

AN T-OGLAIC



REGISTERED]

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ARMY.

[NEWSPAPER.

Vol. IV. No. 17 (New Series).

OCTOBER 7, 1922.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

News of the Week

(From "Iris an Airm.")

CAUGHT IN A HAY LOFT.

In a recent issue of an Irregular sheet, reference was made to the ambush in Blessington Street. It was stated that "two of the attackers were captured while bravely defending the retreat of their comrades." The facts are that they were caught in a hay loft, under a pile of hay. Their two revolvers (fully loaded) were found in the hay, and if they had any serious intention of making a fight they could, owing to their position in the loft, have shot down, with perfect safety, the two men who captured them.

IRREGULARS ATTACK CAVAN POST.

A determined effort to capture the Military Barrack here was made on the morning of the 2nd inst., about 6.30 a.m. by a party of Irregulars, numbering between 70 and 100. The main gate was blown in by a mine. At the same time heavy rifle fire was opened from three different positions around the barrack. The guard, although badly shaken by the explosion, rushed to their positions, and opened fire on the gateway. The leader of the Irregulars could be heard calling on his men to "come on and rush it," but he called in vain.

The Irregulars' fire was intense, but about 7.30 a.m. the firing slackened and gradually died away. On a search of the locality being made, the following articles were found:—Two abandoned trench coats, 2 Webley revolvers, 50 rounds .303, 25 rounds .455 ammunition, 4 petrol tins full of Cheddar with detonators and electric cable attached, all in position against the barrack wall. Apparently the mine at the gate was prematurely exploded, as the cables on the other four mines were still in coil. There were no casualties among the troops.

WEXFORD OFFICER SHOT DEAD.

On the evening of the 2nd inst., an unknown person called on a priest at Newtownbarry and informed him that a man was shot at Glaslacken. On the local garrison hearing of the affair, troops proceeded to Glaslacken, and found the lifeless body of Lieut. Ignatius Redmond with bullet wounds in the head, chest and wrist.

This Officer was attached to the Newtownbarry Garrison, and on the evening in question was seen at 3 p.m. proceeding towards Glaslacken. The body was conveyed to Newtownbarry Barracks to await an inquest.

THE DEFENCE OF KILLORGLIN.

A first-hand account of the defence of Killorglin is

given in the following report received from a Kerry Officer:—

At 6 a.m. on Wednesday morning (September 27) one of the most formidable attacks yet made on the National posts in Kerry was launched against the garrison of sixty to seventy men under Captain Lehane in Killorglin. The troops, who were all belonging to the 1st Western Division, held five separate posts in the village. The attack had been anticipated; it was known that the Irregulars had been concentrating in strong force in the hilly country about Killorglin. Consequently, for two days and two nights before the attack the garrison had been standing to. The assault opened with concentrated and rapid machine-gun and rifle fire on the main Barrack occupied by the Troops. This was apparently kept up to cover the noise of boring operations being carried out by the Irregulars throughout the houses adjoining the Barrack. With the exception of the five posts held by the Troops, every house in the village seemed to be filled with Irregulars, who spoke across to each other during the engagement. In numbers the attacking party is estimated at over 300. The greater part of the people had fled to the country before the fight began. Those left behind took refuge in basements and cellars. On one side of the barrack the Irregulars bored through to the fireplace. When it had been knocked in, the Troops bombed their assailants, several of whom were wounded. The remainder retreated, and no further attempt was made to enter the Barrack on this side.

"No Surrender."

In a business premises adjacent to the Barrack a mine was exploded. The business premises was wrecked and the windows of the barrack blown in. A Lewis gunner was wounded by splinters while the attack on the main Barrack was in progress; the remaining four posts were strongly besieged. Eight Irregulars rushed a post held by three soldiers near the Railway Station on Wednesday night. They were driven off by the rapid fire of the small garrison, and the next morning three Irregulars were found dead near the post. The ground was marked with blood, and a cap was picked up with a bullet hole through it. Occasionally during a lull in the fighting the Irregulars called out to the Troops, "Will you surrender?" The reply was usually, "Up, Clare," and "Up the 1st Western Division." During one of those exchanges Capt. Lehane replied, "We'll surrender only when our ammunition is spent." Capt. Lehane set a splendid example to his men, all of whom had been three days and three nights without sleep and 29 hours fighting. All during the fight their only refreshment was black tea. The bakeries had closed down, and the women and children in the village were in a pitiable plight, as they could get neither bread, eggs, nor milk. Early in the fight Capt. Lehane was wounded in the head. He was absolutely

(Continued on page 2).

