

AN T-ÓGLÁC

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THE ENEMY GAMBLE

Since our last issue appeared the Irish Volunteers have achieved a number of notable triumphs which show how little the enemy's campaign of murder, arson and pillage has been effective in injuring or intimidating our Army. A number of barracks have been taken; a number of successful ambushes have been carried out; a number of enemy patrols have been surprised and captured; and several daring and ingenious enterprises have been undertaken against the enemy which, even when not entirely successful, have helped to unnerve the enemy and further lower his already sufficiently degenerated morale.

In his futile fury against our disciplined efficiency, the enemy has now sounded the lowest depths of savagery and moral degeneracy; but without affecting the determination of the Irish Volunteers. The English forces and agents in Ireland have sunk to depths of baseness beyond which it is impossible to conceive the most brutal and vicious races of past days, civilised or uncivilised, sinking. The criminal population of England has been transported to Ireland, paid lavishly and let loose on the country with a free hand to murder, rob, burn and destroy with impunity. English military officers of high rank have formed themselves into a murder gang, and prowl round Dublin in the safety of Curfew hours searching for members of G.H.Q. and leading Volunteer officers. So far they have only succeeded in murdering unarmed non-combatants and it is satisfactory to record that four of this murder gang have already paid the penalty of their crimes.

The really interesting thing about this enemy campaign of savagery, from the military point of view, is its revelation of enemy mentality. The heads of the English Army of occupation really imagine and the English Government really imagine that these obscene barbarities will wean the Irish people from their allegiance to the Irish Republic and cause them to

transfer their affections to the power represented by gangs of criminals murdering and looting. They really imagine that mobs of bandits will succeed where the old R.I.C.—one of the ablest, most efficient and (from the enemy point of view) best organised forces ever used to hold a country in subjection—failed. They really imagine that the forces who have shaken off their grip on Ireland, who have broken the power of their most elaborate and efficient piece of machinery who have brought to an end a system of espionage so diabolically ingenious and widespread backed by armed power,—that those forces will be beaten by their imported spies and bandits from England, and that the “brains” of their “Intelligence” officers will succeed where the old “political detectives” failed. They have been grievously disappointed to find that the activity and efficiency of our forces has not been relaxed in the smallest degree; that those who were slack and careless have only been provided with a fresh incentive to action by the enemy barbarities; and that the guerilla warfare is being carried on with the same relentless determination and energy as ever. Our latest map shows a widespread area of activity; but since this map was compiled a large number of further activities, for the most part successful, have been recorded.

There is a certain amount of method in the enemy's madness. The terrorism resorted to seems to be employed with concentrated malice on portions of Connacht. This is explained by the fact that the parts in question have not been playing much part in the guerilla warfare until recently and the enemy believes he will be able to cow the people in these districts rapidly and “reassure control” so that he will be able to concentrate his energy on the parts where the Republican forces are best organised and most active. He counts on having this done at an early date; it is a matter of urgency with him, as he realises



the dangers of carrying on a lawless campaign of the kind for a prolonged period. His present attempt at "terrorism" is a last desperate gamble; he is playing his last card; and he will be beaten by the cool determination and efficiency of the Army of the Irish Republic.

It is the duty of every Volunteer unit at the present juncture to leave no stone unturned in finding opportunities of striking effective blows against the enemy. It should also be a favourable opportunity for getting recruits. Many who were careless about greater national issues are now stimulated to action by the sense of personal injuries. Furthermore those who played for safety and shirked their obligations must now see that they are none the safer for being non-combatants; nay, their non-combatancy is more dangerous to them than the membership of the Republican forces. It could be pointed out to them that it was better to be an armed and disciplined man, acting in concert with others, the members of a large and well-organised body, than a helpless victim of circumstances and the whims of enemy bandits.

