

AN T-ÓZLÁC

REGISTERED]

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ARMY.

[NEWSPAPER.

Vol. IV. No. 16 (New Series)

SEPTEMBER 30, 1922.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

News of the Week

(From "Iris an Airm.")

GALLANT GLENDALOUGH DEFENCE. THE SPIRIT THAT WINS THROUGH.

A detachment of troops, belonging to the 2nd Eastern Division, operating around Glendalough, found a large party of Irregulars attacking the National post there. The troops opened fire on the attackers, who withdrew after an exchange of fire lasting fifteen minutes, leaving a rearguard to cover their retreat. Two of these were wounded and three made prisoners with arms and equipment.

The following arms and ammunition were captured by the troops:—

- 7 short Lee-Enfield rifles.
- 1 Ross rifle.
- 1 Parabellum.
- 1 Colt revolver.
- 340 rounds of .303 ammunition.
- 20 rounds of .45 auto. ammunition.
- 1 Box Irish Cheddar.
- 1 Exploder and a quantity of cable.
- 1 Ford van.

It was learned that the retreating Irregulars had four wounded, one in the chest, two in the arms and one in the legs. The attack on Glendalough lasted from 3 a.m. until the arrival of the troops shortly before 6 a.m. The garrison left the building, and, taking up positions on the roadway around, held the attackers at bay until the reinforcements arrived. Lieut. Cullen was wounded during the engagement.

A Model Officer.

The Officer in charge of the reinforcements, in a report to General Headquarters, says:—

"I would like particularly to mention the gallant conduct of the officer and 12 men in the Glendalough post. The attack was opened on them by about 30 Irregulars at 3 a.m., and continued for three hours. Lieut. Cullen, the officer in charge of the post, was wounded seriously in the first volley, and, despite this, fought for an hour and a half before he collapsed. At 4 a.m., owing to the terrific firing, the post became untenable, and the little garrison turned out and fought in the open street for two hours, attired only in their shirts and trousers, until the arrival of reinforcements from Rathdrum and Dublin at 6 a.m. By this time their ammunition was almost exhausted."

Irregular Column Captured.

An Irregular column was captured at Foynes by a detachment of troops of the 1st Western Division. The prisoners include an Irregular "Brigade Adjutant" and "Quartermaster." Amongst the arms and equipment captured are:—

- 22 Lee-Enfield rifles.
- 1,500 rounds .303 ammunition.
- 7 Webley revolvers.
- 1 Parabellum automatic revolver.

Four Irregulars were captured in Knocklong with arms and equipment.

War on the Press.

Documents captured from the Irregulars in South Wexford contain, amongst other things, an order for the wholesale destruction of newspapers, and an advice to continue sniping. A document headed, "Operation Order No. 1," directed to "O.C. 3rd Battalion," reads:—

"1. You will see that all hostile newspapers which circulate in your area are destroyed. This order to be rigidly enforced henceforth.

"2. *Re Raids on Post Office—Cash and Stamps.* It is not deemed wise to seize on Post Office cash and stamps, and you will see that no such raids are carried out in your area.

"3. Sniping Operations.

You should aim at having every Free State post sniped at every night. Keep them constantly on the jump. But be very careful getting into sniping positions, as after a short while the enemy will be in waiting."

In a second document headed "Enemy Propaganda," "hostile newspapers" are interpreted to be "the entire press of the country."

Caught in the Cupboard.

Mr. Tom Brady, who held the rank of "Brigadier" in the Irregulars, was captured hiding in a cupboard on the 25th inst. He had been in charge of several attacks on the troops. On the night of the 25th inst. a bomb was thrown at Captain Purcell, Abbeyleix, but failed to do any damage.

2nd EASTERN DIVISION.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM 1st AUGUST
TO 20th SEPTEMBER.

No. of Raids—276.

Results:—

Prisoners	...	...	258
Revolvers and pistols	...	...	60
Rifles and shot guns	...	...	48
Bombs	...	...	58
Shells	...	...	7
Ammunition (assorted)	...	...	2,500 rounds
Mines	...	...	5
Lathes	...	...	9
Wooden rifles	...	...	59
Machine guns	...	...	1
Wireless sets	...	...	1
Motors	...	...	12
Field and opera glasses	...	...	20
Printing machines	...	...	2
Typewriters	...	...	12
Explosives	...	...	5 tons

Large quantities of equipment.