An t-Óglách

OCTOBER 7, 1922.

Become Efficient

When a man enters the Army and dons the uniform of his nation he imposes upon himself a high and solemn duty.

The garb he wears as a soldier indicates the surrender of individuality and free will and his willingness to accept the commands of his superiors without question and without complaint.

To many men this is a tremendous sacrifice; but it is the bedrock upon which armies must be ever founded.

The Army which builds upon any other foundation fails to become anything more than an Army in name.

At present Ireland is laying the foundations of a future Army. It would be well, therefore, that these foundations should be such as to guarantee the efficiency of that Army. Those who to-day form the nucleus of the Army of the future are establishing traditions which shall determine to a large extent the outlook and the standards of those who are to succeed them in the service of the nation.

This fact, alone, places a heavy responsibility upon every Irish soldier. It is essential that the man in the ranks should obey and respect the officers who have been placed above him. It is also necessary that the Officers should prove worthy of the respect and obedience of the men whom they are called upon to command and to lead.

At the present time everyone interested in the welfare of the National Army must admit that, while great things have been, and are being done along these lines, there yet remains a great deal more to be accomplished, if the traditions which we of to-day shall hand on to those who come after us are to be as high as the people and the Government of Ireland expect.

The individual soldier must endeavour to cultivate those qualities which will win for him the respect and co-operation of the people whose servant-in-arms he is. Many things have conspired to deny to him that military training which other Nations prescribe for the making of their soldiers.

On this score much may be forgiven. But nothing can excuse the Irish soldier from the duty of doing what in him lies to make good this defect, nor can any excuse be offered on behalf of the Officers charged with the organisation of the Irish Army and the shaping of its outlook, who fail to realise fully the obligations which they are under not only to the Army of to-day but also to that of to-morrow.

There should be no need, for instance, to impress upon the soldier that it is his duty to keep the uniform with which his country supplies him in a manner creditable alike to his country and to himself. When he appears in public his bearing and dress should convey to the citizens the impression that he is a soldier who realises the obligations of his calling. The tawdry carelessly dressed soldier is invariably looked upon as the inefficient soldier, and the people must form their impression of the Army as a whole from the individual members of it with whom they come in contact.

These matters may appear trifling, at first sight, but the efficiency of a soldier very frequently depends upon his attention to trifles.

News of the Week

(Continued from page 1).

fearless and fought splendidly. While returning under heavy fire to the Barrack he was wounded. After his wounds were dressed he was put to bed, and ordered by a doctor to remain there. During a heavy period in the attack he espied an Irregular Lewis and Thompson gun post in a house. Throwing on his tunic, he took up a gun and rushed towards the post. As he did so, both guns were turned on him, and Capt. Lehane fell mortally wounded, being hit in seven places. He died in action, his last words to his troops being, "Fight on." Command was then taken by Lieut. O'Callaghan.

Heroic Lewis Gunner.

Like his senior officer, Lieut. O'Callaghan went from post to post under heavy fire, and directed and encouraged his men. One of the most heroic examples of endurance and bravery was that of a Lewis gunner stationed in the Barrack. A bullet came through the barrel of his gun and exploded a bullet in the magazine, which tore away his upper lip and a large portion of the gum. The gunner bound up his mouth and stood by his gun, in action, for seven hours after he had been wounded. In several instances where Irregulars were shot down on the street, soldiers rushed out under fire to take away their rifles and ammunition. When a search of the village was made after the fight, seven Irregulars were found to have been buried beside the railway line; four dead bodies were found lying around, and one dead body in a shrubbery with a Mauser rifle, some ammunition, and a Mills bomb. It is estimated from information in the hands of the Troops that at least 23 Irregulars were killed, and a large number wounded. Over twenty carts were commandeered from local farmers to take away wounded. In a search made by the troops in the country around Killorglin 15 Irregulars were found in one place, several of whom were seriously wounded. Other wounded Irregulars were located in the Hospital at Cahirciveen. The Troops suffered the loss of Captain Lehane, and four other ranks wounded. The captures made by the Troops include:—

- 19 Prisoners,
- 1 Lewis gun,
- 10 Mauser rifles with quantities of ammunition,
- 8 Webley revolvers.

