

# The Police in Revolutionary Limerick, 1919-1922

## Na Póilíní i Luimneach Réabhlóideach, 1919-1922



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh  
Limerick City  
& County Council



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

# The Royal Irish Constabulary in Crisis

## Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann i nGéarchéim



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Policing in revolutionary Ireland was the province of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC). It had maintained generally difficult relations with the population it policed throughout the nineteenth century. Unlike the local and purely civilian forces of Great Britain, the RIC was a centralized, semi-military force which formed Dublin Castle's primary coercive arm. For example, it enforced seizure orders against defaulters during the Tithe War of the 1830s and executed court judgements in eviction cases during the subsequent Land War. The RIC was also deployed to quell nationalist political agitation, most notably in 1867 when it played a central role in crushing the Fenian rebellion.

However, in the first decade-and-a-half of the twentieth century, the RIC evolved into a more 'domesticated' force, devoting most of its time to civil matters such as checking weights and measures, policing road traffic regulations, and collecting the census. But, as it continued political surveillance and arrested separatist activists, the upsurge in Irish nationalist sentiment in the aftermath of the Easter Rising saw its incremental alienation from the communities in which it served. By autumn 1916, RIC county inspectors were noting a less friendly attitude towards their men and antipathy towards the police became more general across the country throughout 1917 and 1918. This was stoked by Sinn Féin. In April 1919, Dáil president Éamon de Valera denounced the RIC as agents of the 'foreign usurper' whose 'history [was] a continuity of brutal treason against their own people', and called for a campaign of social ostracism against them. This campaign proved so effective that it has been termed a 'social war'.



RIC at Strand Hut barracks, Abbeyfeale  
RIC ag beairic Strand Hut, Mainistir na Féile

*Ba í an phóilíneacht in Éirinn réabhlóideach cúige Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann (RIC). Choinnigh sé caidreamh deacair go ginearálta leis an daonra a rinne sé a phóilíniú ar feadh an naoú haois déag. Murab ionann agus fórsaí áitiúla agus sibhialtacha na Breataine Móire amháin, ba fhórsa lárraithe, leath-mhíleata é an RIC a bhí mar phríomh-lámh comhéigineach Chaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath. Mar shampla, chuir sé orduithe urghabhála i bhfeidhm i gcoinne mainntheoirí le linn Chogadh na nDeachúna sna 1830idí agus rinne sé breithiúnais chúirte i gcásanna díshealbhaite le linn an Chogaidh Talún ina dhiaidh sin. Baineadh úsáid as an RIC freisin chun corraíl polaitiúil náisiúnach a cheistiú, go háirithe i 1867 nuair a bhí ról lárnach aige in éirí amach na bhFíniúna a threascairt.*

*Sa chéad deich mbliana go leith den fhichiú haois, áfach, d'fhorbair an RIC fórsa níos 'ceansaithe', ag caitheamh an chuid is mó dá chuid ama ar ábhair shibhialta ar nós meáchain agus bearta a sheiceáil, póilíneacht a dhéanamh ar rialacháin tráchta ar bhóithre, agus bailiú an daonáireamh. Ach, de réir mar a lean sé ar aghaidh le faireachas polaitiúil agus nuair a ghabh sé gníomhaithe deighilte, chonaic an t-ardú i meon náisiúnaithe na hÉireann tar éis Éirí Amach na Cásca coimhthiú incriminteach ó na pobail ar a raibh sé ag freastal. Faoi fhómhar 1916, bhí cigirí contae RIC ag tabhairt faoi deara dearcadh nach raibh chomh cairdiúil i leith a bhfeidhm agus tháinig an fhrithbhá i leith na bpóilíní níos ginearálta ar fud na tíre i rith 1917 agus 1918. Chuir Sinn Féin é seo i mbaol. In Aibreán 1919, shéan uachtarán Dáil Éamon de Valera an RIC mar ghníomhairí don 'usurper eachtrach' a raibh a stair [ina] leanúnachas de thréas brúidiúil i gcoinne a muintire féin, agus sheol Sinn Féin feachtas ostracism sóisialta ina gcoinne chomh héifeachtach. tugtar 'cogadh sóisialta' air.*

# The Royal Irish Constabulary in Crisis - Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann i nGéarchéim

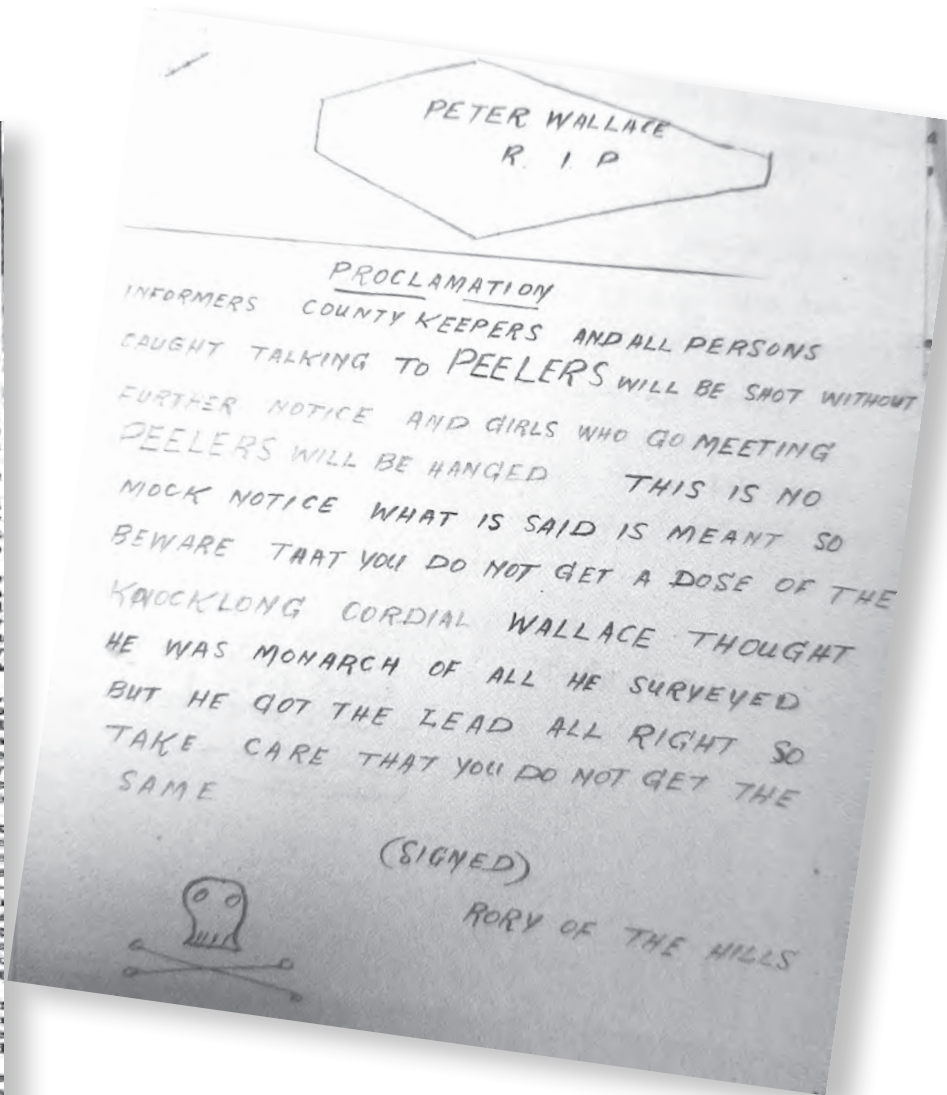
The RIC also found themselves placed in the IRA's crosshairs. While the unauthorised killing of two constables in Tipperary in January 1919 had been generally condemned, Sinn Féin's 'social war' inculcated a growing ambivalence towards such attacks. Thus, the RIC became the IRA's primary target in a guerrilla war it was ill-equipped and unsuited to counter. It was, broadly-speaking, a middle-aged force, too old for the physical and mental strain of frontline paramilitary service; its obsolete weaponry was seldom used, and many of its barracks were just modified houses offering little in the way of protection. By December 1919, a further 11 policemen had been killed, 3 of them in county Limerick.

*Fuair an RIC iad féin a chur i gcrosairí an IRA. Cé gur cáineadh go ginearálta mar ú neamhúdaraithe dhá chonstábla i dTiobraid Árann i mí Eanáir 1919, chuir 'cogadh sóisialta' Shinn Féin aighneas i leith ionsaithe den sórt sin i méid. Mar sin, ba é an RIC príomhspríoc an IRA i gcogadh eadarnaíoch ní raibh sé feistithe go maith agus ní raibh sé oiriúnach dul i gcoinne. Fórsa meánaosta a bhí ann i gcoitinne, ró-shean le haghaidh brú corpartha agus meabhrach na seirbhíse paraimíleata túslíne; is annamh a úsáideadh a airm imithe i léig, agus ní raibh i gcuid mhaith dá bheairic ach tithe mionathraithe nach raibh mórán cosanta orthu. Faoi Nollaig 1919, bhí 11 póilín eile maraithe, 3 acu i gcontae Luimnigh.*



Policemen outside Adare RIC barracks, c. 1900. Póilíní lasmuigh de bheairic Áth Dara RIC, c. 1900.

**Policeman Shot Dead in Limerick Hospital.**  
**PRISONERS LIBERATED BY ARMED RANGERS.**  
 Constable Martin O'Brien (50), died in Limerick Union Hospital on Sunday from injuries inflicted by revolver shot fired by a party of men who entered the institution and released a political prisoner who was being treated there.  
 Constable T. Hyland, Anston, was dangerously wounded close to the scene, and three other constables and a warder were injured.  
 Sunday is a visiting day at the hospital, and large numbers of people from the city, which is about two miles distant from the institution or in the hospital, which is on the west side of the river.  
 The tragic occurrence appears to have taken place about 2.30.  
 Since March 12 a young man named Robert J. Ryan, who was sentenced by court-martial to 12 months imprisonment with hard labour, had been a patient in the No. 3 Ward of the hospital.  
 There were five police constables, with the prison warder, in charge of Ryan, when suddenly and unexpectedly they were rushed upon by a party of from twenty to thirty men, manifestly acting in concert, and in possession of well-aimed rifles, and eventually overpowered in what seems to have been a very brief encounter.  
 However, it appears, were the weapons, used, and at one period to scuffle was the din that people on afternoon walks turned back in fright. It was supposed that a big thing was in progress, but the strange feature is that the removal of the fatally wounded prisoner attracted not a single sight-seer all along the route to the place where he died.  
 The ward in which the tragedy took place is situated on the second floor of the infirmary, and a number of patients were there at the time, some being in bed. The window opposite the bed which Ryan occupied presented the neck of a bottle which passed through one of the panes. The woodwork round the window and the ceiling also bear bullet marks. An altar in the ward was undamaged, save for a slight mark at the back apparently caused by a ricochet bullet.  
 It appears that Mr Ryan, dressed only in a pyjama, was taken to the home of a woman named Ryan, at Stockick, Co. Clare, where he died that night from a wound received in the neck.  
 Robert Joseph Ryan, who has met his death under such tragic circumstances, was the son of a Dublin woman who lived in the North Strand, and was a first cousin of Mr. Alfred Ryan, ex-M.P. His mother was a Limerick lady, and he was employed in the Limerick G.P.O. and was dismissed owing to his appearance at the funeral of the late Mr. Daly, only in Jan. of this year.  
 His mother's home in Limerick was searched for arms and the young man was court-martialled and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. At the trial he refused to recognise the court. During his incarceration he was unwell and was removed to the Union Infirmary about a month ago, his health being the cause of anxiety to his friends for some time.



RIC Sergeant Peter Wallace was shot dead by IRA Volunteers during the rescue of Seán Hogan at Knocklong station, 13 May 1919

Lámhaigh an Sáirsint RIC Peter Wallace marbh ag Oibríte Deonacha an IRA le linn tarthála Seán Hogan ag stáisiún Chnoc Loinge, 13 Bealtaine 1919

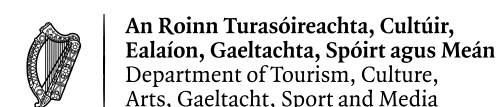
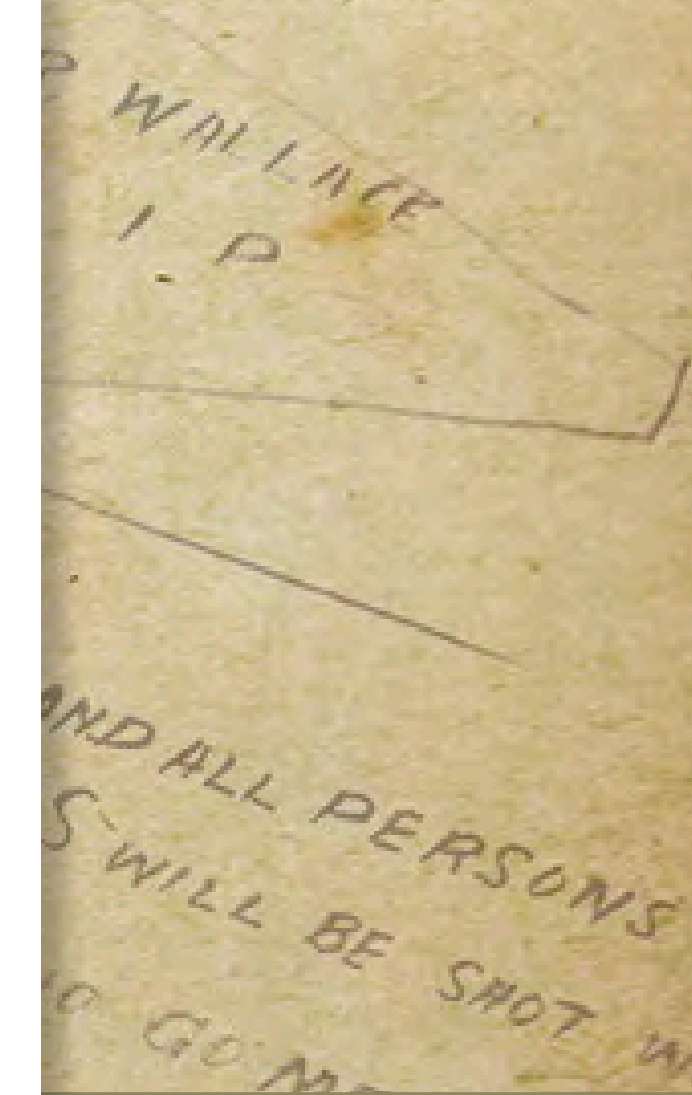
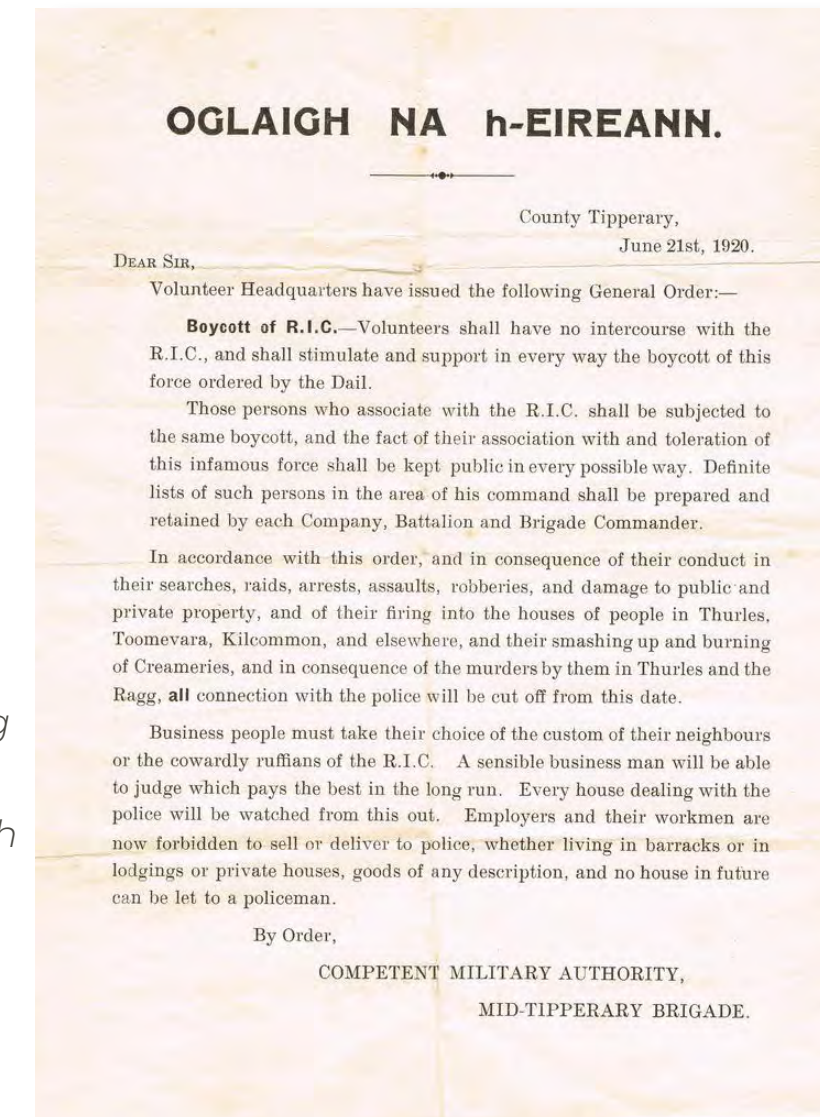
The progressive demoralisation in which the RIC's worsening situation resulted led to resignations. Some left in sympathy with the 'Republic' but most, fearful for their safety and that of their families, were intimidated out. Recruitment was inevitably adversely affected and it became increasingly difficult to replace those who resigned or retired which, between January and December 1919, amounted to 12 percent of the force.