Large quantities of engineering apparatus.

Ambushes or Attempted Ambushes—32.

Attacks on Posts—58.

Irregulars reported killed	...	12
" wounded	...	12
National soldiers killed	...	2
" wounded	...	16
Civilians killed	...	2
" wounded	...	10

(Continued on page 2).



AN T-ÓṡṡÁċ

SEPTEMBER 30, 1922.

The Soldier's Duty

If there is one thing more than another which the Irish soldier of to-day should learn from the history of Irish military movements in the past it is that discipline is a factor of supreme importance to the efficiency of our Army.

The failure which attended the efforts of the Irish armies in the past might be largely traced to this, perhaps, inevitable, but none the less fatal, weakness in our military machine prior to the foundation of the Irish Volunteers. "In the past the Irish, heroically though they have struggled, have always lost for want of discipline," says Pearse.

The fact that Irish soldiers have won an imperishable reputation while serving in the armies of other nations, while in their own country failing to achieve more than transitory success on the field, is but an emphasis of the foregoing statement.

The gallant Irish Brigades, who so often snatched brilliant victories for foreign armies, triumphed because they had learnt to fight as an army, and not as a mob. They had learned that it is discipline and self-control which transforms the rabble into the solid phalanx which can strike with effect under intelligent command.

It is this factor of discipline which renders the army incomparably superior to the merely armed group of individuals. Keen observers of army organisation have always recognised this important fact. Thus Bishop Stock, while a prisoner of the French Army, was struck with the qualities of "intelligent activity, temperance, patience to a surprising degree, together with the exactest obedience to discipline," which characterised it. That army had served on the Rhine and with Napoleon in Italy, and it was said of the soldiers composing it that they were content to live on bread or potatoes, to drink water, to make the stones of the street their bed.

The task upon which the Army is engaged to-day is one calling for patience, self-control and efficiency of a high order amongst the troops. Upon each man in the Army devolves the duty of doing what in him lies to cultivate these qualities.

PERSONAL INFLUENCE OF OFFICERS.

The personal influence and example of the officers are the most available factors of character training, as well as of discipline and efficiency. In order to have this effect, officers must make it their business to know and understand their men personally, and they must try to gain their confidence through sympathy and tact. They must remember that our soldier is now an educated man who understands the importance of his military profession. Officers, therefore, can only win and retain the confidence of their men, and so be able to influence them if they are themselves efficient and of good character. The efficiency and discipline of a Unit largely depends upon the confidence of the men in their leaders.

"War is like the service of Tenebræ, in which one by one the lights are extinguished. Class after class, generation after generation is receiving its summons to the battlefield and passing, that the light of freedom may still burn."—A Private in the Guards.

News of the Week

(Continued from page 1).

Robberies.

Robberies of private houses, etc., in which property and money to the value of nearly £1,000 was taken by armed men—13.

Cases of road blocking	...	6
Wire cutting	...	19
Bridges blown up or partly demolished	...	6
Burning of signal cabins	...	3

Tirconnail Captures.

Troops from Tirconnail operating in North Sligo captured thirty-six Irregulars, many of whom were armed. The captives include Joseph Maguire and Patrick Guilfoyle, both of Ballyshannon, who escaped from Finner Camp. An Irregular leader named Charles Yamitt, a Maltese, who escaped from Stranorlar, was re-captured near Buncrana.

An Irregular A.S.U.

Extracts are given below from a number of documents captured in an Irregular Headquarters in Dublin recently.

A leader signing himself "Acting O.S. Brigade" writes as follows from "Headquarters, Dublin Brigade":—

"I enclose copy of a report from 1st Batt. of an operation carried out by them on Tuesday evening last. The Lieutenant who was captured was the one whom I had intended to place in charge of A.S.U. This is very unfortunate, as I had been searching for a good while for the right man. This seems to happen to every man whom I selected for any of these positions. I shall now have to try and get somebody else, and I hope he does not get arrested as soon as I decide on him."

Raids on Dublin Business Concerns.

Another document captured headed "Brigade Headquarters," reads:—

"The A.C.S. has authorised me to raid big Unionist firms and other anti-Irish firms in the City for equipment, which will be useful for our Flying Columns and active Battalions, which should include boots, leggings, trench-coats, socks, underwear and military equipment.

"Make out a list of firms in your area. These raids should be done at once, very cautiously and quietly. Place should also be arranged for stores captured. This is to be done apart from other Army duties."