New measures are being devised to deal with the enemy's new methods of barbarity, and it is only a matter of a short time until he will be made to repent them. Meanwhile the Volunteers face the future with undaunted spirit and will carry on the guerilla warfare with the same cheerful determination, courage and energy and ever greater enthusiasm than ever before.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

The following report from a Cork Brigade of a recent operation is worthy of reproduction both for the military lessons contained therein and as a specimen of a clear and well-written report:—

"A Flying column of 22 Volunteers from the first Battalion, were resting in two billets convenient to village. At about 10 p.m. scouts reported to the O.C. that two lorries of the enemy soldiers had arrived at village and were in the act of searching the local public house. The O.C. immediately alarmed his men and proceeded with them towards the village with the intention of delivering as effective a blow as possible to the enemy. He concluded that after examining the public house the enemy would retire again to his Headquarters at ——. This if it were the enemy's intention, would give him but little time to get within striking distance, and in the rush which the circumstances necessitated only 12 of the party were immediately on the call of the O.C. On their way to

the village they suddenly came face to face with the lorries. The O.C. got his men to cover behind one of the fences of the road—extended them and immediately opened fire on the two lorries. The fusillade seemingly was deadly, and both cars seemed to be at a stand still. Everything was in confusion within the enemy ranks—the cars had headlights on and remained on during the whole affray—consequently our lads had good targets for the rapid fire. The military scrambled from the cars and a party of them tried a flanking movement but the Volunteer flanks met them, and Captain — of the enemy was shot through the head. A party of Volunteers was sent to effect a flank attack on soldiers on the road. This did not succeed owing to the intense darkness, and the flankers got lost in the bog. The party of Volunteers who were slower to get from the billets than the others made afterwards in a bee-line for the village—which they thought would be the scene of the attack. They found themselves when the firing started in their comrades line of fire. They thought they were under fire from the enemy—they took up a position in front of the supposed enemy and remained there. This party showed certainly lack of initiative. If they worked to a flank both lorries could have been captured. The night was intensely dark however, the lads were in ground strange to them and they were without a definition of the objective from first to last.

"Communication between the different Volunteer Squads became ultimately broken up. The O.C. was left with finally 4 men and he gave up the attack.

"He did not know he had caused such consternation in the enemy lines as he had really caused by his surprise attack. His bombs were in the party last to leave the billet. His idea was to strike a blow—he thought capture of about 40 men impossible—and he put up a good fight. The Volunteers fought the battle of disciplined soldiers. Even when they got out of touch with the O.C. and with one another, each of them held in some position to morning.

"The casualties in enemy are supposed to be a good deal greater than officially stated. There are none on the Volunteer side"

GENERAL NOTES

A useful lesson was taught to the enemy murder gang in Dublin at "Fernside," Drumcondra when two officers of their Intelligence Department, a Major and a Captain, were killed by Republican soldiers whom they had come to murder, and one N.C.O., also an active member of their Intelligence Department was dangerously wounded. The Volunteers concerned got safely off. Although surprised in their beds they undoubtedly saved their lives by their prompt and courageous action. The value of speed and decision

in an emergency was strikingly shown by their success, at a time when they were caught at a disadvantage, with all the odds against them. The persons who are engaged in murdering unarmed and unsuspecting non-combatants collapsed when they found themselves confronted with armed Volunteers and two half-naked men by putting up a fight were able to escape from a large party of armed men who had surrounded the place. After their departure the enemy gang vented their cowardly rage by attempting to murder the man of the house, Professor Carolan, because he declined to give them information.

The Press reports of the "Fernside" Drumcondra affair are entirely misleading. The papers were afraid to publish statements made to them and instead played up to the enemy device of pretending that Professor Carolan had been shot accidentally by the Volunteer bullets. As a matter of fact he was kept downstairs during the affray and it was only after it was all over that an attempt was made to murder him, which for the time proved unsuccessful. When he was admitted to hospital the doctors prophesied his immediate death with confidence; but he lived to tell the truth.

Some weeks ago a party of enemy soldiers who occupied the Drumcondra Canal Bridge at Dublin, fully armed and equipped, and were holding up all passers by, were thrown into panic by two Volunteers armed only with "Peter the Painters," who shot one of them. They took shelter in the cover of the bridge and did not again venture to interfere with passers by until they were withdrawn from the position. A splendid example of enemy courage and efficiency!