*D'éirigh an dí-armáil fhorásach as ar tháinig staid RIC chun donais. D'fhág cuid acu i gcomhbhrón leis an 'Republic' ach bhí eagla ar a bhformhór, eagla ar a sábháilteacht agus sábháilteacht a dteaghlach. Bhí drochthionchar dosheachanta ar earcaíocht agus bhí sé ag éirí níos deacra daoine a d'éirigh as a bpost nó a d'éirigh as a bpost a bhí, idir Eanáir agus Nollaig 1919, cothrom le 12 faoin gcéad den fhórsa.*

The 'social war' against the RIC intensified in 1920, not least in Limerick. Intimidatory notices were posted across the county in April/May and threatening letters were delivered to policemen and their families, and to those maintaining personal or commercial relations with the force.

The manpower crisis to which this intimidation gave rise peaked in summer 1920 when there was an average of 52 resignations and just 7 enlistments per week. But it was sufficiently clear by the late autumn of 1919 that recruitment in Ireland was irrecoverably compromised. Consequently, on 27 December 1919, Dublin Castle authorised the extension of RIC recruitment to Britain.

*Mhéadaigh an 'cogadh sóisialta' i gcoinne an RIC i 1920, go háirithe i Luimneach. Cuireadh fógraí imeaglacha ar fud an chontae i mí Aibreáin / Bealtaine agus seachadadh litreacha bagracha chuig póilíní agus a dteaghlach, agus orthu siúd a bhí ag coinneáil caidreamh pearsanta nó tráchtála leis an bhfórsa. Tháinig an ghéarchéim daonchumhachta ba chúis leis an imeaglu seo chun buaice i samhradh 1920 nuair a bhí 52 éirí as ar an meán agus díreach 7 liostáil in aghaidh na seachtaine. Ach bhí sé soiléir go leor faoi dheireadh an fhómhair 1919 go raibh earcaíocht in Éirinn i gcontúirt go dochreidte. Dá bharr sin, an 27 Nollaig 1919, d'údaraigh Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath síneadh earcaíochta RIC chun na Breataine.*



# The Black and Tans Na Dúchrónaigh



'Old RIC' and Black and Tans in Kilfinane, late 1921  
'Sean RIC' agus na Duchrónaigh i Cill Fhionáin, Déanach i 1921



Recruitment offices were opened in London, Liverpool, and Glasgow and the first British constables were enrolled on 2 January 1920. Initially, the uptake was modest, comprising a monthly average of 100 enlistments until June. However, the doubling of an RIC constable's starting salary in July led to an upsurge in interest, resulting in over 8,000 British enlistments in the subsequent twelve months.

Small detachments of these so-called 'English recruits' began arriving in Ireland from 7 January and more sustained deployment commenced in July. Their presence soon caused a stir, not least on account of their peculiar apparel. As stocks of the standard RIC uniform (rifle-green tunic and trousers with black leather kit) were insufficient to the numbers enlisting, early recruits were clad out in army khaki, together with RIC-issue black greatcoats and caps. The 'Black and Tan' moniker to which this makeshift uniform gave rise originated in Limerick. In late March 1920, the Limerick Echo noted the arrival of English enlistments, their 'strange attire' resembling 'something one would associate with the Scarteen Hunt of Pallasgreen', known locally as the 'Black and Tans' on account of the coat pattern of its Kerry beagles. This nickname's application to the 'English police' was popularized by the Ennis comedian, Mike Nono, who used it in performances at Limerick's Theatre Royal. The following December, Limerick's county inspector became the first senior RIC officer to use the term 'Black and Tans' in his monthly reports.

*Osclaíodh oifigí earcaíochta i Londain, i Learpholl, agus i nGlaschú agus cláraíodh na chéad chonstáblaí Briotanacha an 2 Eanáir 1920. Ar dtús, bhí an glacadh measartha, a chuimsigh 100 liostáil in aghaidh na míosa go mí an Mheithimh ar an meán. Mar thoradh ar dhúbailt tuarastal tosaigh constábla RIC i mí Iúil, áfach, tháinig méadú ar an ús, agus mar thoradh air sin liostáladh os cionn 8,000 liostáil Briotanach sa dá mhí dhéag ina dhiaidh sin.*

*Thosaigh díormaí beaga de na 'hearcaigh Shasana' mar a thugtar orthu ag teacht go hÉirinn ón 7 Eanáir agus cuireadh tús le himscaradh níos marthanaí i mí Iúil. Ba ghearr gur spreag a láithreacht iad, go háirithe mar gheall ar a gcuid éadaigh aisteach. Toisc nach raibh stoic den éide chaighdeánach RIC (tunic glas-raidhfil agus brístí le trealamh leathair dubh) leordhóthanach chun na huimhreacha a liostáil, cumhdaíodh earcaithe luatha in arm khaki, mar aon le cótaí móra agus caipíní dubha RIC-eisithe. Is i Luimneach a tháinig an moniker 'na Dúchrónaigh' as ar eascair an éide nua seo. Go déanach i mí an Mhárta 1920, thug an Limerick Echo faoi deara gur tháinig liostálacha Sasanacha, a 'bhfeistear aisteach' cosúil le 'rud a cheanglódh duine le Scarteen Hunt of Pallasgreen', ar a dtugtar an 'Black and Tans' go háitiúil mar gheall ar phatrún cóta na a bhúillí Chiarraí. Chuir an fear grinn Ennis, Mike Nono, an-tóir ar an bhfeidhmchlár leasainm seo ar na 'English police', a d'úsáid é i léirithe ag Limerick's Theatre Royal. An Nollaig ina dhiaidh sin, ba é cigire contae Luimnigh an chéad oifigeach sinsearach RIC a d'úsáid an téarma 'na Duchrónaigh' ina thuarascálacha míosúla.*

## ENGLISH R.I.C. RECRUITS

The "Daily Express" Correspondent at Dublin wiring on Friday night says—It is stated here that a campaign is about to be opened in London to secure suitable recruits for the Royal Irish Constabulary. About 1,500 men are urgently needed in view of the grave political condition of the country. Applicants must be young men of good education and character. I understand that pictorial posters indicating the attractive conditions of service in the mounted and dismounted units of the Irish Constabulary will be displayed during the week-end. It is understood large offices have been taken in London by the Royal Irish Constabulary recruiting authorities, and in due course similar establishments will be opened in the provinces.

Evening Echo 3 Jan. 1920

## THE UNIFORM DIFFICULTY.

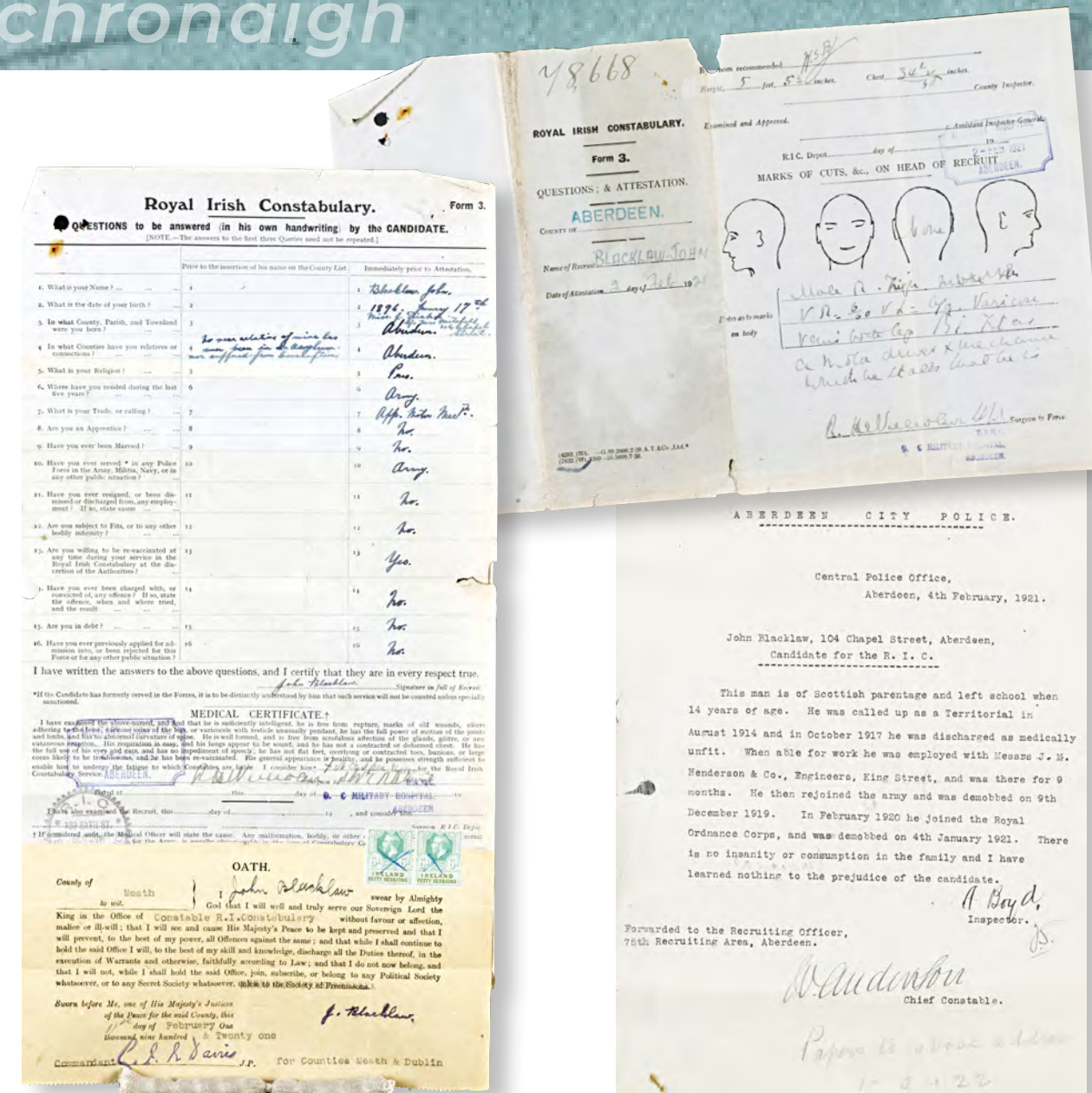
General Tudor considered that the first step necessary was the strengthening of the R.I.C., thinned as it was by murders and by resignations, still further weakened by the feeling it had of impotence. It was decided to accept for the R.I.C. recruits from England and Scotland of ex-soldiers with good service records. When these men came it was found impossible to provide them with R.I.C. uniforms of dark green. All Southern Ireland at the time was boycotting the Crown Forces, and uniforms would not be tailored for the Police. So the recruits went on duty in soldier khaki. Their first field of action was Limerick. Now Limerick had a famous pack of foxhounds—the "Black and Tans"—and the Irish promptly christened the new Police recruits, whom they found to be very strong in the chase, after this pack.

RIC Weekly Summary, 15 Apr. 1921

# The Black and Tans - Na Dúchrónaigh

The Black and Tans were a very diverse group. But the typical British RIC constable was an unmarried Anglican in his mid-twenties from London or its environs. Generally unskilled, he came from an urban working-class background and had served with the British armed forces during the Great War. His reasons for joining the RIC were primarily economic in nature: as the Manchester Guardian reported in October 1920, ‘unemployment has been the pinch that has driven most of them to this hazardous job’.

*Ba ghrúpa an-éagsúil iad na Duchrónaigh. Ach Anglacánach neamhphósta i lár na bhfichidí as Londain nó a phurláin ba ea gnáthchonstábla RIC na Breataine. Go ginearálta neamhoilte, tháinig sé ó chúlra aicme oibre uirbeach agus bhí sé ag fónamh le fórsaí armtha na Breataine le linn an Chogaidh Mhóir. Bhí na cúiseanna a bhí aige le dul isteach sa RIC eacnamaíoch go príomha: mar a thuairiscigh an Manchester Guardian i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 1920, ‘is í an difhostaíocht an pinch a thiomáin an chuid is mó díobh chuig an bpost guaiseach seo’.*



Recruitment papers for Black and Tans: application form, medical, police reference, and RIC Oath

Fully one-fifth of RIC constables recruited during the ‘Black and Tan’ period were Irish – approximately 2,000 in total. Like their British counterparts, they were typically in their mid-twenties and unmarried. But, denominationally, they were evenly split (55% Catholic, 45% Protestant) and just 40% had British armed forces’ experience. Their motivations for joining were more varied, ranging from economic factors to political loyalties and personal animus against the IRA.

*Ba Éireannaigh an gcúigiú cuid de na constáblaí RIC a earcaíodh le linn na tréimhse ‘Duchrónach’ - timpeall 2,000 san iomlán. Cosúil lena gcomhghleacaithe sa Bhreatain, ba ghnách leo a bheith i lár a bhfichidí agus iad neamhphósta. Ach, ainmniúil, bhí siad roinnte go cothrom (55% Caitliceach, 45% Protastúnach) agus ní raibh ach 40% a raibh taithí acu ar fhórsaí armtha na Breataine. Bhí a gcuid inspreagadh chun páirt a ghlacadh níos éagsúla, ó fhachtóirí eacnamaíocha go dílseachtaí polaitiúla agus beochan pearsanta i gcoinne an IRA.*

RIC force strength in Limerick city and county stood at 357 in spring 1919 but attrition through resignations and retirements was strikingly high. According to the RIC Weekly Summary, Limerick was hence the ‘first field of action’ for the newly-arrived Black and Tans. Certainly, one of the first men recruited, George Casey from Middlesex, was posted to Galbally on 7 February 1920. Yet of the 972 Black and Tans attested between January and March 1920, just 40 were posted to Limerick. However, the escalation of the local IRA campaign in the summer of 1920 saw monthly deployments significantly increased. By February 1921, there were 332 Black and Tans serving in Limerick, accounting for 60% of its then regular RIC strength of 545 men.

*Bhí neart fórsa RIC i gcathair agus i gcontae Luimnigh ag 357 in earrach 1919 ach bhí an líon daoine a bhí ag éirí as oifig agus ar scor an-ard. De réir an Achoimre Seachtainiúil, ba é Luimneach mar sin an ‘chéad réimse gníomhaíochta’ do na Duchrónaigh nua-aimsithe. Cinnte, cuireadh duine de na chéad fhir a earcaíodh, George Casey as Middlesex, sa phost go Galbally an 7 Feabhra 1920. Ach as na 972 Dubh agus Tans a fianáíodh idir Eanáir agus Márta 1920, níor cuireadh ach 40 acu go Luimneach. Mar sin féin, tháinig méadú suntasach ar imscaradh míosúil de bharr ardú an fheachtais áitiúil IRA i samhradh na bliana 1920. Faoi mhí Feabhra 1921, bhí 332 Dubh agus Tans ag fónamh i Luimneach, ag déanamh suas 60% dá neart rialta RIC de 545 fear.*



# The Auxiliaries Na Póilíní Cúnta



THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND INSPECTING R.I.C. AUXILIARIES IN DUBLIN :  
SIR HAMAR GREENWOOD PASSING DOWN THE LINES.



THE NEW R.I.C.

RIC Christmas card, Dec. 1920. L-R 'Old RIC', Black and Tan, Auxiliary & Defence of Barracks Sergeant  
Cárta Nollag RIC, Nollaig 1920. L-R 'RIC Sean', Duchrónach, Póilíní Cúnta agus Cosaint Sáirsint na Beairice

Notwithstanding the reinforcement of the RIC with British recruits, the IRA campaign continued throughout spring 1920, leading to calls for a clear counterinsurgency strategy. Reluctant to use the army against what was being officially classed as common crime, the secretary of state for war, Winston Churchill, proposed the formation under RIC auspices of an emergency 'corps of gendarmerie' to take on the IRA. Ireland's new 'police advisor', Major-General Henry Tudor, endorsed the idea and short-term contracts for a new 1,500-strong Auxiliary Division of the Royal Irish Constabulary were advertised from mid-July.

Recruitment for this Auxiliary Division was confined to demobilized officers of Britain's imperial forces. Pay and conditions were especially attractive: at £1 a day, their base pay was twice that of the Black and Tans, and they were provided with generous allowances and leave. More than 2,100 ex-officers ultimately enlisted, 10 percent of whom were Irish. Like the Black and Tans, Auxiliaries (or 'Auxies') were a heterogenous group. But the average Auxiliary was a former British Army lieutenant in his late twenties from London or the Home Counties. Most were probably seeking postwar employment or an alternative to a conventional army career.