It is signed "Brigade Adjutant."

Attacks on British Troops Ordered.

In a letter dated August 8th, 1922, from the "Headquarters, Dublin Brigade, to O.C. Battalion," the following order signed "D Operations" appears:

"Headquarters,

"Department Operations, Northern and Eastern Command. Operation Order No. 7.

"All barracks in Dublin occupied by English troops in khaki are to be included in operations carried out by the Republican forces. Enemy boats approaching the coast are to be fired on by us as soon as they come within range."

EASTERN COMMAND.

Hidden in a Hayrick.

A detachment of troops operating at Ballycale visited the house of a man named Kenny believed to be a "Battalion Adjutant" in the Irregulars. Kenny was found hiding in a hayrick and arrested. Documents and 7s. 9½d. in stamps were found upon Kenny, who answers the description of one of the men who recently robbed the Post Office at Ballycarnew. At Ballycarnew the troops arrested another Irregular leader named James Kelly. On reaching Courtown Harbour a man named James Dunne was encountered. He had been observed leaving Kenny's house some time previously. Dunne was arrested.

Ambush Near Graveyard.

At 11 p.m. on the 22nd inst., at Ballylannan Graveyard a patrol was attacked by a party of Irregulars estimated at between 40 and 50. A fight lasting one and a half hours ensued, and the attackers retired under cover of darkness. Lieut. Kennedy had his forehead grazed by a bomb splinter, but was not injured, and a soldier was slightly wounded in the hand. Two of the Irregulars are believed to have been wounded, and subsequently four Irregulars were captured. Two sporting guns, five cartridges, a quantity of buckshot and a P.O. bicycle were also taken. Irregulars attempted to ambush a detachment of troops which came to the relief of Lieut. Kennedy about one and a half miles from Wexford on their return journey. Two bombs were thrown and about forty shots fired. The troops returned the fire and the attackers made off. There were no casualties amongst the troops. The Irregulars' casualties are unknown.

Church Used as Refuge After Ambush.

A captured document headed "Column 4, Dublin Brigade," signed by a Dublin Irregular, describes an ambush (in which he engaged) in the vicinity of Bishop Street:

"The bomb failed to hit the car of the enemy," the communication states.

"We ran down a side street, but were overtaken by a private car containing two officers, a private, and one C.I.D. man. Sean and I ran for it, but Sean was hit, and we both surrendered.

"In the confusion that followed I escaped in a lift through Jacob's Factory, and, after staying in Whitefriar Street Chapel for half-an-hour, I proceeded to safety."

An Irregular propagandist sheet of the 21st inst. referred to the searching of the Catholic Church, Corduff, Co. Monaghan (when four arrests were made) as an unjustifiable act. The document above quoted shows clearly that Churches have been used as places of refuge after attacks had been made on Irish soldiers.

LYING PROPAGANDA.

A Mythical Victory.

The statement has been circulated in an Irregular propagandist sheet that the armoured car "Big Fella" was captured by the Irregulars following their loss of the "Ballinalee." The allegation is entirely without foundation. The "Big Fella" armoured car is at present in Custume Barracks, Athlone, to which it returned on the 26th inst., having been operating with the troops in the Western Command for some time past.

DUBLIN "DOING NOTHING."

A circular letter from "Headquarters, Dublin Brigade," recently captured, reads:—

"The Chief of Staff, who is in the South of Ireland, together with the Brigade Commandants of even neighbouring Brigades, are all saying that Dublin is doing nothing. How can I refute these charges when reports are not sent to me, and if I cannot produce lists of arrests and other casualties. How can I mention that the Organisation of the Brigade had been seriously impaired by the enemy action. If the present Coy. Officers and Adjutants are not carrying out their duties, we will have to pick men from the ranks who are capable and willing."

BOMBS AND RIFLES TAKEN.

Castlepollard.

On the night of the 25th inst., Troops raided Barbaville House, Drumcree. The house was partly surrounded when they were fired on. One Irregular was taken prisoner, and the following captures made:—

3 Lee Enfield Rifles; 1 Smith and Wesson Revolver; 3 doz. Bombs; 150 rounds .303; 1 coil cable; 2 boxes detonators; 1 Ford Van, marked Dolphin's Barn, YI,376; 1 Hubmobile car, also some equipment which the Irregulars had previously taken from Oldcastle Barracks.

