

Escape from Limerick Jail.

Recalled by I.R.A. Man's Death

Late Mr. "Mick" Hennessy.

A sensational escape from Limerick Jail while under sentence of death during the civil war in Ireland is recalled by the death of Mr. "Mick" Hennessy, which occurred with tragic suddenness on Friday night at his residence, Lisheen, Kilmallock.

The funeral took place at Ballingaddy on Sunday, and the large number of persons that braved the inclement weather to pay their last tribute of respect to his memory bore ample testimony to the esteem in which the deceased had been held, and to the sympathy of the whole of South-East Limerick with his family and relatives on their loss.

"Mick" Hennessy, as he was popularly known, had been Lieutenant of the old Ballingaddy Company of the I.R.A., and had taken a very active part in all the old I.R.A. activities since 1917. He fought through the Anglo-Irish and Civil wars—in the latter as a member of the East Limerick Brigade Flying Column.

During the Anglo-Irish war he was captured and badly beaten by the British forces, while during the Civil war he was captured and sentenced to death. While under the death sentence he made a dramatic escape from Limerick Prison, but in doing so he fell from the top of the high wall surrounding the prison injuring his back. For the remainder of the civil war he was shifted from place to place and sheltered by his comrades at liberty under the barest of conditions while crippled from his injuries, and while an intensive search was kept up for him by the National Army forces in and round his native district.

The remains were borne from Ballingaddy Church, where they had rested overnight, to the family burial ground in the near-by cemetery on the shoulders of the Ballingaddy company I.R.A., while members of the same company formed a military guard of honour.

Members of the following former companies of the East Limerick Brigade marched after the bier in military formation—Kilmallock, Brurea, Dromin, Bulgadon, Mullinstown, Cusb, Ballylanders, Kiltinane, Glensoe, Ballyorgane and Ardpatrick.

Mr Tadgh Crowley, T.D., and members of the Limerick County Council, other public bodies and a large concourse of the public followed.

Rev J Canon Mulcahy, P.P., and Rev J O'Shea officiated at the graveside, where three volleys were fired by a firing party, and an oration was delivered by Mr Wm. F. Mahan, Ballylanders, a former comrade-in-arms of the deceased.

The military parade was under the command of Mr Sean T. Riordan, Kilmallock, Kilmallock, former officer commanding the East Limerick Brigade I.R.A., while the firing party was in charge of Mr John O'Brien, Tankardstown, Kilmallock.