Auxiliaries were not issued with a standard uniform, so they turned themselves out in various combinations of police, military, and (sometimes) civilian attire. But they were distinguished from Black and Tans by their beret-style headress, viz. tam o'shanters and, later, balmorals. Nonetheless, both became quickly conflated in the Irish public mind and the term 'Black and Tans' was routinely used to refer to the Auxiliaries and/or the two groups combined. This remains the case today.

*D'ainneoin atreisiú an RIC le hearcaigh na Breataine, lean feachtas an IRA ar aghaidh i rith earrach 1920, agus mar thoradh air sin bhí glaonna ar straitéis frith-éigeandála soiléir. Drogallach an t-arm a úsáid i gcoinne an méid a bhí á rangú go hoifigiúil mar choireacht choiteann, mhol an rúnaí stáit cogaidh, Winston Churchill, go mbunófaí faoi choimirce RIC éigeandáil 'corps of gendarmerie' chun an IRA a ghlacadh. Thacaigh 'comhairleoir póilíní' nua na hÉireann, an Maor-Ghinearál Henry Tudor, leis an smaoineamh agus fógraíodh conarthaí gearrthéarmacha do Rannán Cúnta nua le 1,500 duine de Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann ó lár mhí Iúil.*

*Bhí earcaíocht don Rannán Cúnta seo teoranta d'oifigh d'í-díothaithe fhórsaí impiriúla na Breataine. Bhí pá agus coinníollacha tarraingteach go háirithe: ag £1 in aghaidh an lae, bhí a mbunphá dhá oiread pá na nDubh agus na dTonna, agus soláthraíodh liúntais fhlaithiúla agus saoire dóibh. Liostáil níos mó ná 2,200 iar-oifigeach sa deireadh, agus Gaeilge ag 10 faoin gcéad dóibh. Cosúil leis na Duchrónaigh, ba ghrúpa ilchineálach iad na Póilíní Cúnta (nó 'Auxies'). Ach iar-leifteanant de chuid Arm na Breataine ab ea an meán Cúnta ina fichidí déanacha as Londain nó as na Contaetha Baile. Bhí an chuid is mó dóibh ag lorg fostaíochta iar-chogaidh nó rogha eile seachas gnáthghairm arm.*

*Níor eisíodh éide caighdeánach do chúntóirí, agus mar sin d'éirigh siad amach i gcomhcheangail éagsúla d'éadaí póilíní, míleata agus (uaireanta) sibhialtacha. Ach rinne a headress stíl beret idirdhealú idir iad agus na Duchrónaigh, eadhó, tam o'hanters agus, ina dhiaidh sin, balmorals. Ina ainneoin sin, rinneadh an dá rud a cheangal go tapa in intinn phoiblí na hÉireann agus úsáideadh an téarma 'na Duchrónaigh' go rialta chun tagairt a dhéanamh do na Cúntóirí agus / nó don dá ghrúpa le chéile. Is amhlaidh an scéal inniu.*

# The Auxiliaries - Na Póilíní Cúnta

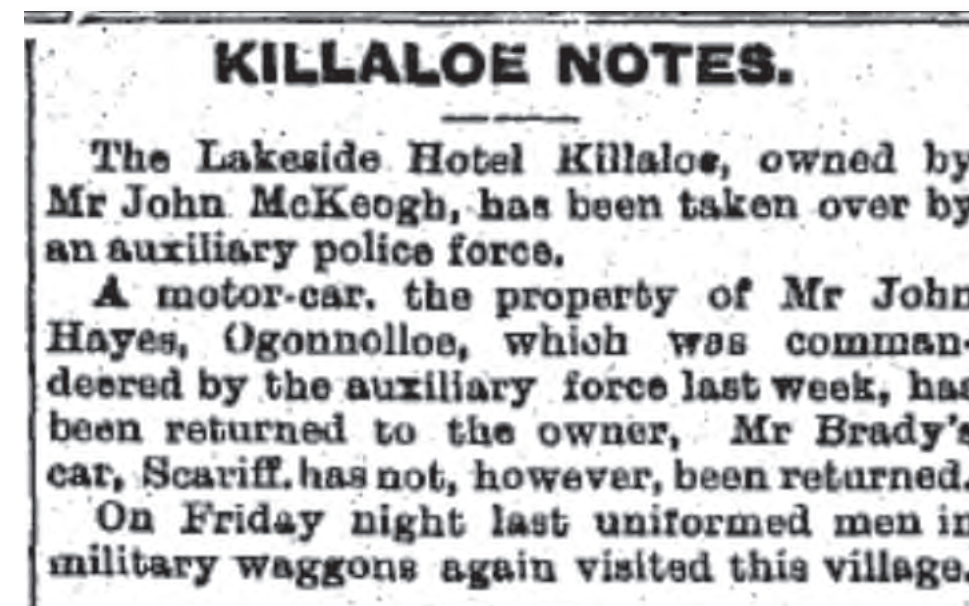
Headquartered at Beggar's Bush barracks in Dublin, the Auxiliary Division eventually comprised 21 military-style companies comprising 70 to 100 men. Companies were deployed to areas of significant insurgent activity where, well armed and highly mobile, they tried to neutralise the local IRA. In the words of the RIC Weekly Summary, the Auxiliary Division would, together with the Black and Tans, make Ireland 'an appropriate hell for those whose trade is agitation and whose method is murder'. Although nominally under RIC command, the Auxiliary Division operated quasi-autonomously. Logistical assistance was provided it by a separately recruited 1,000-strong Veterans and Drivers Division, made up of 'veteran ex-soldiers of 35 years of age and upwards' enrolled on one-year contracts at 10 shillings per day.

Although Limerick was part of the 'War Zone', a full Auxiliary Division company was not stationed within county lines. Auxiliary Division 'B Company' was initially posted to Newcastle West but relocated to Templemore in January 1921 and a platoon from 'K Company' was briefly barracked there too. The East Limerick area came within the purview of Auxiliary Division 'G Company'. Self-styled 'the bodysnatchers', they were stationed at the Lakeside Hotel, Killaloe. Meanwhile in Limerick city, a platoon from 'H Company' Tralee, operated out of Cruise's Royal Hotel.



*Agus í lonnaithe i mbeairic Beggar's Bush i mBaile Átha Cliath, bhí 21 cuideachta i stíl mhíleata sa 70 Rannán Cúnta sa deireadh, idir 70 agus 100 fear. Imlonnaíodh cuideachtaí chuig ceantair ina raibh gníomhaíocht shuntasach ina ndearna siad iarracht an IRA áitiúil a neodrú, agus iad armtha go maith agus an-soghluaiste. I bhfocail an Achoimre Seachtainiúil, dhéanfaidh an Rannán Cúnta, in éineacht leis na Duchrónaigh, Éire 'ifreann oiriúnach dóibh siúd a bhfuil a dtrádáil corraithe agus arb é a modh dúnmharú'. Cé go raibh sí faoi cheannas RIC go hainmniúil, d'oibrigh an Rannán Cúnta go neamhspleách. Chruthaigh Rannán Veterans agus Tiománaithe le 1,000 duine a earcaíodh ar leithligh cúnamh lóistíochta, a bhí comhdhéanta de 'iar-shaighdiúirí veteranacha 35 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn' a bhí cláraithe ar chonarthaí bliana 'ag 10 scilling in aghaidh an lae.*

*Cé go raibh Luimneach mar chuid den 'War Zone', ní raibh cuideachta iomlán de chuid na Rannóige Cúnta lonnaithe laistigh de línte contae. Cuireadh ADRIC 'B Company' i dtosach go Chaisleán Nua Thiar, ach d'athlonnigh siad go an Teampall Mór i mí Eanáir 1921 agus d'oibrigh pléadáil 'K Company' go hachomar ansin fresin. Tháinig limistéar Oirthear Luimnigh faoi réim ADRIC 'G Company'. Féin-styled 'the bodysnatchers', bhí siad lonnaithe in Óstán an Lakeside, Cill Dalua. I gcathair Luimnigh, pléadún ó 'H Company' Trá Lí, d'oibrigh as Óstán Ríoga Cruise.*



**G Company Auxiliaries outside the Lakeside Hotel.**  
**G Company Auxiliaries lasmuigh d'Óstán Lakeside.**



**G Company Auxiliaries staging the arrest of IRA Volunteers. Such photographs were used for propaganda purposes.**

**G Company Auxiliaries a dhéanann gabháil d'Oibríthe Deonacha an IRA a ghabháil. Úsáideadh grianghraif den sórt sin chun críocha bolscaireachta.**

*\*Photographs courtesy of [www.irishconstabulary.com](http://www.irishconstabulary.com)*

# IRA Operations

## Oibríochtaí IRA



DISPOSITION OF RIC IN LIMERICK 1919-1921												
* BARRACK	1919				1920				1921			
	DI	HC	Sgt	Con	DI	HC	Sgt	Con	DI	HC	Sgt	Con
1 William Street	1	1	13	40	1	1	16	37	1	2	14	112
2 John Street	1	1	2	8	1	1	2	9	1	1	4	17
3 Boherbuoy (Edward St.)			2	8			2	7			3	20
4 Docks (O'Curry Street)			1	5			1	8			4	18
5 Mary Street			2	5			2	6			3	18
6 Thomondgate			1	5			1	6				
1 Abbeyfeale	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	8	1	1	1	18
2 Adare	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	6	1	1	3	21
3 Bruff	1	1	3	4	1	1	2	8	1	1	3	21
4 Kilfinnane	1	1	2	4	1	0	2	6	1	0	2	10
5 Newcastlewest	1	1	1	8	1	1	3	12	1	1	7	13
6 New Pallas	1	1	1	4	1	1	3	6	1	1	2	18
7 Rathkeale	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	11
8 Ardagh			1	3								
9 Ashford			1	3			1	5				
10 Askeaton			1	5			1	4			1	17
11 Athesa			1	3								
12 Ballinacurra			1	4			2	8				
13 Ballingarry			1	4			1	6				
14 Ballylanders			1	4			1	6				
15 Ballyneety			1	3								
16 Ballysimon			1	2			0	*2				
17 Blackboy			1	3			0	*3				
18 Broadford			1	3			1	5				
19 Bruree			1	4			1	5				
20 Caherconlish			1	3			0	*2				
21 Caherdavin			1	3			1	0				
22 Cappanahane police post**			0	0			0	3				
23 Cappamore			1	3			1	8			1	12
24 Castleconnell			1	3			2	4				
25 Castletown			1	3			1	7				
26 Clarina			1	4								
27 Croom			1	4			1	5			1	13
28 Doon			1	4			1	6			2	15
29 Dromcollogher			1	5			1	6			2	14
30 Elton			1	3								
31 Fedamore			1	3			2	4			2	12
32 Foynes			1	5			3	8			1	14
33 Galbally			1	4			2	8			2	17
34 Glin			1	5			2	8				
35 Grange			1	3								
36 Herbertstown			1	3								
37 Hospital			1	4			2	6			1	14
38 Kildimo			1	3			2	6				
39 Kilmallock			1	5			2	8			1	18
40 Kilmeedy			1	3			*1	0				
41 Kilmurry			1	4			1	2				
42 Killeely			1	3								
43 Knockaderry			1	3								
44 Loughill			1	3								
45 Mountcollins			1	3								
46 Murroe			1	3			1	5				
47 Oola			1	3			1	5			1	13
48 Pallaskenry			1	4								
49 Patrickswell			1	2			2	5			2	15
50 Shanagolden			1	3								
51 Strand			1	2			1	5				
52 Tournafulla			1	5								
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>471</b>

\* Denotes partial occupation  
 \*\* Temporary police unit  
 DI: District Inspector  
 HC: Head Constable  
 Sgt.: Sergeant  
 Con.: Constable

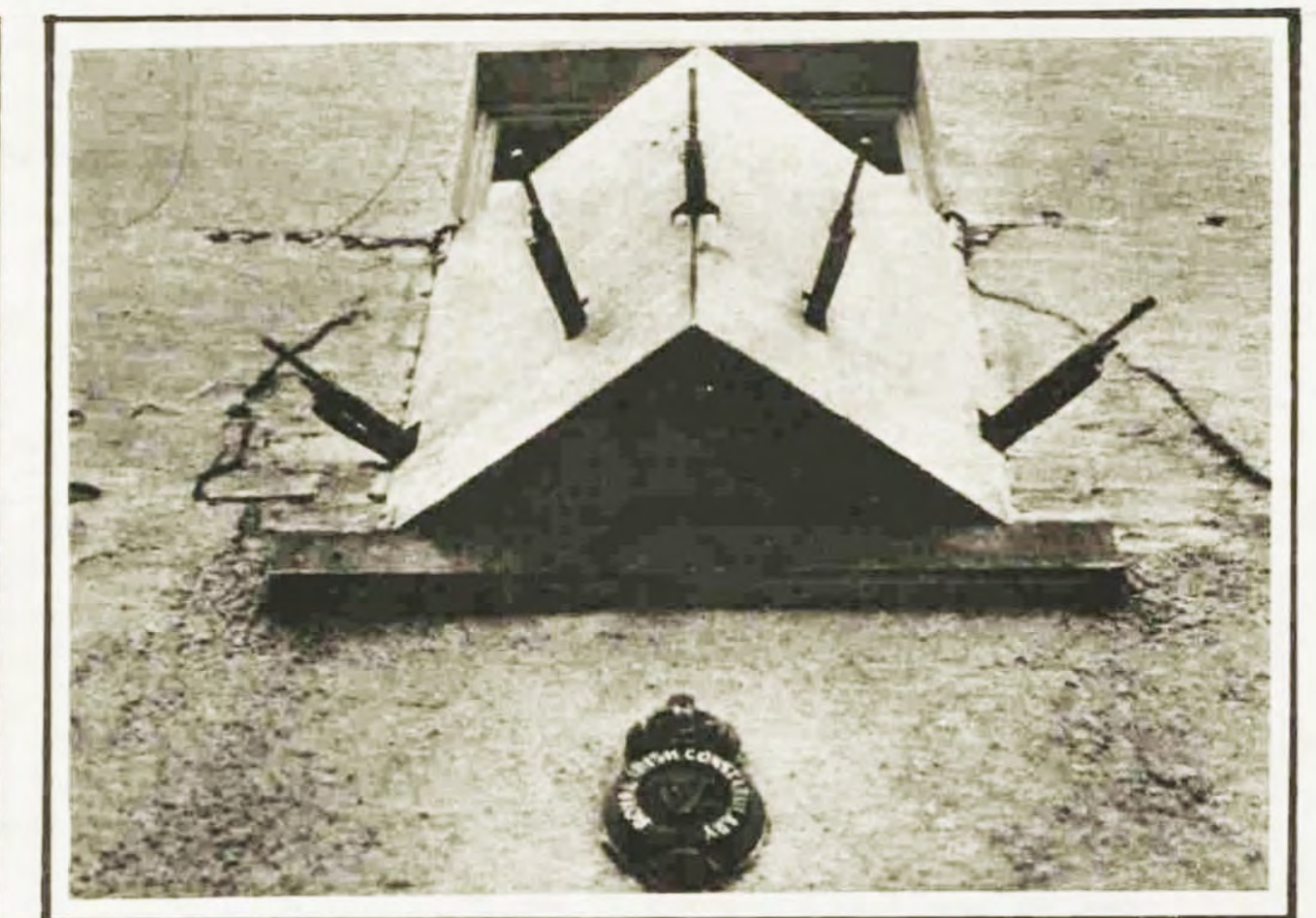
Consolidation of RIC barracks in Limerick, 1919-21. Courtesy Thomas Toomey and the Old Limerick Journal  
 Comhdhlúthú beairic RIC i Luimneach, 1919-21. Courtest Thomas Toomey agus an Old Limerick Journal

Limerick was at the forefront of the republican struggle throughout the War of Independence and the RIC was the primary target of its three IRA brigades. They conducted sporadic attacks on policemen during the latter half of 1919, and in line with GHQ orders, they launched a concerted campaign against RIC stations in January 1920. This campaign began with a failed attack on that in Murroe on 31 January and culminated in a night-long assault on Kilmallock barracks five months later in which two policemen were killed. Attacks such as these forced the evacuation of many county area barracks and, by the time a Truce was agreed between the IRA and Crown forces in July 1921, just one-third of those operational in spring 1919 were still manned.

*Bhí Luimneach ar thús cadhnaíochta sa streachailt poblachtach i rith Chogadh na Saoirse agus ba é an RIC príomhspríoc a trí bhriogáid IRA. Rinne siad ionsaithe treallach ar phóilíní le linn an dara leath de 1919, ach de réir orduithe GHQ, sheol siad feachtas comhbheartaithe i gcoinne stáisiúin RIC i mí Eanáir 1920. Cuireadh tús leis an bhfeachtas seo le hionsaí teipthe air sin i Maigh Rua an 31 Eanáir agus chríochnaigh sé le ionsaí oíche ar bheairic Chill Mocheallóg cúig mhí ina dhiaidh sin inar maraíodh beirt phóilín. Chuir ionsaithe mar seo iallach ar aslonnú go leor beairic ceantair chontae agus, faoin am a comhaontaíodh Sos idir an IRA agus fórsaí na Corónach i mí Iúil 1921, ní raibh ach aon trian díobh siúd a bhí ag feidhmiú in earrach 1919 fós le foireann.*



FORTIFIED WITH STEEL SHIELDS TO WINDOWS AND LOOPHOLES FOR RIFLE-FIRE: AN IRISH POLICE BARRACKS.