Radio-Telegraphy and Aviation

At the outbreak of the late European war the value of aircraft for reconnaissance, artillery "spotting," bombing of enemy towns and depots far from the battle area, and dispatch carrying, became quickly manifest, and the substitution of wireless as a means of communication between aeroplanes and the ground, for visual signal methods, greatly increased its value. The introduction of the direction finding apparatus and its application to aircraft made navigation in the air comparatively simple and safe.

The requirements of Radiotelegraphy as regards aircraft are—the maintenance of intercommunication between aircraft and ground and intercommunication between machines and directional reception.

Difficulties of the Air Pilot.

Directional reception including its natural corollary, navigation by means of wireless guidance, may be considered the most valuable benefit conferred by radiotelegraphy on the future of aeronautics. In the case of aircraft flying by night over sea or in or above a layer of fog or clouds, in any case, in fact, where the machine is unable to take observations on fixed objects on the earth; and to a lesser extent when flying over unknown country, it would be no exaggeration to say that in the majority of cases the pilot can have no idea of the actual direction in which he is travelling or of his actual speed over the earth in that direction.

His compass tells him in what magnetic direction he is flying through the air, and his speed indicator shows him at what approximate rate he is travelling; but there is nothing to show him in what actual direction or at what actual speed the air itself is moving with relation to the surface of the earth. Although the pilot may have known the exact condition of the wind when he started his flight, these conditions vary at different altitudes, and are also liable to rapid change. The effect of this movement of the air is that, except in the very calmest weather a machine never travels over the earth in the direction towards which it is pointing unless in the very rare cases when that direction is exactly up or down wind, and even then a calculation of the ground distance covered, based on the only data available—namely—speed indicator readings, is bound to be far from correct. From the above it will be seen that the difficulties met with by the air pilot are far greater than those encountered at sea, for although currents and streams may be encountered at sea, their directions, and speeds are known and charted.

Some wonderful performances have been accomplished by pilots on long distance flights without the aid of wireless, even in cases where opportunities of earth observations were very limited, but on the other hand many machines have been lost or forced to land far from their destination under similar conditions. The fate encountered by Zeppelins which took part in a raid over England is a good example of what may happen to aircraft when earth observations are not possible, and wireless guidance not available.

Importance of Wireless Guidance.

The machines engaged in these raids were always navigated by wireless signals sent out at stated intervals from the airship and picked up by two separate directional air stations at opposite ends of a long base, the position of the airship was immediately plotted and communicated to her by wireless. The station usually employed for this work had been bombed just before the raid in question, and as a result the guiding signals sent out from the base were faulty and weak. The Zeppelins which had come across to the English coast got out of range with the transmitting station. The night was dark and a strong north wind blowing, and it is highly probable that not one of the pilots had the faintest idea of the true direction in which he was travelling. The result of this was apparent next morning when it was found that the fleet was scattered over the south of France, and one or two of the airships lost in the Mediterranean.



Letters of a Guardsman

Mitchelstown.

A Sheáin, a Chroí,

Here we are still, God help us. No rest for the wicked. After the affair at Kildorrery, we were hoping to settle down a bit and revel in the novelty of a much-needed rest. We were actually congratulating ourselves on the good fortune that had landed us in Mitchelstown in the midst of a friendly, kindly-disposed people, who vied with each other in their efforts to make things comfortable for us, and availed themselves of every opportunity to mark their appreciation of the Army's efforts on their behalf. We were, as it were, in a little world of our own. Of course, we heard of wars, and rumours of wars, in the bad, wicked world outside our paradise, and were unselfish enough to envy the boys who were still hammering away at the front. We were getting back to the dull commonplaces of barrack routine, and I was thinking of volunteering for the Dublin front. The people were leaving us nothing to do. A strange cat could scarcely enter the neighbourhood when we had his whole history and pedigree. So, when it came to pass that on the morning of the 4th September about two columns of Irregulars, taking pity on our loneliness, decided to prepare a little entertainment in the form of a series of ambushes for our amusement, we had dozens of reports of their movements and friendly intentions.

