

I wanted to add my once-in-a decade commentary on "**Faugh-a-Ballagh**", memory of which seems to have faded.

We say it wrong -- this from my own indifferent mastery of Irish and by confirmation of Gaelic speakers here and in Ireland. I asked in four provinces (Meath, Mayo, Limerick, Clare) and in Dublin, and all agreed. Even non Irish speakers knew the phrase because it is still used in the sport of hurling.

The regimental motto (in formal Irish **fag an bealac**) does mean literally "clear the way; in common usage it might be more accurately styled "get the f--- out of the way!"

Written correctly, the "a" in **fag** has a long mark (acute accent called a *fada*), making it "fawg."

The "n" in **an** is silent or elided.

Bealac is harder. The first syllable is accented and rhymes with "pal", not "pall." The second is sort of like "ukh" -- a short u or neutral (schwa) sound like the "e" in "the" when it's pronounced unstressed like "thuh", with a soft guttural sound for the "c" like the "ch" in German "ich," and rather clipped because the terminal c sound is *lenited* or softened.

Stress is thus: **FAWG uh BAL-ukh**, not FOG an bul-AHHH.