WITH FIVE RIFLES PROTRUDING THROUGH LOOP-HOLES: A CLOSER VIEW OF ONE OF THE STEEL WINDOW-SHIELDS.



# IRA Operations - Cibíochtaí IRA

ACTIVITIES IN LIMERICK, 1920-1921

24th Aug., 1920 - Attempt to blow up Barrack Barracks.  
 31st Aug., 1920 - Sergeant Wallace wounded in Limerick.  
 2nd Feb., 1920 - Military patrol fired on in Limerick. One policeman wounded.  
 7th March, 1920 - Deon Barracks attacked.  
 17th March, 1920 - Sergeant Neazor shot dead at Balthakeale; Constable Doyle wounded.  
 17th March, 1920 - Constable Murphy wounded in Limerick.  
 18th March, 1920 - Two R.I.C. fired on at Pallaskenry; both wounded.  
 18th April, 1920 - General burning of evacuated Bks., and general raids on various Post Offices.  
 26th April, 1920 - Ballylanders Bks. attacked and taken. Three police wounded.  
 30th April, 1920 - Walls captured in Limerick.  
 (?) - Balthakeale - planned ambush only. Took solitary soldier prisoner.  
 1st May, 1920 - Notices posted up in Balthakeale warning against intercourse with police. Barrack servants intimidated.  
 9th May, 1920 - Sergeant on leave fired at in Cappanore.  
 13th May, 1920 - Raids on Inland Revenue offices.  
 19th May, 1920 - Sergeant Dunphy killed and sergt. Harty wounded in Limerick.  
 28th May, 1920 - Kilmallock Bks. captured; two police killed, six wounded. The flags raised over 2 Bks. to R.I.C. when the raiders withdrew leaving the Bks. in flames.  
 11th June, 1920 - Detective Carroll shot dead in a Limerick hotel.  
 11th June, 1920 - Police motor fired on near Breefy.  
 9th July, 1920 - Four R.I.C. attacked and dispersed in Ballymahon Wood, near Kiltinane.

## LIMERICK TRAGEDIES. Police Sergeant Shot Dead. ANOTHER WOUNDED.

Upper Mallow-street was the scene of a sensational shooting tragedy last evening. About half-past five o'clock two members of the police force, Sergeant Kevin Dunphy, and Sergeant P. Harty, stationed in Ballynacura Barracks, were attacked by an armed party estimated from three to five men with revolvers, and Sergeant Dunphy killed outright. His comrade, Serge Harty, was shot through the shin bone, which was fractured, and another bullet passed through the cheek, rendering his condition critical. From the partitioned room it appears that the two sergeants came into the city during the day, and before proceeding to return to Ballynacura they intended to visit the residence of Dr J. Roberts, Upper Mallow-street, Sergeant Harty being on the sick list. They were not long in the neighbourhood when they were suddenly attacked by their assailants, who fired something like ten shots at them. At the time the street was practically deserted, but people living in the thoroughfare distinctly heard the firing, and it was only then realised that a terrible and deadly struggle was taking place in their midst. One of the sergeants, it is stated, returned the fire, but the conflict did not last long, about two minutes, terminating fatally in Sergeant Dunphy's case, and rendering the condition of Sergeant Harty extremely precarious. The former was shot through the neck and thigh, the carotid and femoral arteries being severed, causing almost instantaneous death. The assailants are said to have been uninjured, as they were seen after the dreadful occurrence running in the direction of the People's Park, through which they made good their escape. Immediately after the shooting, medical attendance was summoned, and a clergyman from the Dominican Priory was on the scene to administer the last Sacraments to the victims of the attack, who were lying in the obituary course a few yards from Dr Roberts' residence. Sergeant Dunphy expired before the clergyman left him, and Sergeant Harty, who was visibly suffering acute pain, was attended by Fathers Thornhill and Hayes, as well as by the Dominican Father. Drs Kennedy, Roberts, and Graham, gave all possible medical aid under the circumstances, but, as stated, Dunphy was then beyond human assistance. After the shooting, a large number of people collected in Upper Mallow-street, and were witnesses of the two sergeants being removed to the military hospital at the New Barracks. It is stated that the actual shooting was not seen by any person outside of those concerned in the attack, which was executed with lightning rapidity, in broad daylight, and in a thoroughfare which is situated in the centre of the city. Sergeants Dunphy and Harty had only been stationed in Ballynacura a few months. Harty, who is married, has thirty years' service, and is aged about 50 years, while Dunphy was aged about 22 years, and fought in the late war, where he held a commission in the Leinster Regiment. Further enquiries made to-day went to show that at least ten shots were fired by the attackers, and that very little time elapsed before the whole occurrence was over. It is stated that the shots were discharged from the opposite side of the street, and this is demonstrated by the marks on the iron railing outside the house where the sergeant was passing when the attack was delivered. One bullet travelled into the area of one of the houses, while others, fired from a distance, presumably on the assailants retreating, cut up the roadway.

Attacks on fortified barracks were, however, unsustainable in the long term because of the ammunition reserves they required, so the Limerick brigades reorientated their focus to ambushes on RIC patrols. For example, a British RIC constable was shot dead in the 'Tall Trees Ambush' near Kildorrery in August 1920, conducted by the East Limerick Flying Column in conjunction with members of the North Cork Brigade, while two Irish constables were killed by the West Limerick Flying Column during an attack on a curfew patrol outside Abbeyfeale six weeks later. The Limerick IRA's greatest operational success was at Dromkeen on 3 February 1921, when 3 'old RIC' and 8 Black and Tans were killed in a joint ambush by the Mid-Limerick and East Limerick brigades.

Police assassinations were also a hallmark of the Limerick IRA's campaign throughout 1920/21. These began on 10 March 1920 with the shooting of Sergeant George Neazor in Ward's Hotel in Rathkeale: a native of Pallaskenry, he was escorting a boycotted land agent at the time. The first Black and Tan assassinated in Limerick was Walter Oakley, a 20-year-old former sailor from Essex, shot dead on Henry Street on 24 July.

At least 20 'old RIC' and 17 Black and Tans were killed in Limerick during the War of Independence.

Ní raibh ionsaithe ar bheairic dhaingne inbhuanaithe, áfach, go fadtéarmach mar gheall ar na cúlchistí armlón a theastaigh uathu, agus mar sin rinne briogáidí Luimnigh a bhfócas a athdhriú ar luíocháin ar phatróil RIC. Mar shampla, lámhachadh constábla de chuid RIC na Breataine marbh sa 'Tall Trees Ambush' in aice le Cill Darach i mí Lúnasa 1920, a rinne Colún Eitilte Luimnigh Thoir i gcomhar le baill de Bhriogáid Thuaisceart Chorcaí, agus mharaigh beirt Lucht na hÉireann dhá Lucht Constábla Éireannach. Colún Eitilte le linn ionsaí ar phatról cuirfiú taobh amuigh de Mainistir na Féile sé seachtaine ina dhiaidh sin. Ba é Dromkeen an rath oibríochta ba mhó a bhí ag IRA Luimnigh ar 3 Feabhra 1921, nuair a mharaigh briogáidí Lár-Luimnigh agus Oirthear Luimnigh 3 'sean-RIC' agus 8 Duchrónaigh i gcomh-luíochán.

Ba shainmharac d'fheachtas IRA Luimnigh é feallmharú póilíní i rith 1920/21. Thosaigh siad seo an 10 Márta 1920 nuair a lámhach an Sáirsint George Neazor in Ward's Hotel i Ráth Caola: as Pailís Chaonraí ó dhúchas, bhí sé ag tionlacan gníomhaire talún boicotáilte ag an am. Ba é Walter Oakley, iar-mairnéalach 20 bliain d'aois as Essex, an chéad Duchrónaigh a feallmharáidh i Luimneach, a lámhaigh marbh ar Shráid Anraí an 24 Iúil.

Maraíodh 20 'sean-RIC' ar a laghad agus 17 Duchrónaigh i Luimneach le linn Chogadh na Saoirse.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
 BUREAU STAIRÉ MILÉANTA 1913-21  
 No. W.S. 883

**BLACK AND TANS ANNIHILATED AT DROMKEEN**  
 By LIEUT.-COLONEL J. M. MACGARTHY

FLAUNTING defiance from the highest point of a large, detached building in the village of Pallas, Co. Limerick, a conspicuous flag in the sombre colours of black and tan strikingly, if unconventionally, identified the local police barracks throughout the winter of 1920-21. Pallas was the headquarters of a police district in charge of an officer ranking as a District Inspector, R.I.C., but whose special category, and that of the greater part of the large garrison, was plainly indicated by the unofficial emblem so prominently displayed. The housing of this banner reflected the tension prevailing in the area at that period, and was expressive of the challenging sentiments of the garrison towards the countryside at large, but particularly towards the East and Mid-Limerick Brigades, I.R.A. These two units were equally involved through the fact that, though Pallas itself was in the East Limerick domain, the inter-Brigade boundary ran close by, while the police district—and, needless to say, the police activities—extended into both areas.

For long the operations, and more especially the methods, of this garrison had made its personnel exceptionally feared by the general public, and had proved a very sharp thorn for the two brigades which it faced with a challenge that had to be met. The police were definitely in the ascendant when, early in 1921, they scored what, in the circumstances of the time, was a big success, and for the local I.R.A. a correspondingly serious reverse, by locating and capturing the arms dump of the Mid-Limerick Brigade. The police raiding party took good care to celebrate their feat by visiting the house of Dick O'Connell of Caherconlish, the "on-the-run" Q.O. of the Brigade's Active Service Column, and staging a feu-de-joie with the captured weapons in the presence of the occupants paraded to witness, so they were assured, this proof of defeat and final end of the Column's activities.

These events brought matters to a head. Consultations, already in progress between the two brigade staffs, with a view to common action, were hastened to a conclusion. Plans considered for an attack on the barracks disclosed serious difficulties to be surmounted, in view of the pitifully poor armament of the I.R.A. The nature of the building, its position and defences made for difficulty of approach, and ensured a protracted fight before the defenders could be overcome. Despite the fairly extensive experience of the East Limerick Column in conducting prolonged and successful barrack attacks, such as that at Kilmallock in the previous May, when the attack was sustained for over six hours, the time factor in this case was a definite obstacle to success. The proximity of Pallas to large military and police centres (Limerick City, ten miles; Tipperary, twelve miles) made it probable that the garrison would be relieved long before the barracks could be destroyed or captured, notwithstanding all that might be done to impede the arrival of reinforcements. With a mere sniping, or demonstration, attack being of no value since the situation required that the I.R.A. should register a clear-cut success, an awkward problem seemed to defy solution when John Purcell, the I.O. of the Mid-Limerick Column, came to the rescue. He was able to report that a considerable portion of the Pallas police garrison regularly travelled with a lorry-convoy to Felanore, eleven miles distant, making the return journey on the same day. Further, he was able to indicate the route normally followed, and even to fix the usual date of the movement as the first Thursday of each month.

With this information the decision to attack and destroy the convoy was taken, the first Thursday of February being fixed for the effort

Superintendent Registrar's District Limerick Registrar's District Limerick No. 3

1920 DEATHS Registered in the District of Limerick No. 3, in the Union of Limerick, in the County of Limerick

No. (1.)	Date and Place of Death. (2.)	Name and Surname. (3.)	Sex. (4.)	Condition. (5.)	Age last Birthday. (6.)	Rank, Profession, or Occupation. (7.)	Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness. (8.)	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant. (9.)	When Registered (10.)	Signature of Registrar. (11.)
259	1920 July 24th Military Hospital	Walter Oakley from Limerick	M	Bachelor	22 years	Constable R.I.C.	Shot wounded abdomen 5 days Cardiac Apnoea 1 hour Certified	Frank Taylor Present at death Military Hospital	August Second 1920	[Signature] Registrar.



IRA intelligence photograph identifying Limerick-based Black and Tans  
 Grianghraf faisnéise ón IRA ag aithint Duchrónaigh atá lonnaithe i Luimneach

# Police Reprisals

## Díoltas na Póilíní



The IRA's targeting of policemen in Limerick provoked fury within local RIC ranks and this found expression in reprisals against republicans and their communities. Conducted primarily (but by no means exclusively) by Black and Tans and Auxiliaries, they would define perceptions of the RIC's counterinsurgency for the century to come.

*Spreag díriú an IRA ar pháilíní i Luimneach fearg i gcéimeanna áitiúla RIC agus léirigh sé seo díoltas i gcoinne poblachtánaigh agus a bpobal. Rinne na Duchrónaigh agus na Póilíní Cúnta iad go príomha (ach ní go heisiatach ar chor ar bith), shainmhíneodh siad braistintí faoi fhrithbheartaíocht an RIC don chéid atá le teacht.*



## LIMERICK OUTRAGE.

### RAILWAY HOTEL ATTACKED.

#### By Bombs and Rifle Fire.

Limerick, Monday Night.  
The Railway Hotel was attacked about 2.30 this morning, when rifle firing took place, and it is alleged two bombs were flung at the premises.  
A large number of people attribute the occurrence to police action by way of reprisal, and that it has followed on the fatal shooting of Const. Carroll, R.I.C., while having refreshment at the hotel bar on the evening of the 11th inst. This appears to be the popular view, and it gains credence by the chalking on some of the outer walls of the hotel: "This is the work of the R.I.C."  
The police, who arrived without delay, are investigating the circumstances of the attack, but no arrests have been made.

29 June 1920

Reprisals were sometimes spontaneous. Most notoriously, a large group of Black and Tans rampaged through Carey's Road in Limerick City on 15 August 1920 following the disarming of two plain clothes detectives by IRA Volunteers. Firing wildly, they assaulted residents and destroyed 26 homes. Police violence spread across other city centre locations, where several houses and businesses were burnt.

*Bhí díoltais spontáineach uaireanta. Rud is suntasaí, chuaigh grúpa mór Duchrónaigh in olcas trí Carey's Road i gCathair Luimnigh an 15 Lúnasa 1920 tar éis do Shaorálaithe an IRA dhá bhleachtairé éadaí plain a dhí-armáil. Ag dul in olcas go fiáin, rinne siad ionsaí ar chónaitheoirí agus scrios siad 26 teach. Scaip foréigean póilíní ar fud láithreacha eile i lár na cathrach, áit ar dódh roinnt tithe agus gnólachtaí.*

**TERRIFYING SCENES  
IN LIMERICK  
AT THE RAILWAY STATION  
AND IN THE STREETS.  
HEAVY FIRING.  
HOUSES BURNED AND OTHER  
DAMAGE DONE.  
Police Constables Shot Dead.  
Civilians Wounded.  
One Succumbs to Injuries.**

Limerick was thrown into a state of terror on Sunday last, following the report that two plain clothes policemen were held up and deprived of their revolvers in the vicinity of Carey's Road. This incident is stated to have occurred at half-past eleven on that morning, but the witnesses generally assert that nothing happened such as to warrant what took place an hour or so later when the police ran amok in several parts of the city. At a quarter to one o'clock, when the streets were crowded with people either returning from church or enjoying the sunshine, motor lorries of constabulary, fully armed, were despatched to Carey's Road and neighbourhood. Nobody appeared to be aware at the time that an attack on detectives had been made. At the hotel named some firing was heard coming from the Carey's Road direction, and for a moment or so it died down. A little later it was resumed with vigour, until people began to wonder what was afoot. It was then learned that the police had searched several houses in Carey's Road and maltreated several residents, all of the humble class. The next stage of the day's happenings was at the railway station. The one o'clock train, which is now the only one leaving the city since the 10 week-day train ceased to run, has been largely stilled by orders to get to Dublin, Cork, and cross-Channel centres. On Sunday last a large number of people intended travelling, and five or ten minutes before the train was timed to leave, people were pouring into the terminus. There was a sense of much animation at the station, which was crowded with men, women, and children. The anxiety, however, was confined to speculation as to whether the train would be held up, and as the time for its departure approached, a body of armed police marched into the station. Outside the booking office by-standers were searched by two members of the force. The police took seats in the crowded train, with the result that the driver and guard refused to proceed. The intending passengers were reluctant to leave their carriages, and in a minute everybody was standing and shouting. The constabulary got out of their compartments, and fired several volleys high with a view probably of scaring the people. As a result of this act there was a wild stampede of men, women, and children down the platform. The women and children were greatly terrified. Many fainted and screamed for help, and it was only after great persuasion on the part of clergymen and others who were in the terminus that their worst fears were allayed. When the police had taken their departure, the disappointed passengers on getting into the street were confronted by a large force of mixed police, the "reported" or khaki-clad members being in a big majority. Simultaneously there was another outbreak of rifle firing, and the people ran back into the station for shelter. The women and children were observed to be cowering, and they sought safety in every conceivable corner of the terminus. There was a wild panic-stricken rush for the door leading to the District Superintendent's and Engineer's offices, the parcels office, and cloakroom, while many found shelter in the carriages from the bullets that were falling around the building. The firing was kept up continuously in the place for almost an hour. There was not a person in the street converging on the station, everybody having retired to their homes, and in the stampede several were injured but not seriously.