The spot selected was an admirable one for the latest kind of Aeridheacht. Lios an Leanbh, a name suggestive of fairy lore, is a deep mountain ravine through which the road between Mitchelstown and Ballylanders runs for upwards of a mile, and is situated in a wild mountainous district. Towering precipitous cliffs rise on both sides of the road, while a series of undulating hills slope gradually to the sombre mountains in the background. The cliffs by the side of the road are steep and filled with deep crevices, and are interspersed with thick heavy undergrowth affording excellent cover. Immense boulders protrude here and recede there, rendering it almost impossible to scale the sides from the road. The mountain on the back was a safeguard to the ambushers against any possible surprise from that direction.

Up to the present no alternative method of navigating aircraft when out of sight of the ground for any considerable period has been suggested, if we except methods based on the observation of heavenly bodies. These observations are bound to be unsatisfactory, as putting other difficulties out of the question, in the case of high clouds, the opportunities of taking them might be rare or entirely lacking. Bearing on this it must be remembered that aircraft travel very rapidly, and that the vast majority of them cannot "heave to" when in doubt.

A large amount of work has already been done by different countries in connection with the development of "directional" wireless, and very good results have been obtained. The methods chiefly employed have made use of "directional" aeriols or rather coils in the aircraft enabling the actual position of the machine to be plotted at any moment by two known ground stations, and also enabling the correct bearing of any transmitting station to be ascertained.

Perhaps it may appear that undue emphasis has been laid on "directional" work, but it is probable that aviation development will be largely influenced by its successful use.

We felt highly complimented by the friendly interest the Irregulars were reported to be taking in our welfare, and we decided to prepare on our side a surprise packet for them. Some forty of us were selected for the job—some genuine artistes, too, I tell you. 'Twas not exactly the kind of day one would select for an Aeridheacht or mountain Seilg. Rain was falling in torrents as we advanced in usual order, Lieut. Gaffney on left, Lieut. Downes on the right, while Capt. Byrne moved directly on main position. Avoiding all roads, we took the fields across country for it. Owing to the continual down-pour the ground had become sodden, so we ploughed through fields and (at the gaps especially) through veritable seas of liquid mud. But these trifles did not damp in the least the rollicking spirit of the boys. On this occasion I was with Capt. Byrne's party, and we were the first to come in touch with our friends. We came on one of the scouts wrapped in the arms of —; you know the fellow I mean. I have no means of looking up correct spelling of his name. But if the scouts slept, the main body of the Irregulars were wide awake. It would have been impossible to surprise them in broad daylight. Owing to the height at which their position was situated, they must have observed our movements at several miles' distance. Anyway, fire was opened on us at a range of 800 yards. And then the concert began in real earnest. Our rifles and machine-guns gave in chorus an excellent rendering of what is now a familiar and popular air. I'm afraid it was not properly appreciated on this occasion. For several hours the conflict raged. They were in larger force than we calculated, and, owing to the nature of the positions occupied and to the very limited forces at our disposal, the usual enveloping movement was out of the question, so it remained for a long time a kind of long distance duel waged on front and flanks. They were evidently endeavouring to cover the retreat of the main body through the mountains at back. We gradually closed in until at last our guns controlled the only road left open for retreat, and then the white flag went up and the fight was over. Among those killed was the Adjutant of the Irregulars, and, in addition to the twelve prisoners, large quantities of bombs, arms, etc., were captured. The road was very heavily mined, and we considered ourselves very fortunate to have escaped such a deadly trap. Lieut. Downes, who was wounded in the scrap, was our single casualty. We returned to town in great style, giving full vent to our new chorus to the air of "Oro, 'Sé do bheatha abhaile." It ran something like, "Oro, see the Guards are coming," and ended with a shout of "For Dublin's Guards make way there." The prisoners joined in the song as hearty as any of us. The townspeople turned out en masse and gave us a tremendous welcome. Of course, they heard the noise of the fighting right through the whole affair, and were most anxious on our account. Their joy was unbounded when they learnt of our success, and especially that none of us was hurt. They took complete possession of us, and escorted us into town with loud shouts of "Up the Guards," and subsequently entertained us in splendid style. And so you have now the fully authenticated account of the ambush of Glencorraun, "go nuige so," as they say in the old Gaelic yarns. I sent you some snaps taken round here, and a portion of shell that very nearly did for

Do chara,

Tomás.

SOLDIER ATHLETE.

Sergeant B. J. Donnelly, of the Guards Brigade, Beggar's Bush Barracks, won the five mile cycle championship of all Ireland at Ballinasloe Races on Sunday last.

Printed for Army Headquarters at Mahon's Printing Works, Yarnhall Street, Dublin.