Several of the few enemy police barracks left have fallen into the hands of the troops of the Irish Republic since our last issue appeared. The capture seems in each case to have been exceptionally easy although most of the captures occurred in parts of the country where such captures are common. In the counties where such occurrences are rare, the "peaceful districts," surprise attacks of the kind would be even easier. It is time for the "peaceful districts" to shake off their lethargy and take their full part in the war that is being waged for Ireland's freedom. There should be no "peaceful district" in Ireland where enemy forces are found.

In view of the special enemy campaign against Republican Courts it is the duty of Volunteer commanding officers in places where they are held to take measures to secure their safety.

The deaths of Commandant Mac Suibhne and Volunteers Murphy and Fitzgerald have been recorded up to the time of our going to Press, and doubtless by the time this issue reaches our reader others of the gallant band of Volunteers in Cork Prison will have passed away. It is not for Volunteers to make speeches or indulge in emotional language when casualties occur in the war of Irish freedom. To our

noble comrades who have suffered so long and so bravely we accord our whole-hearted admiration; we greet their triumph through death; and pledge ourselves to endeavour to show the same relentless determination the same self-sacrificing devotion in the warfare against the foreign enemy in Ireland, until the cause for which they died is crowned with triumph.

Bhí an Ceann Briogaide Toirealach Mae Suibhne ar na daoine ba thúisce ghaibh lesna hOglaigh seacht mbliana ó shin. Dhein sé saothar seoig i gCorcaigh chun na hOglaigh do chur chun cinn agus aighdiuirí maithe oilte acfainneacha dheunamh díobh. Bhí sé i n-a thimthriú dosna hOglaigh i nIarthar na Mumhan san bhliain 1915 agus dhein sé dícheall fir. Níor dhein sé dearmhad den Ghaedhilg ach an oiread. Pé áit i n-a dtéidheadh sé chun complacht d'óglaigh a chur ar bun, do labhradh sé an Ghaedhilg leo. Is maith an sompla d'Oglaigh na hEireann a shaoghal is a shaothar.

Reference was made in a recent issue to the danger of Volunteers allowing police work and other non-military duties to absorb too much of their energies. This warning is more needed than ever at the present time. The enemy campaign of "frightfulness" renders it more incumbent than ever on Volunteers to concentrate their energies entirely on active warfare with the enemy. Offensive action throughout the country must be incessant; all possible resources should be strained to keep the enemy "on the run." Those who complain of insufficiency of munitions and equipment, should take steps to secure more from the enemy. Those who get "stuff" should make good use of it. The present time is not one for dissipating our energies uselessly. The one thing that really matters is to get in as many blows against the enemy as possible. All other considerations should yield to this imperative necessity. Preparations should be made to deal with the form of atrocity known as "reprisals." It is well worth taking big risks and making sacrifices to secure this vital national services. A few lessons taught to the enemy bandits and murderers would be of inestimable benefit. The "warm reception" which the military raiders received in Drumcondra has had an excellent chastening effect upon their activities in Dublin. A few warm receptions for the "Black and Tans" would certainly cool their ardour very much; and these drunken, cowardly and undisciplined mobs of looters would fall an easy prey to even a small body of disciplined Volunteers.

As we go to Press the news comes that the enemy have murdered in cold blood in Mountjoy prison a Volunteer prisoner taken in action—Kevin Barry—a youth only eighteen years of age. He met his death like the gallant Volunteer he was and his comrades of the Dublin Brigade are proud of him and will find in his death a fresh inspiration and a fresh incentive to relentless warfare against the enemy murderers.





WAR MAP

(September 1st-15th 1920)

- X Fortified Posts Captured
- XX Outpost and Patrol Encounters
- O Evacuated Posts Destroyed
- + Stores etc., Raided

In addition arms were commandeered and enemy despatches seized in all units during this period