15 Aug. 1920

### REPRISALS. FARMHOUSES BURNED IN KILTEELY AND EMLY.

Our Hospital Correspondent writes:—  
The house of Mrs. Jas. Hayes, Ballinlough, Kiltteely, in the East Limerick district, was burned to the ground on Saturday evening about 4 p.m. by armed forces, who arrived in motor lorries. The occupants were given five minutes to clear out any valuables they possessed, but were not allowed to remove anything in the nature of furniture. The shutters were taken off the windows and placed with the furniture in a pile in the centre of the kitchen. With the aid of some petrol and hay, the house was set ablaze, and in a few minutes was completely burned.

Previous to this over 100 men were commandeered in the neighbouring village of Kiltteely, and were marched, four deep, to the scene, under an armed escort. Here they were unwilling spectators of the fire. The outhouses were left unharmed, while a barn containing about 20 tons of hay was not touched.

The object of this official burning, as it presumably is, is hard to conjecture, unless as a reprisal for the recent Drunken Am- hush; but Kiltteely is over three miles from that scene. Mrs. Hayes is a delicate old lady, and is just recovering from a serious illness. One of her two sons, Willie, has been "on the run" for some time past.

As a sequel to the wounding of the policeman in Emly, two farmsteads in the district were burned to the ground in broad daylight.

On Sunday evening the house of Patrick Kelly, Duncomogue, was visited by armed forces, and in a very short time they had the residence and out-offices reduced to ruins.

A similar fate befell the farmyard of Mr. Raleigh.

Hay, the property of Mr. Wm. Bourke, Coolboy, was also destroyed.

12 Feb. 1921

### R.I.C MAN & CIVILIAN KILLED IN LIMERICK

REPRISALS FOLLOW  
CURFEW AT 4 P.M.

Limerick was the scene of sensational and tragic events during the week-end, beginning on Friday night with bomb explosions, the loss of two lives and the wounding of a number of persons, and culminating on Saturday night in the destruction of property, stated to have been effected as official reprisals.

Curfew was imposed upon the city from 1 p.m. on Saturday, the usual hours being 10 p.m. to 3 a.m., and the citizens had the singular experience of being warned to keep their windows open with a view to diminishing risks from explosives. The total toll appears to be:—

Killed—Francis McMahon, aged 60; Const. Hubert J. Wiggins, R.I.C.

Wounded—Hd. Const. Heilon, R.I.C. (seriously). Sergt. McCarthy and Salmson, R.I.C. (do.); Frank Murphy (20); Jos. Keane (13); Michael Gleeson (16); Mrs. Kane.

Houses Destroyed.—Publichouse of late Mr. P. McInerney, Lock Quay; Premises of Mrs. Mary Barrett, do.; Residence of Mr. Patk. Burke, of Denmark St.; House of Mrs. Mary Neelan, John St.

EXPLOSION NEAR BARRACKS.  
About 10 p.m. (Curfew hour) on Friday a bomb exploded 50 or 60 yards from John St. R.I.C. barracks. The four policemen attacked were seriously wounded, and one of their number, Const. Wiggins, an unmarried man, a native of Clones, died subsequently at the military hospital.

The official account given locally is that two bombs were thrown from a party of five men. One of the bombs passed through the window of the house in which McMahon lodged in John St., killing him and seriously injuring the boy Gleeson and some others in the place, a small shop and kitchen. Six other persons were treated at Barrington's Hospital, the wounds in all cases being, so far as can be ascertained, occasioned by the two bombs.

Military arrived upon the scene and people were halted and searched, some being placed under arrest temporarily. A volley was also heard in the street, and at a number of houses visited in Bank St. furniture is declared to have been damaged.

INDOORS AT FOUR O'CLOCK.  
An official proclamation on Sat. fixed Curfew from 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. This had the effect of completely dislocating the business of the city, all shops being shut at 2 p.m., while the markets were closed by order of the authorities.

What the night was to bring was pre-oged in the warning conveyed to householders to keep their windows open with a view to diminishing the possibility of damage from explosives. The warning was acted on, and helped to relieve somewhat the public anxiety, being regarded as a thoughtful proceeding in reducing any damage that was to be done.

Subsequent events showed there was ground for the warning. Towards 7 p.m. a loud report was heard all over the city, but it was only on Sunday that the people became aware of what had occurred—the blowing up of the house and licensed premises of the late Mr. P. McInerney, Lock Quay, which later took fire and was entirely consumed.

6 Apr. 1921

# Police Reprisals - *Díoltas na Póilíní*

But reprisals were, more usually, purposefully planned. For example, police stormed through Newcastlewest on 18 July 1920 in retaliation for the shooting of Constable James Masterson the previous day. Republican homes were attacked and around 20 buildings damaged or destroyed, including the Carnegie Library, which was burnt to the ground. On 23 July, Kilmallock was raided by a party of Black and Tans in apparent reprisal for the fatal IRA attack on its barracks two months before. Reprisals for the Dromkeen ambush were conducted across neighbouring towns throughout February 1921.

## OUT FOR REVENGE

### Lady's Account of the Sack of Newcastle-West

Describing the state of terror which obtains in Newcastle West, following the sacking of the town by police on Saturday, July 17, a lady on a visit to the town wrote to her brother in Dublin on Saturday as follows:—"Newcastle West is in a terrible state of siege. The police here sacked the town on Saturday night last. They burned the library and the creamery, broke all the windows at Dore's chemists, and then went to O'Mahony's tailor's shop. I was down there yesterday. You never saw anything like the state of the house with bullet marks. . . . They went to Geo. Reidy's then and did the same there; came to Churchtown and went through nearly every house, but did not do any damage. "There were about 30 of the police, and I was looking out when they were at Dore's house—her house is next to it. She heard them say they would burn Dore's, so, of course, expected their own house would meet the same fate. "The police were mad drunk and were out for revenge over the policeman that was shot here the week before.

*Ach bhí díoltais pleanáilte go hoiriúnach, de ghnáth. Mar shampla, rinne póilíní stoirm trí An Caisleán Nua an 18 Iúil 1920 mar dhíogha mar gheall ar lámhach an Chonstábla James Masterson an lá roimhe sin. Rinneadh ionsaí ar thithe Poblachtacha agus rinneadh damáiste nó scriosadh timpeall 20 fairgneamh, lena n-áirítear Leabharlann Carnegie, a dóch go talamh. An 23 Iúil, rinne páirtí de na Duchrónaigh ruathar ar Chill Mocheallóg mar dhíoltas dealraitheach as ionsaí marfach an IRA ar a bheairic dhá mhí roimhe sin. Rinneadh díoltais ar luíochán Drom Caoin ar fud na mbailte in aice láimhe i rith Feabhra 1921.*

## BOMBS AND BULLETS

### Terrible Outbreak of Violence in Limerick TWO DEATHS

#### Incendiarist Attacks in the Early Morning

There were further scenes of bloodshed in Limerick yesterday, and two deaths have been, so far, reported, whilst five persons were wounded, one so severely that little hopes of recovery are entertained. The victims were:—  
KILLED—Sergt. K. Dunphy, R.I.C. James Saunders, civilian.  
WOUNDED—Sergt. P. Harty, R.I.C. Mrs. Russell, Joseph Egglestone.

The first tragedy was enacted in broad daylight, Sergeants Dunphy and Harty being fired on while passing up Mallow street by a number of men armed with revolvers.

Sergeant Dunphy was shot in the head, and collapsed on the sidewalk sneared with his own blood, and in a few moments expired. His companion was wounded in the leg, and fell in a sitting posture, from which he returned the fire of the fleeing assailants, until another shot from them took effect on his jaw, rendering further physical effort impossible.

As a consequence, bodies of soldiers and policemen patrolled the streets during the night, and about 11 o'clock a further tragedy occurred. Firing occurred, resulting in the death of a man named Saunders, who was shot dead; an old woman was shot in the ankle, while a young girl was also wounded.

### THE LATEST DETAILS

Our Limerick correspondent wires:— James Saunders, a dock labourer, was shot dead in Limerick last night during the fire by uniformed men. Mrs. Russell had a leg broken by a bullet; Joseph Egglestone got a bullet wound in the thigh, and two other civilians were wounded, but not seriously. The police decline to give information. It is alleged that there were no disturbances. At 3 this morning bombs were thrown through the window of McElmroy and Co's, large drapery establishment, also into a hair shop owned by the Misses Daly. The bombs extinguished the resulting fires, but a quantity of floor was damaged. Saunders was a widower and leaves two children. Mrs. Russell was brought into the pharmacy of McElmahan and Day, and later removed to Harrington's hospital, where the other wounded were also brought and attended by Dr. Dundon, resident surgeon. All are progressing favourably.

In a message received this afternoon our correspondent wires:— Following the shooting of two police sergeants, one fatally, in Limerick, last evening, scenes of indescribable violence occurred late at night, starting shortly after 11 o'clock. People were on their way home from the theatres and other places of amusement when loud rifle firing was heard, and bewildered citizens stampeded in different directions, women and children screaming. The firing was first heard in Athlun kard street, a point at the extreme end of the city, on the Clare side. A body of uniformed men, stated to be from 14 to 20, came in view crossing Matthew Bridge, firing as they proceeded. A bullet entered through the window of the Sarsfield Bar, which faces Matthew Bridge, passing through a partition smashing an electric lamp, and then embedded itself in the frame work of a second window, where it remains. THE FIRST CASUALTY.

20 May 1920

## ANOTHER R.I.C. OUTBREAK

### ATTEMPT TO WRECK KILMALLOCK HOUSES BURNED

#### RIFLE VOLLEYS ALONG THE STREETS

#### MILITARY TAKE NO PART

Wild scenes of panic and terror were witnessed in Kilmallock on Friday night when a body of police attempted to wreck the town. Many people were wounded, and one man's condition is serious. Three business premises were burned to the ground, and attempts were made to destroy other shops, the total damage to property being estimated at £8,000. The scenes began with the arrival of a police motor lorry from Charleville direction, and the wreckage lasted hours. The military took no part in the outbreak, and even assisted in putting out the flames in one house.

Similar outbreaks are reported from Newcastle-West and Strokestown. In the former place the Carnegie Library was burned down, and many houses were wrecked.

Following the shooting of Constable Masterson, Newcastle-West was subjected to a night of terror. About 1.30 a.m. there was a series of explosions, mingled with rifle and revolver fire. This continued until the small hours of the morning. When day dawned it was found that the Carnegie Library, situated at a cross the street, was completely gutted by fire. The creamery at the other end of the town was also set on fire, the roof was blown off, and considerable damage done to machinery. The wife of Mr. J. Kelly, South quay, and her children, suffering from whooping cough, were ordered to leave their house, and an attempt was made to set it on fire. A large number of plate-glass windows were broken by rifle bullets and attempts made to set the houses on fire. All the houses attacked were those of prominent Sinn Féiners. Several persons had narrow escapes from rifle shots through their windows. It is stated the attackers arrived in motor lorries about midnight. They numbered between 70 and 80. The local military turned out and extinguished a fire in the residence of Mr. John Broder, Maiden street.

WRECKERS IN NEWCASTLE-WEST.

### SCENES OF TERROR. MANY PEOPLE INJURED.

On their way into Kilmallock the police men discharged shots along the road, many people having narrow escapes. When they arrived at Kilmallock they marched at the cross and at once proceeded to smash windows with the butt-ends of their rifles, while shots were also fired indiscriminately. Policemen who entered Lyons' Hotel presented revolvers at 2 girls behind the counter. Then, going out into the yard, they fired at and wounded a man named Luggan, who was later removed to hospital. Proceeding to Herlihy's publichouse, they asked for Mr. Herlihy, stating they were going to shoot him. Mr. Herlihy occupied through the back, but the lady occupants were injured and the house was set on fire. Three young ladies, named Joyce, Gleeson, and O'Sullivan were rescued from the burning building by Mr. Bleach, the postmaster, assisted by postmen. The policemen next visited O'Rourke's, where they asked for Mr. O'Rourke. Here one of the occupants broke his leg while escaping through a window. At another publichouse they invited a man to clear off, firing shots at him as he went.

### EXPLOSION IN GALWAY.

The plate glass window in the premises of Mr. P. J. O'Connor, Mainquard St., Galway, was shattered by a bomb explosion at 2.50 a.m. on Saturday. It is believed, however, that the attack was made by the police. Much damage was done in the shop, and a fox terrier sleeping on the counter was killed. The ceiling and counter of the shop are marked, and the hole in the plate glass window suggests that the bomb was thrown through it and exploded in mid-air. A woman who looks after the shop heard the explosion saw 3 men moving off quickly. Other residents saw 2 men with trench coats disappearing from the corner, while others, who apparently wore rubbers, were heard running. The previous night drunken soldiers held up the citizens, asking if they were Sinn Féiners. When Mr. T. Collins, eye agent, Dromkeen, Co. Limerick, was passing the police bar, he was wounded by a bottle thrown through the bar window. Two policemen, fully armed, then rushed at him, and passed him to his own house. The greatest amount of destruction was done. One policeman, after having broken all the windows, entered the shop of Mrs. O'Keefe, and said the house would be burned down. At the same time he fired a shot through the roof, a lady post office official, who was in an upper story, having a narrow escape.

26 July 1920

## Farm Fires Follow Ambush of Police Forces.

Armed forces concentrated during the week-end at New Pallas, Dromkeen, and adjoining districts of Co. Limerick, where reprisals took place as a result of the ambush of police at Pallasgreen, in which 11 constables were killed. The house and furniture of Stephen Lynch, shoemaker, Caherconlish, was burned; furniture the property of Mr T. O'Connell, Caherconlish, was burned, and the house blown up; the furniture of T. Portly, Michael Hennessy, and Mr Buckley, Dromkeen, were burned; the houses and furniture of Mr R. Kennedy, farmer, Mount Catherine, New Pallas; Mr Carroll, farmer, Dromkeen; Mr Mackey, farmer, Dromkeen; and Mr Hayes, Dromkeen, Kiltely, were burned. Furniture the property of Mr Gleeson, harness maker, Cappamore, was also burned. Following the burnings at Caherconlish, notices were posted up in the village warning the people against keeping their hands in their pockets, or being out of their homes after 7 p.m.

As sequel to the ambush at Ballinhassig, where two policemen were shot dead and another seriously injured, three farmyards in the vicinity have been destroyed. The farmhouse of Mr Kelly, near the Halfway House, was visited and hay and straw burned. The damage is estimated at over £200. The farmyards of Mr John O'Brien and Mr William O'Brien were visited and at each place quantities of hay and straw, and also outbuildings were burned. The damage in the latter cases was extensive. Two men who were working in an adjoining field at the time of the ambush have been arrested.

About 80 tons of hay, the property of Mr Robert Geelan, farmer, a Protestant and Unionist of Currygranny, near Newtownforbes, Co. Longford, were burned on Friday night. A residential house on Mr Geelan's farm, formerly used as a police barrack, was burned some months ago and Mr Geelan was awarded £900 compensation at the Quarter Sessions. A large quantity of hay belonging to Mr John Moore, of Mullallogher, near Longford, was also burned.

### WRECKERS IN NEWCASTLE-WEST.

Similar outbreaks are reported from Newcastle-West and Strokestown. In the former place the Carnegie Library was burned down, and many houses were wrecked.

### WRECKERS IN NEWCASTLE-WEST.

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12 Feb. 1921



Cecil and Aiden O'Donovan. The official British report on their deaths is closed until 2049 Cecil agus Aiden O'Donovan. Tá tuarascáil oifigiúil na Breataine ar a mbásanna dúnta go dtí 2049

## LIMERICK SHOOTING. MILITARY INQUIRY.

A military inquiry was held at the No. 1 Barracks, Limerick, on Tuesday evening into the circumstances connected with the death of Cecil O'Donovan, 18, and Aiden O'Donovan, 14, who were fatally wounded by Crown forces at Blackwater, Co. Clare, on Sunday last. Mr. P. E. O'Donnell, solicitor, represented the next-of-kin. A military officer stated he was in command of a mixed force of troops at Blackwater on Sunday last. The orders were that the troops were only to fire if they were attacked, or if anyone refused to halt, or endeavoured to break through. He did not see the boys being shot, but saw the bodies lying on the ground. He enquired the circumstances of the youths being killed. To Mr. O'Donnell—He could not say if the bodies were found where the boys fell. Another military officer stated that he went with a mixed force of troops to Blackwater on Sunday. At the approach of the troops seven or nine men ran out of the deserted mill, and fire was opened on them. Three ran across a field, and the remainder towards the river. They were challenged, but did not stop, and firing broke out on the left at a distance of from 150 to 200 yards. He saw two fall, and a third stooped by them, with his hands up. He seemed dazed, and as he was still in the line of fire witness went up and took him prisoner. To a certain extent witness was within the line of fire when he went to the boy with the object of calling him out of danger. At the time the firing started there were other men running away, and the boys were caught in the line of fire. From the position witness was in it was impossible to know the age of these boys, otherwise he would have done something to try and save them. By Mr. O'Donnell—The third boy, Thomas O'Donovan, was within a yard or two of the bodies when witness came up to him. There were seven to nine men there according to witness. The challenge to halt came from witness and the police on his left, a couple of hundred yards away. The boys were going in the direction of the lorries. He did not see the lorries. The medical testimony showed that death in each case was due to shock and haemorrhage following gunshot wounds. The decision of the Court will be announced.

