

Appalling Tragedy

Three Men Hurlled To Death

Explosion at Cement Factory

Harrowing Details

As the result of an appalling accident at the new Cement Factory at Mungret, near Limerick, on Saturday, three men were killed.

The dead are—John Murphy, aged 50, Bengal Terrace, Limerick; John O'Donovan, aged 40, Clarina, county Limerick; and James McCarthy, aged 35, Patrickswell, county Limerick. A fourth man, M. Sharman, Patrickswell, was injured.

The tragedy occurred shortly after mid-day during blasting operations.

A workman stated that Murphy, McCarty and O'Donovan (the three dead men) and Sharman were engaged in blasting operations in the quarry. He heard a loud explosion and on looking around he saw Murphy's body flying through the air. The bodies of O'Donovan and McCarthy were precipitated into the bottom of the quarry, which was about 40 feet deep. Murphy was killed outright, but the other two men lingered for a time. Medical aid was summoned and Dr James Roberts, with the Fire Brigade ambulance, rushed to the scene. McCarthy and O'Donovan were removed to the County Infirmary, Limerick, but McCarthy was found to be dead on admission. O'Donovan succumbed an hour later.

The bodies were badly mangled. The dead body of Murphy was removed to Mungret village.

Murphy was a married man with five young children. He was an ex-captain of the British army. He was promoted from the ranks on the battlefield and received the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Only a few weeks ago he was given a house by the Soldiers and Sailors' Land Trust. He also served in the Free State army. He was engaged as assistant foreman at blasting operations for Cement, Ltd. The other two dead men were unmarried.

Following the accident work in the quarry was suspended.

The Last Rites of the Church were administered by Very Rev Fr O'Connor, S.J., Rector, Mungret College.