this huge body of loyal men and women of Eire marched past to the strains of ^{music} ~~musical~~ airs, Mr de Valera took the salute.

After this impressive parade, the Leader addressed the thousands who had assembled on this memorable occasion.

Mr de Valera renewed his appeal for recruits for all branches of the Defence Forces. He said that ~~with~~ with the shifting of the main theatre of war, there was a danger that people might have become careless or less vigilant. The risks while ~~this~~ this war lasted would inevitably increase from day to day. These risks must be met with increased and more disciplined effort in preparation -- with greater national solidarity than ever before. *Other speaker's strength in*

The remarks of the Leader.