21 Feb. 1921

**"I HAVE SHOT TWO MEN."**

**STORY OF A DOUBLE TRAGEDY.**

**AMAZING EVIDENCE AT ABBEYFEALE.**

"The man referred to as 'Black and Tan' came to me in the barrack yard, and asked to speak to me. He said: 'I have just shot two men.'"

This was the sensational evidence given by a member of the R.I.C. Cadet Corps at the military inquiry into the circumstances connected with the deaths of Patrick Harnett and Jeremiah Healy at Abbeyfeale.

This witness further stated that the man in his statement to him, said that he followed the two men, who broke into a run, and as they would not halt he shot them. The inquiry was adjourned.

**"LOOKED SUSPICIOUS."**

**STORY OF THE TRAGEDY.**

The military inquiry into the circumstances under which Patrick Harnett, postman, and Jeremiah Healy, blacksmith, were found shot dead in a field 300 yards from the police barracks, Abbeyfeale, opened yesterday.

A large force of military was on duty outside the barracks, while on the opposite side of the road a number of people were assembled at the wake of young Harnett. Mr. J. Woulfe, solicitor, Abbeyfeale, represented the relatives of the two deceased.

Dan Healy said he last saw his son alive on Monday morning. About 6 o'clock, while cutting grass on his own place, he heard 3 shots where the boys were found. After 5 minutes he saw a man with a khaki coat going along. The man got out on the road, and went in the direction of the town. Witness said he went on with his work, and after some time he saw 5 or 6 khaki men walk out towards the place.

**IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.**

When the man reached the gap where the boys were found they crossed the road, and a man in a khaki suit looked into the place and then came away towards the town. Witness had no idea what happened, and next morning he heard of his son's death and saw the bodies at the barrack. Witness could not recognise the man whom he first saw coming away from the place as he was too far away from him. It was broad daylight at the time and the Angulus rang soon after.

John Cutler, who was employed at Healy's forge with the deceased, Healy, said the forge was closed at 5.30 o'clock. Witness saw Healy going up the road with Harnett. He saw the "Black and Tan" going up the road after them. Witness lost sight of them, but heard 3 shots 4 or

5 minutes afterwards. He saw the same "Black and Tan" going down inside the fence. Witness could not identify him. He heard the shots a few minutes before the Angulus, which rings at 5 o'clock, old time.

A girl witness said she was going over the road about 5 minutes to 6 (old time) with another girl. When they looked back they saw Healy and Harnett 100 or 200 yards behind. When they looked back later, they saw two "Black and Tans" pass—a tall one and a small one, the latter a little bit back from the other. When they looked back later there was none of them on the road.

Continuing, witness said when they got as far as Mahony's cottage they heard shots. After some minutes the tall man seemed to be walking back towards the town. They didn't see the other "Black and Tan" afterwards.

John Harnett, father of the second victim, said deceased left to go to his uncle's at 6 o'clock. "We were all going out that night," added witness, "for safety." When the two deceased boys went out the road together, the "Black and Tan" was walking after them—100 yards behind. He was alone, and was armed with a revolver. Witness could identify the man. They disappeared round the turn, but witness heard no shots, as they were removing furniture. The house next door to witness was bombed on Sun. night.

**TOWN SACKED.**

Mr. Woulfe said the town was sacked that night, and a general exodus took place next evening.

A Head-Constable deposed that about 7.30 p.m. it was reported to him that two men had been shot. He took a sergeant with him to the scene, and in the field they found the dead bodies—apparently shot through the heads. The man referred to as the "Black and Tan" was in his office and left about 5 minutes to 7, new time. Witness did not know where he went. Witness saw him again about 8 o'clock, and he said he would go to Newcastle West, for what purpose witness did not know.

A member of the Cadet Corps, R.I.C., deposed that about 6.15 o'clock the man referred to as the "Black and Tan" came to him in the barrack yard and asked to speak to him. He walked to the barrack gate with witness and said:—

"I have just shot 2 men. I was standing at the barrack gate and said 'Good evening' to 2 young men who were passing. They took no notice and I followed them, as they looked suspicious. They kept looking back and then broke into a run. I ran after them, and they went through a gap in the hedge on the right of the road. I shouted to them to halt, and as they wouldn't stop running I shot them." "I KNOW WHEN A MAN IS DEAD."

When witness asked were they dead, he replied, "I know when a man is dead. He told 2 constables to tell the head, and then went with this man, who showed the witness the two civilians lying on their backs inside the field, about 3 yards from the road and about a yard apart. The younger of the two had a soft hat clenched in his left hand as if taken off to enable him to run better.

Witness, continuing, said there were no signs of a struggle. The deceased man had no arms.

**"RATHER DRASTIC."**

Mr. Woulfe—Did anything strike you as extraordinary about the whole story?

Witness—The shooting struck me as being rather drastic under the circumstances. Continuing, witness said the man referred to was perfectly cool and collected. He voluntarily showed witness his pistol, calling attention to the fact that he had expended only 3 rounds. He said he climbed through the hedge before he shot them. Witness knew nothing of the man's previous history.

Police crimes against Limerick's population were not confined to reprisals. Certain murders, such as those of brothers Cecil and Aiden O'Donovan from Thomondgate, were the result of a general trigger-happiness which demonstrated a casual disregard for local lives. Although a military court of inquiry described their killings as 'a tragic misadventure', they were shot in a burst of unauthorized gunfire while raising their hands.

Others were perpetrated by policemen, wantonly, without provocation. The most infamous of these were the murders of Patrick Harnett and Jeremiah Healy by Constable Thomas Huckerby, a 19-year-old Black and Tan from the then British West Indies. For these and other crimes, he was removed from Limerick in November 1920 and compelled to resign from the RIC one month later.



RIC Constable no. 71352: Thomas Huckerby

*Ní raibh coireanna póilíní i gcoinne daonra Luimnigh teoranta do dhíoghaintí. Bhí dúnmharuithe áirithe, mar shampla dúnmharuithe na ndeartháireacha Cecil agus Aidan O'Donovan as Thomondgate, mar thoradh ar sonas spreagtha ginearálta a léirigh neamhaird ócáideach do shaol na háite. Cé gur chuir cúirt fiosrúcháin mhíleata síos ar a ndúnmharuithe mar 'mhí-ádh tragóideach', lámhachadh iad i bpléasc de gunfire neamhúdraithe agus iad ag ardú a lámha.*

*Rinne póilíní daoine eile gan staonadh gan briogadh. Ba iad na daoine ba mhíchluíne díobh seo ná dúnmharuithe Patrick Harnett agus Jeremiah Healy leis an gConstábla Thomas Huckerby, Duchrónach 19 mbliana d'aois as Indiaigh Iarthar na Breataine ag an am. Maidir leis na coireanna seo agus coireanna eile, baineadh é as Luimneach i mí na Samhna 1920 agus cuireadh iallach air éirí as an RIC mí ina dhiaidh sin.*

SAGRSTÁT ÉIREAIN.  
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN IRELAND.

CERTIFIED COPY OF ENTRY IN THE REGISTER BOOK OF DEATHS DEPOSITED IN THE SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

1 — Deaths Registered in the district of Abbeyfeale in the Union of Newcastle, in the County of Limerick

No.	Date & Place of Death.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Condition.	Age last Birthday.	Rank, Profession or Occupation.	Certified cause of Death and Duration of Illness.	Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant.	When Regd.	Signature of Registrar.
383.	1920. Twentieth September, Abbeyfeale.	Patrick Harnett.	M.	Unmarried.	25.	Labourer.	Due to revolver shot fired by T.D.Huckerby	Information received from John F. Eastwood, President of Court of Inquiry held on Sept. 22nd, 1920 at Abbeyfeale.	13th October, 1920.	John O'Connell, Assistant Registrar.

I hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Entry No. 383. in the Register Book of Deaths of the above District deposited in my Office.

Office, Registry, Newcastle West, R. Ging. Id. Stamp.

Date, 14th May, 1928. Superintendent Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages,


*testific true copy.*  
for the County of Limerick.

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh  
Limerick City & County Council

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

# The Curfew Murders

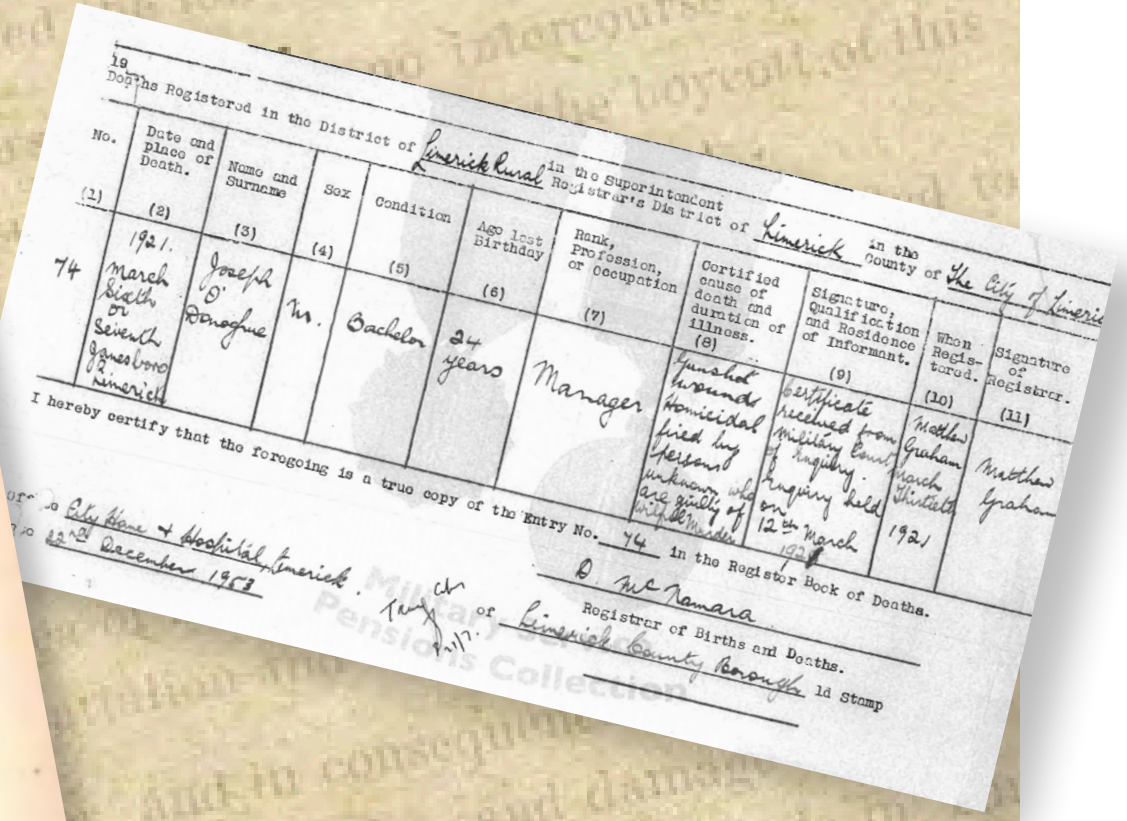
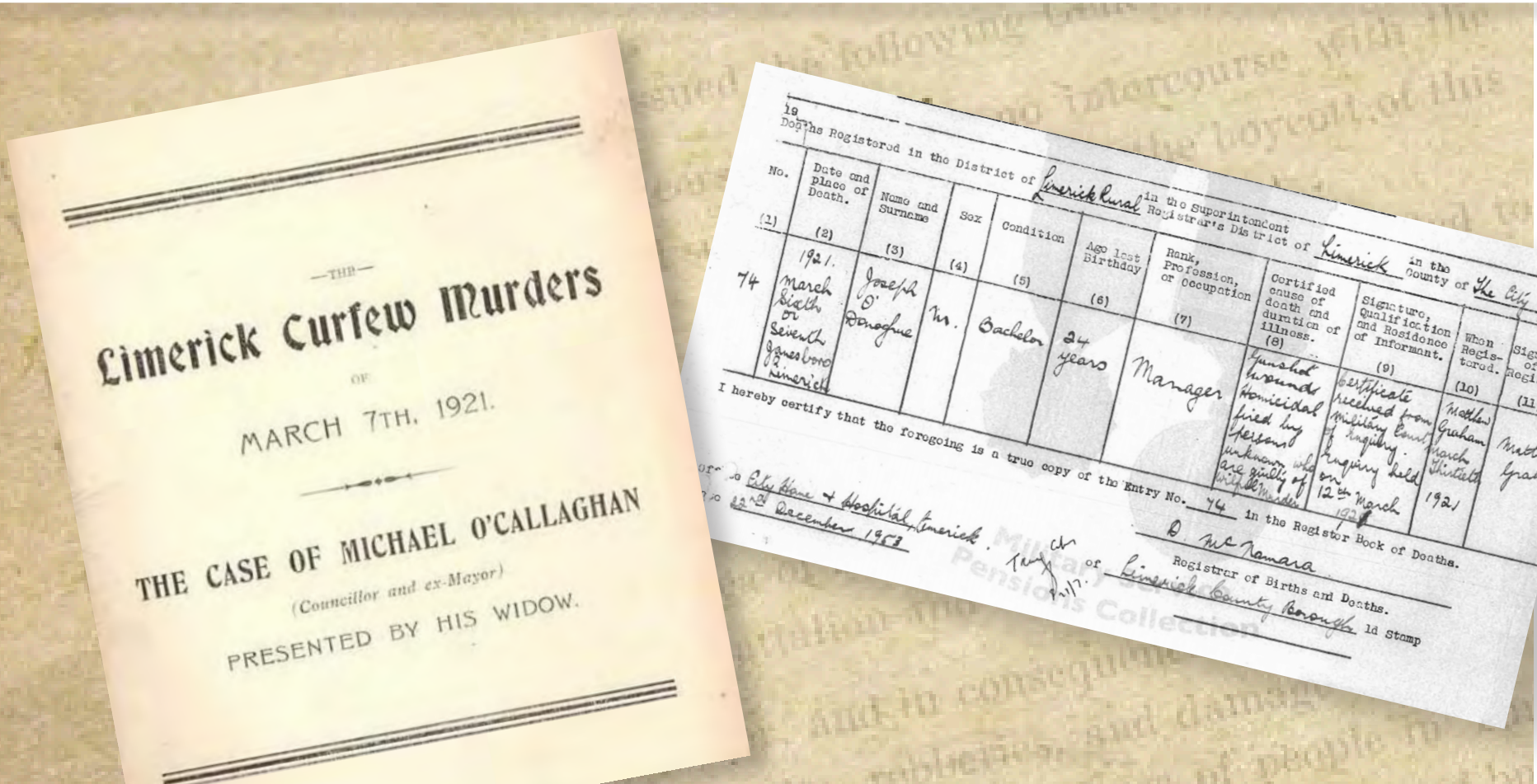
## Dúnmharuithe an Cuirfiú



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh  
**Limerick City**  
& County Council



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



**Limerick Horrified**  
**A Night's Tragic Outrage**  
**Mayor and Ex-Mayor of City**  
**Slain in their Home**  
**Wife of Each Wounded**

Inhabitants of the most ancient and beautiful city of the west...  
**CASE OF THE CURFEW**  
**MR. O'CALLAGHAN'S DEATH**  
**THE LATE CURFEW**  
**THE LATE CURFEW**  
**MIDNIGHT MARAUDERS**  
**MR. O'CALLAGHAN'S DEATH**  
**MR. O'CALLAGHAN'S DEATH**  
**MR. O'CALLAGHAN'S DEATH**



George Clancy and Michael O'Callaghan

The most infamous police crimes of the revolutionary period in Limerick were perpetrated on the night of 6/7 March 1921. Dubbed the 'Curfew Murders', they commenced at around 11.30pm when a party of disguised and armed men called to the lodgings of Joseph O'Donoghue at Janesboro Avenue in Limerick City. Born in Westmeath, 24 year-old O'Donoghue had recently moved to the city to take up a managerial position in the British & Argentine Meat Company on William Street. He was also active in the IRA; he had been a section leader in his native Westmeath and was 'a loyal and active member' of 2 Battalion, Mid-Limerick Brigade. On this account, the men took O'Donoghue from the house and shot him dead. It has also been suggested that they believed him to be using the meat company as a cover for the smuggling of IRA arms.

At around 1-1.30am, three armed men disguised with overcoats, goggles, and hats called to the house of Limerick city mayor, George Clancy, at Castle View Gardens in Thomondgate. Clancy was a long-standing and prominent republican and, as raids on his home were becoming routine, his wife opened the door. Immediately sensing real danger, she attempted to deny the men entry, but they forced their way past her and shot Clancy dead in the hall. A near-identical scene unfolded at the North Strand residence of Clancy's predecessor, Michael O'Callaghan, around the same time. Two armed and disguised men demanded that O'Callaghan, a serving and staunch Sinn Féin councillor, come to the door and, similarly accustomed to police raids he, together with his wife, Kate, complied. The men opened fire at close quarters and, despite his wife's valiant attempts to protect him, O'Callaghan was mortally wounded.

Rinneadh na coireanna póilíní is clúití sa tréimhse réabhlóideach i Luimneach oíche an 6/7 Márta 1921. Fuair siad 'Dúnmharuithe an Cuirfiú', thosaigh siad ag thart ar 11.30in nuair a ghlaoigh páirtí d'fhir faoi cheilt agus armtha chuig lóistín lósaef O'Donnchadha ag Ascaill Baile Shinéad i gCathair Luimnigh. Rugadh O'Donnchadha, 24 bliain d'aois, chun na cathrach le déanaí chun post bainistíochta a ghlacadh i gCuideachta Feola na Breataine agus na hAirgintíne ar Shráid William. Bhí sé gníomhach san IRA freisin; bhí sé ina cheannaire rannóige san Iarmhí dúchais agus bhí sé ina 'bhall dílis agus gníomhach' de 2 Chathlán, Briogáid Lár Luimnigh. Ar an gcuntas seo, thóg na fir O'Donnchadha ón teach agus lámhaigh siad marbh é. Tugadh le fios freisin gur chreid siad go raibh sé ag úsáid na cuideachta feola mar chlúdach le haghaidh smuigleáil arm an IRA.

Ag thart ar 1-1.30am, ghlaoigh triúr fear armtha le cótaí móra, gloiní cosanta, agus hataí chuig teach méara chathair Luimnigh, Seoirse Mac Fhlannchaidh, ag Gairdíní Castle View i Thomondgate. Poblachtánach feiceálach fadbhunaithe ab ea Mac Fhlannchaidh agus, de réir mar a bhí ruathair ar a theach ag éirí gnáthamh, d'oscail a bhean an doras. Agus í ag mothú fíorchontúirt láithreach, rinne sí iarracht iontráil na bhfear a dhiúltú, ach chuir siad a mbealach thart uirthi agus lámhaigh Mac Fhlannchaidh marbh sa halla. Radharc beagnach mar an gcéanna ag áit chónaithe an tSnáithe Thuaidh de réamhtheachtaí Mac Fhlannchaidh, Micheál Ó'Ceallachain, timpeall an ama chéanna. D'éiligh beirt fear armtha agus faoi cheilt go dtiocfadh Ó'Ceallacháin, comhairleoir Sinn Féin atá ag fónamh agus go géar, chun an dorais agus, i dtailthí mar an gcéanna ar ruathair póilíní, chomhlíon sé féin agus a bhean chéile, Cáit. D'oscail na fir tine ag ceathrúna dlúth agus, in ainneoin iarrachtaí cróga a mhná céile é a chosaint, gortaíodh Ó'Ceallacháin go marfach.





# Truce, Treaty, Disbandment - Sos cogaidh, Conradh, Díscáoileadh

Inevitably, the RIC became a casualty of the Anglo-Irish peace: its disbandment commenced in January 1922 and concluded in August. The Auxiliaries were first stood down, followed by the Black and Tans, and finally the 'old RIC'. Auxiliary Division G company had already left Killaloe by this time: it had been relocated to Corofin in July 1921 in the wake of the Curfew Murders. The gradual withdrawal of the Black and Tans from Limerick began in the first week of February. Fifty city-stationed constables were despatched by train to Rosslare on 7 February and the 16 county barracks still manned were evacuated the following week. This withdrawal was completed on 23 February, when the five city RIC barracks were handed over to the new National Army and their garrisons sent to Mullingar. The British amongst them travelled onwards to the UK, the Irish to Gormanston, county Meath, to await their official disbandment.



The Auxiliaries were the first to leave Ireland  
Ba iad na Póilíní Cúnta an chéad duine a d'fhág Éire

Gan dabht, tháinig taismeach den tsíocháin Angla-Éireannach don RIC: cuireadh tús lena scor i mí Eanáir 1922 agus chríochnaigh sé i mí Lúnasa. Sheas na Cúntóirí síos ar dtús, agus na Duchrónaigh ina dhiaidh sin, agus ar deireadh an 'old RIC'. Bhí cuideachta ADRIC G tar éis Cill Dalua a fhágáil faoin am seo: athlonnaíodh é go Corofin i mí Iúil 1921 i ndiaidh na nDúnmharuithe an Cuirfiú. Thosaigh aistarraingt de réir a chéile na Dubh agus na Tans as Luimneach sa chéad seachtain de mhí Feabhra. Cuireadh caoga constábla lonnaithe sa chathair ar an traein go Rosslare an 7 Feabhra agus aslonnaíodh na 16 bheairic chontae a raibh foireann acu an tseachtain dar gcionn. Críochnaíodh an tarraingt siar seo an 23 Feabhra, nuair a tugadh cúig bheairic RIC na cathrach don Arm Náisiúnta nua agus a garastúin a seoladh chuig an Muileann gCearr. Thaistil na Breataine ina measc ar aghaidh go dtí an Ríocht Aontaithe, na hÉireannaigh go Gormanston, contae na Mí, chun fanacht lena ndíscáoileadh oifigiúil.

**AUXILIARIES' DERTS**  
**Killaloe Shopkeepers' Claims**  
The question of the debts of G Company of the Auxiliary Division was raised in the House of Commons on Thursday. Sir Maurice Dockrell asked what steps had been taken to see that the amounts due to shopkeepers in Killaloe were paid. He asserted in his question that shopkeepers had supplied articles to the men between November, 1920, and July, 1921, when the company was removed to Corofin, and that large sums had been left unpaid. On January 2 last Colonel Guard interviewed the shopkeepers, and on behalf of the debtors asked them to accept certain sums in full discharge of their claims. He told them that if they did not accept the offer they would get nothing. It was alleged that certain receipts were obtained under duress.  
Sir Hamar Greenwood said that he understood that receipts in full settlement of outstanding accounts of this Company were given by the tradesmen concerned, but that claims for further payments had now been preferred by them. He was looking into the whole matter.  
Sir Maurice Dockrell—Is he aware that the Divisional Commissioner, who investigated this matter, said that Colonel Guard had obtained these receipts under duress. Were they paid in full? Why should these unfortunate shopkeepers not be paid?  
Sir Hamar Greenwood—I cannot accept the ex-parte statement of the hon member, who, of course, speaks on information supplied to him. I am making inquiries, and no one is more anxious than I am that every policeman should leave Ireland with a clear record. The inquiry is now going on.

G Company Auxiliaries left debts behind in Killaloe  
D'fhág Póilíní Cúnta 'G Company' fiacha i gCill Dála.



THE BLACK AND TAN: "Any orders to-day, sir?"  
GENERAL MACREADY: "Pack your kit and stand by to embark."

**LIMERICK AND ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.**  
**The Evacuation.**  
The evacuation of the Royal Irish Constabulary from the city was carried out on Thursday evening in its entirety. For some time past the police have been leaving the city fragmentally, but on Thursday the clearance was completed, and to-day for the first time in a century since the Royal Irish Constabulary was raised by Sir Robert Peel, Limerick City is without an active member of the force. The establishment of Royal Irish Constabulary in the city on Thursday morning was divided between the five stations, William street, Mary street, John street, Frederick street, and Edward street. Earlier in the day all the men were drafted to the headquarters at William street, the other stations having been vacated and handed over to Captain F J O'Shaughnessy, Liaison Officer, on behalf of the Provisional Government, who put the I.R.A. in possession. In the evening, at half-past five, Captain O'Shaughnessy proceeded to William street station, which he was handed over by County Inspector Regan. The police then left, they are to be disbanded. Immediately following the handing over the I.R.A.—which comprises the Clare Brigade—on crowds that had gathered from this I. Units from this I. during the day to take immediately the me William street station which was also useful. For over 70 years it had been used as a previously used as a structural alterations of it to serve the put utilised for such a long

**R.I.C. EVACUATE LIMERICK TO-MORROW.**  
To-morrow the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed in the five city police stations, William street, John street, Edward street, Mary street, and Frederick street, will vacate these stations, and proceed to Mullingar previous to being disembodied. At the central station, William street, to-day active preparations were being made for the evacuation, and the handing over of the place, as well as the others, to a representative of the I.R.A.

**CO LIMERICK POLICE BARRACKS EVACUATED.**  
The police stations at Adare and Patrickswell were evacuated on Friday evening, and the members of the force stationed there were removed into the city. Adare was subsequently taken over by a party of the I.R.A., under Captain Neiland, Patrickswell, remaining closed for the present.



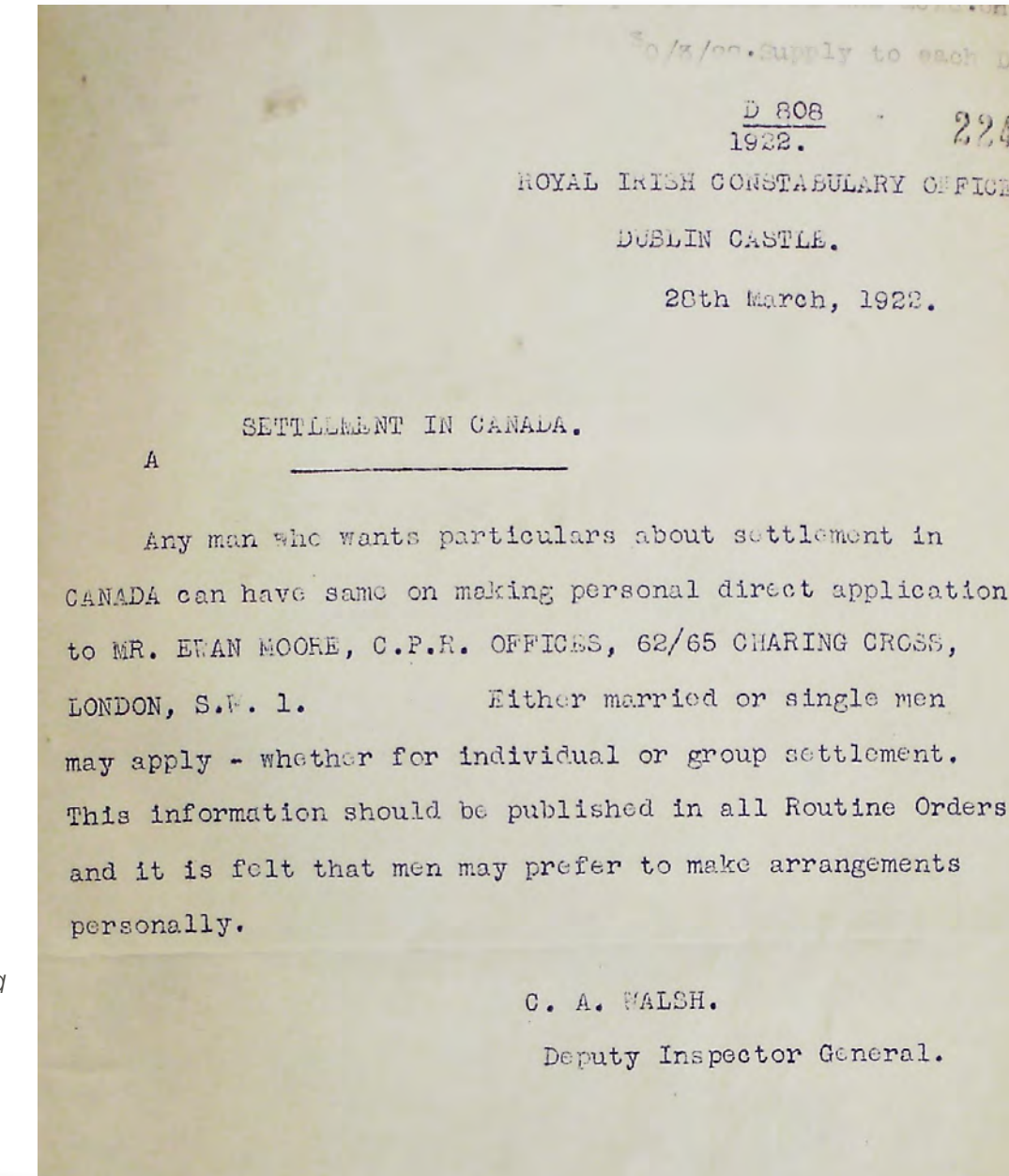
# Truce, Treaty, Disbandment - Sos cogaidh, Conradh, Díscáoileadh

Disbanded 'old RIC' and Black and Tans received generous severance terms (pensions were calculated on length of service plus 12 years, with provision for loading and commutation) but the great majority still required work. However, British employers proved reluctant to recruit ex-Black and Tans and, by early March, they were complaining that 'it [told] against them when they mention their last employment' when looking for work. Consequently, they held a series of demonstrations in London to publicize their grievances, but onlookers were said to be 'as little sympathetic as the employers'. This, coupled with delays in the processing of RIC pensions, meant that 3000 such men were reportedly in dire need of financial assistance.

Given their difficulties, around 2,000 opted for imperial migration, especially to Canada where a number of private land settlement schemes were directly targeting ex-RIC. In addition, some 650 disbanded Black and Tans and Auxiliaries transferred to the British Palestine Mandate in April 1922 as part of a newly raised Auxiliary Division-style striking force and riot squad. However, most former Black and Tans ultimately returned to the working class they had left for service in the Great War.

*Fuair na Duchrónaigh Scoite téarmaí flaithiúla téarfa (ríomhadh pinsin ar fhad na seirbhíse móide 12 bliana, le soláthar le haghaidh luchtaithe agus comaitéireachta) ach bhí obair fós ag teastáil ón gcuid is mó díobh. Mar sin féin, bhí drogall ar fhóistoirí na Breataine iad a earcú agus, go luath i mí an Mhárta, bhí siad ag gearán gur 'inis sé' ina gcoinne nuair a luann siad a bhfostaíocht dheireanach 'agus iad ag cuardach oibre. Dá bharr sin, reáchtáil ex-Black and Tans sraith léirsithe i Londain chun a gcuid casaoidí a phoibliú, ach dúradh go raibh lucht féachana 'chomh beag báúil leis na fostóirí'. Chiollaigh sé seo, i dteannta le moilleanna i bpróiseáil pinsean RIC, go raibh géarghá le cúnamh fir ó 3000 fear den sórt sin.*

*I bhfianaise na ndeacrachtaí a bhí acu, roghnaigh timpeall 2,000 imirce impiriúil, go háirithe go Ceanada áit a raibh roinnt scéimeanna lonnaíochta talún príobháideacha ag díriú go díreach ar iar-RIC. Ina theannta sin, d'aistrigh thart ar 650 Duchrónaigh agus Cúntóirí scortha chuig Sainordú Phalaistín na Breataine in Aibreán 1922 mar chuid d'fhórsa buailte agus scúad círéibe nua-ardaithe i stíl ADRIC. Mar sin féin, d'fhill mórchuid na n-iar-Dhuchrónaigh ar ais sa rang oibre a bhí fágtha acu le haghaidh seirbhíse sa Chogadh Mór.*



Former RIC, Black and Tans and Auxiliaries at Devonport awaiting their transfer to Palestine, April 1922  
*Iar-RIC, Duchrónaigh agus Póilíní Cúnta ag Devonport ag fanacht lena n-aistriú go dtí an Phalaistín, Aibreán 1922*

**DISBANDED ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.**  
DO YOU REQUIRE A LOYAL, TRUSTWORTHY AND WILLING WORKER as Porter, Attendant, Doorkeeper, Caretaker, Watchman, Timekeeper, Underkeeper, Chauffeur, Driver-Mechanic for any make of car, Gardener, Groom, Vanman or Driver, Wireless Operator, Clerk, Shop, Hotel, or Railway Detective, Indoor Male Domestic, or for any post where integrity is an essential? Then apply to the EMPLOYMENT OFFICER of the R.I.C. COMMITTEE, Broad Sanctuary Chambers, 11, Tothill Street, S.W.1.  
We have also a number of disbanded R.I.C. officers who have served with the Colours. These are open for Secretarial, Administrative, or other position when integrity must be beyond question.  
*WE CAN THOROUGHLY RECOMMEND EVERY MAN.*

**EMPLOYABLE MEN.**  
(EX-ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.)  
THROUGH their loyal services to the Crown these men are unable to live in Ireland, and are now refugees in England. We have supplied numbers of them to large industrial concerns, stores, hotels, landowners, etc., in Great Britain and the Colonies; and, owing to their magnificent records and physique, repeat orders are continually coming in.  
**DO YOU DESIRE TO BE EQUALLY SATISFIED?**  
Men can be interviewed at these Offices daily, and their records are in all cases available for inspection. Every care is taken to fill appointments offered by post with suitable men.  
We can supply Chauffeurs, Hotel and Theatre Attendants, Porters, Caretakers, Assistant Gardeners and Gamekeepers, and other skilled and unskilled men.  
**NO FEES.**  
EMPLOYMENT OFFICER, R.I.C. COMMITTEE (Southern Irish Loyalists Relief Association), Broad Sanctuary Chambers, 11, Tothill Street, Westminster. (Phone Victoria 1012.)

# Assessment and Legacies Measúnú agus Oidhreachtanna



The frequent savagery of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries has been traditionally attributed to their perceived low moral character and/or brutalization by the Great War. But recent research has discredited the notion that these men were the 'dirty tools for a dirty job', 'the sweepings of the British prison system', the 'offscourings of English industrial populations' or 'the scum of London's underworld' of the traditional nationalist narrative. Certainly some, such as Thomas Huckerby, appear to have been violent by nature. But, an examination of RIC service registers and other records overwhelmingly reveals ordinary, everyday men and, in the case of the Auxiliaires, agents of the so-called Tan War's worst crimes, recruitment was subject to police character reports rated 'good' or above. And although the brutalization theory has proved more resilient, in the absence of quantitative data on the the personal wartime experiences of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries, it remains just a theory.

In actuality, the evidence suggests that excesses of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries, particularly reprisals, were largely a function of the situation into which they were thrust – an IRA guerrilla insurgency against which they formed an entirely inadequate (and poorly officered) frontline. As David Leeson has argued:

Terrorised by the guerrillas and shunned by the people; enraged by the deaths of their comrades, and inflamed by drink; incited by their officers, and encouraged by faint censure – [they] took to reprisals as a form of rough justice.

'Even ordinary men', he observed, 'would have committed atrocities under circumstances like these'.

*Go traidisiúnta is é an Cogadh Mór a chuir i leith brúidiúlacht mhinic na Duchrónaigh agus na Póilíní Cúnta mar gheall ar a gcarachtar morálta íseal agus / nó brúidiú a fheictear dóibh. Ach tá drochmheas ag taighde le déanaí ar an gcoincheap gurb iad na fir seo na 'huirlisí salach le haghaidh post salach', 'scuabadh chóras príosún na Breataine', 'seach-sciúradh daonraí tionsclaíocha Shasana' nó 'scum fo-domhan Londain' an tsean-nóis scéala náisiúnach. Cinnte is cosúil go raibh foréigean ag cuid acu, mar shampla Thomas Huckerby. Ach, nochtann scrúdú ar chláir seirbhíse RIC agus ar thaifid eile go mór mór gnáthfhir agus, i gcás na n-Auxiliaires, gníomhairí na gcoireanna is measa mar a thugtar orthu i gCogadh Tan, bhí earcaíocht faoi réir tuairiscí ar charachtair póilíní a raibh rátáil 'maith' nó os a chionn. Agus cé gur chruthaigh teoiric an bhrúidithe níos athléimní, in éagmais sonraí cainníochtúla ar eispéiris phearsanta an chogaidh le linn na Duchrónaigh agus na Póilíní Cúnta, níl inti ach teoiric.*

*I ndáiríre, tugann an fhianaise le tuiscint go raibh farasbairr na Duchrónaigh agus na gCúntóirí, go háirithe díoltais, ina bhfeidhm den chuid is mó sa chás inar sáraíodh iad - éirí amach eadarnaíoch an IRA ar chruthaigh siad líne tosaigh a bhí go hiomlán neamhleor (agus gan droch-oifig). Mar a mhaígh David Leeson:*

*Sceimhlithe ag na treallchogaí agus na 'shunned' ag na daoine; curtha ar buile ag bás a gcomrádaithe, agus gríosaithe ag deoch; ghríosaithe a n-oifigigh iad, agus spreag iad trí cháineadh lag - [ghlac siad] díoltais mar chineál ceartais gharbh.*

*'Fiú gnáthdhaoine', a thug sé faoi deara, 'bheadh uafás déanta aige faoi chúinsí mar seo'.*

# Assessment and Legacies - Measúnú agus Oidhreachtanna



The full legacies of police atrocities in revolutionary Ireland have yet to be fully assessed. The personal testimonies of victims and their families bear witness to lives scarred or destroyed, those of their descendants to transgenerational trauma. The cumulative impact on Irish society is still little understood.

The shadow cast by these atrocities over 'old RIC' lives is more quantifiable. Within weeks of the Black and Tans' departure, retired and disbanded Irish policemen found themselves the target of localized expulsion campaigns, driven mainly by elements of the anti-Treaty IRA. These campaigns, which occasionally culminated in murder, created a climate of panic amongst ex-RIC which led thousands to take temporary or permanent flight. In Limerick city, sporadic expulsions commenced in late March and many county areas were also affected. For example, Rathkeale's resident ex-RIC were ordered out in the last week of April, and there were expulsions from Adare, Foynes, Bruff, and Newcastle West around the same time.

Níor rinneadh measúnú iomlán fós ar leagáidí iomlána na n-uafás na Duchrónaigh agus ADRIC. Is fianaise iad teistiméireachtaí pearsanta na n-íospartach agus a dteaghlach ar shaol a scar nó a scríosadh, beatha a sliocht do thráma trasghlúine. Is beag a thuigtear fós an tionchar carnach ar shochaí na hÉireann.

Tá an scáth a chaitheann na huairanta seo ar shaol 'sean-RIC' níos inchainníochtaithe. Laistigh de sheachtainí ó imeacht na 'Duchrónaigh', fuair póilíní Éireannacha a bhí ar scor agus a díscóileadh sprioc na bhfeachtas áitiúil um dhíbirt, agus iad á dtiomáint go príomha ag gnéithe den IRA frith-Chonartha. Chruthaigh na feachtais seo, a raibh dúnmharú mar thoradh orthu ó am go chéile, atmaisféar scaoll i measc iar-RIC a thug ar na mílte eitilt shealadach nó bhuan a thógáil. I gcathair Luimnigh, cuireadh tús le díbirtí sporadacha go déanach i mí an Mhárta agus rinneadh difear do go leor ceantair chontae freisin. Mar shampla, ordaíodh iar-RIC cónaitheach Rathkeale sa tseachtain deiridh d'Aibreán, agus díbraíodh Adare, Foynes, Bruff, agus An Caisleán Nua timpeall an ama chéanna.

IRISH OFFICE  
5 MAR 1928  
36, Bedford Row  
London, W.C.1.  
5th March, 1928.

REID SHARMAN & CO  
Solicitors  
COUNTY FOR OTHERS

Dear Sir,

re FENTON KIRWAN  
Ex-Constable R.I.C. - 58904

Further referring to our letter to you of the 1st instant we enclose herewith Form of Claim completed by our Client Mr. Kirwan in respect of loss suffered by him through having to remove from Ireland to England.

Our Client asks for a sum of £100 for losses and expenses incurred in the following circumstances.

At midnight on the 26th April 1922 Mr. Kirwan was aroused in his house at Rathkeale, County Limerick, by a party of armed men who entered and warned him to leave the Country within 3 days at peril of his life. For the safety of his wife, his 6 children and himself he left Ireland and arrived in England at the beginning of May 1922.

Mr. Kirwan lived at Ruthland Road, Stamford from June 1922 to April 1923 at a rent of 18/6d per week. He then moved to cheaper quarters at Broom, Biggleswade, the rent of which was 7/6d per week where he remained until he left England. He was unable to obtain work in England and eventually returned to Ireland in August 1925.

Mr. Kirwan states that he suffered considerable loss and expense in coming to England with his family and the rent which he had to pay

COPY.

COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION, 3rd, EASTERN DIVISION.  
H.Q., Wexford, June 11th

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS we are in possession of statements which go to prove conclusively that you \_\_\_\_\_, to whom this Official Notice is addressed, did, in your capacity as a member of the R. I. C. wilfully commit certain unlawful acts against the lawful Government of the Republic of Ireland, NOW we, by virtue of the authority vested in us, hereby decree that you, three days after the receipt of this Notice, shall take your departure from the County of Wexford, returning at the peril of your life.

Failure to comply shall entail serious consequences.

Note that the sentence of death previously passed on you has been commuted owing to the temporary cessation of hostilities; you can consider yourself extremely lucky to be dealt with in such a lenient manner.

In your case, the sentence has been confirmed by G. H. Q., Dublin, and the period afforded you for departure EXPIRES on this inst. at 8. m.

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.

IRISH GRANTS COMMITTEE

1. Name (in full, and in block letters) SULLIVAN PATRICK

2. Age 50 years

3. Address (for correspondence) 10 Wolfe Stone Terrace Limerick Ireland

4. State here the nature of the loss in respect of which application is made, giving material dates. Detailed particulars need not be furnished at this stage. The following are the principal losses in respect of which application is made -

I - After abandonment from the Royal Irish Constabulary in April 1922, my return home was met at the local Railway Station by informed and armed men who carried my baggage and my wife and children away. I was ordered to get out and have never seen them since. I was told by them to leave the County within 24 hours with which I complied. I have since been in England for 25 years. Also in April 1922, owing to my having to leave my home, and to my wife and children being left unprovided amongst a hostile force, for the purpose of obtaining for me to see that I could see the above order my wife health broke down with absolute terror with the result that she had a premature birth and lay in bed for 20 days. My wife died in the hospital during which time she was attended by Dr. J. Roberts of Malton. It is a sad thing to say that she is now suffering from permanent effects.

(and over)

# Assessment and Legacies - Measúnú agus Oidhreachtanna

No. 9.

**YOU CAN GET TO THE REPUBLIC  
FOR ALL IRELAND**

Through the safe and sure road of the Treaty  
or  
**YOU CAN TRY ANOTHER ROUND**

**Through the  
Alphabet of Miseries**

Auxiliaries	Jails	Spies
Black and Tans.	Knoutings	Threats
Commandeerings	Licence	Usurpation
Deaths.	Murders	Vandalism
Executions	Nerve Strain	Wails
Ferocities	Oppression	X The final horrors
Gallows	Persecution	Y which words
Harassings	Questionings	Z cannot describe.
Internments	Raids	

to get  
(perhaps)

Which way should a  
**Sane Man or Woman Go ?**

Support the Treaty Candidates.

DOCUMENT No. 2 (or others in later series) NATIONAL EXTERMINATION

A pro-Treaty poster for the June 1922 election warns that rejection will mean the return of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries.

Tugann póstaer pro-Chonartha do thoghchán Meitheamh 1922 foláireamh go gciallóidh diúltú fillleadh na Duchrónaigh agus na Póilíní Cúnta.

The memory of the frequently brutal police counterinsurgency helped ensure the RIC's status as the primary long-term loser in the century-old public debate over the way that the War of Independence is remembered, interpreted, and commemorated. So deeply etched are these atrocities in Ireland's social memory that 'the Black and Tans' have assumed the status of a national cultural trope while, internationally, the term 'Black-and-Tannery' became a twentieth-century byword for security forces' brutality, not just in Ireland, but in Britain, its former empire, and beyond.

Chuidigh cuimhne na n-uafás Duchrónach agus ADRIC le stádas an RIC a chinntiú mar an príomhchailteoir fadtéarmach sa díospóireacht phoiblí céad bliain ar an mbealach a ndéantar Cogadh na Saoirse a mheabhruí, a léirmhíniú agus a chomóradh. Tá cuimhne chomh domhain sin ar chuimhne sóisialta na hÉireann gur ghlac 'na Duchrónaigh stádas trópa cultúrtha náisiúnta agus, go hidirnáisiúnta, tháinig an téarma 'Duchrónachas' chun tosaigh i leith brúidiúlacht na bhfórsaí slándála, ní in Éirinn amháin. ach sa Bhreatain, a hiar-impireacht, agus níos faide i gcéin.

## "BLACK AND TANS" IN PALESTINE

"Irish Democrat" Reporter

**I**T is one of the cruellest ironies of history that Irishmen, who have most cause to hate the memory of the "Black and Tans"—those forerunners of Fascism—are now being used as the stormtroopers of British Imperialism to crush the Jewish independence movement in Palestine.

Reports from Dublin say that recruitment for the Palestine Police Force is being extended in Ireland. It is alleged that the last three detachments set to Palestine, after training in London, were composed exclusively of young men from Eire. Orange youths, unemployed or recently demobilised from the British Army, are also said to be joining in increasing numbers.

It is believed that one of the chief reasons for this extension of recruitment to Ireland is the comparative failure of the "Join a crack force. £20 a month and all found" campaign in Britain.

Labour and Jewish circles in Ireland have already begun to protest against the Bervin policy of oppression in the Holy Land. They

point out that though high pay and prospects of adventure may appeal to young men who are unemployed or in blind alley jobs at home, the Palestine police are nevertheless doing precisely the kind of work the "Black and Tans" did in Ireland 25 years ago.

**Fascist Cells**

It is rumoured that several of the high officers now serving in Palestine were former members of the hated Auxiliaries. It is known that Fascist cells exist in both military and police forces, and that anti-Semitic propaganda of the cruellest kind circulates in British clubs and barracks in Jerusalem, Haifa and other Jewish centres.

The recent sensational Major Farran case in which a high British officer is alleged to be the head of a conspiracy to kidnap Jewish youths shows the dirty side of current British Imperialist manoeuvring in the Middle East.

Irish Socialists and Republicans should support their representatives at Stormont and in the Dail in their protests against Irishmen being used to maintain military bases in Palestine.



**FRENCH BLACK AND  
TANNERY IN SYRIA.  
THE BURNING OF  
DAMASCUS.  
General Sarrail And The  
French Missionaries.**

(From a Special Correspondent).

Since the burning of Cork by the Black and Tans there has been no greater outrage committed in the name of law and order by a civilised Government than General Sarrail's bombardment of Damascus last week. For sheer barbarity and ruthlessness, this destruction of the oldest city in the world eclipses any atrocity committed by Sir Hamar Greenwood's Black and Tans.

The similarity between what is now happening in Syria and what happened in Ireland a few years ago is astonishingly close. And it is curious that the "Times" special correspondent, who has been the chief revealer of what has actually taken place, should be an Irishman, who was employed by the "Times" not long ago to investigate the similar atrocities in various parts of Ireland. The son of a well-known Irishman of letters, he has served for a number of years on the "Times" staff in the Middle East, and his record as a responsible and accurate journalist, combined with the fact that he enjoys the confidence of many notables in Syria, leaves it impossible to question at least the substance of his reports.

**"No More  
Black and  
Tannery"  
London Resolution  
On Kenya**

**T**HE Liberal Party Council at its quarterly meeting in London to-day, called for the terms of reference of the military court of inquiry into the recent Kenya court martial disclosures to be widened and to report, in particular, on the treatment of wounded Africans.

The resolution was proposed by Mr. James Walters, of Reigate and declared: "We want no more 'Black and Tannery.' We are each responsible for what goes on in Kenya as the German were for the Gestapo. No plea of ignorance will avail us at the bar of world opinion."

The resolution, which was passed unanimously, declared: "This Council will support all proper measures necessary to restore civil peace in Kenya, is shocked by signs of unexplained, unlawful and brutal acts on the part of the security forces. It believes that such acts are not only wrong, but if unchecked will bring this country the support of the world opinion and the confidence of the subject peoples everywhere."

**BLACK AND  
TANNERY**

**T**HERE are continuous reports of bloody-minded adventures into private homes, mainly of Catholics one presumes, by the British Army in the Six Counties.

There have been some reckless killings of young people, indeed of children, by these troops this month.

The recent arrival of the new representative of the British Government in the North, a man known to be pro-Army, increases the suspicions of the ordinary people here.

Dr. Cathal Daly, Bishop of Derry, has strongly criticised the British Army's incursions into private homes and their treatment of civilians outside of their homes.

One waits for similar criticism from the hierarchy of the other churches in the North, but it will be forthcoming.

This is the kind of activity which will eventually lead to a stronger urge for withdrawal of that army in the ranks of the British Labour and Liberal parties.

In fact, the British are now beginning to defeat themselves as their misdeeds tend to boomerang.

Yet the Government in Dublin is strangely lacking in foresight by their reluctance to arrange another get-together with their London opposite numbers.

We hear far too little of their opinions about a renewal of the Sunningdale conference.

## "FOOT TO PROBE "BLACK AND TANS" OF CYPRUS

From DENIS PITTS

NICOSIA, Friday.

NEW Governor Sir Hugh Foot has acted swiftly following Greek-Cypriot charges of "provocation and bias" by security forces during the latest riots in the

Syria 1925; Palestine 1947; Kenya 1953; Cyprus 1956; Northern Ireland 1976

## The Police in Revolutionary Limerick, 1919-1922

## Na Póilíní i Luimneach Réabhlóideach, 1919-1922

### Further Reading:

**Gannon, Seán William**, "'Very cruel cases': the post-Truce campaign against the Royal Irish Constabulary in county Limerick', *Old Limerick Journal*, 51 (2016), 15-25.

**Hughes, Brian**, *Defying the IRA? intimidation, coercion, and communities during the Irish Revolution* (Liverpool, 2016).

**Leeson, D. M.**, *The Black and Tans: British police and auxiliaries in the Irish War of Independence* (Oxford, 2011).

**O'Callaghan, John**, *Limerick: The Irish Revolution, 1912-23* (Dublin, 2018).

**Toomey, Thomas**, 'RIC consolidation in Limerick, 1919-1921', *Old Limerick Journal*, 42 (2006), 33-35.

**Toomey, Thomas**, *The War of Independence in Limerick, 1912-1921* (Limerick, 2010).

[www.irishconstabulary.com](http://www.irishconstabulary.com)



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media