The capture of the Lewis gun and Mauser rifles, with seven prisoners, was made singlehanded by a soldier, who called for assistance by breaking a window in the house. The Lewis gun was found stitched up in a feather bed.

Relief Party Arrives.

The relief party, which was under the command of Commandant-General Murphy and Col.-Commandant Hogan, travelled from Ballymullen, taking nine hours to reach Killorglin—a distance of fifteen miles—due to the many obstructions on the route. The detachment was accompanied by the whippet car, "Danny Boy," and a cyclist company. Two miles from Castlemaine the Troops, suspecting an ambush, dismounted from their cars and proceeded on foot. A short distance further on, where the road had been blocked, Thompson and Lewis gun fire was opened on the Troops. The Troops replied vigorously, and an engagement lasting from 30 to 40 minutes took place, when the Irregulars retreated. A mine was found on Castlemaine bridge, which the Troops disconnected. Several trenches and felled trees were encountered at further stages along the way. Entering Killorglin the Troops were sniped at crossing the bridge; but Col. Hogan's column crossed at the double, charging into the houses from where the fire came. Irregulars were immediately engaged and surrendered after a few bursts of fire. The entry of the re-inforcements was greeted with a great outburst of cheering by the garrison, who cried, "Up Clare," "Up the 1st Western." Although three days and three nights without sleep, the garrison, all of whom

were worn and fatigued, were nevertheless in good spirits. Practically all the upper windows in the houses in the village were smashed, while every house was bullet marked.

IRREGULAR TACTICS.

Treatment of a Cork Medical Officer.

The following signed statement has been made by a Medical Officer of one of the dispensary districts in Berehaven, who was threatened with "the extreme penalty" by Irregulars, and has since been obliged to leave the area in which he resided:—

"I am a native of Castletown-Bere and practised there since qualified in 1917, and have been Dispensary Doctor for a District of Berehaven for over a year past.

"Like ninety-nine per cent. of the people of Berehaven, I am and have been in favour of the Treaty, and have always avowed this fact.

"On 3rd August I wrote a letter to a friend in Australia, and in that letter I expressed my views on the situation in Ireland, and also condemned the action and methods of the Irregulars. That letter was not posted in the Castletown-Bere Post Office until 9th September, 1922, owing to the stoppage of postal service, and interruption of ordinary traffic caused by the Irregulars.

"On 18th September four of the local Irregulars, including Liam Dwyer, the local leader, the Irregular "Quartermaster," and two others came to my house and showed me a notice which accompanied a typewritten copy of the letter I had written to Australia.

Convicted Before Trial.

"That notice, as well as I can remember, was as follows:—

"Re enclosed letter.

"To O/C. 5th Batt.

"September 13th, 1922.

"(1) Have above courtmartialled and fined £100.

"(2) In case of refusal to pay fine, order him to leave the Brigade area within a definite time.

"(3) For any repetition of above offence he will merit the extreme penalty.

"(4) Retain fine if paid in local Headquarters until General Headquarters otherwise directs.

"Signed,

"N. S.,

"G.H.Q., 1st Southern Brigade."

"My original letter, as well as the typewritten copy, were shown me by those men, but they refused to let me retain either of them or the G.H.Q., Court-martial Order.

"I then stated to them that I did not recognise them or their court or authority in any way, and that my political views were totally opposed to them.

"They gave me 24 hours to consider whether I would pay the £100 fine or not. They told me that as far as they were concerned they would maintain the strictest privacy. I told them that as far as I was concerned I would make the matter as public as I could. The four, I believe, were armed. I could certainly see the revolvers carried by two of them.

"They quoted from my letters where I referred to the local Irregulars:—As for this unfortunate country there is nothing but looting, incendiarism, murder and commandeering goods at the point of the revolver by these blackguards.' They challenged 'commandeering at the point of the revolver,' and said I could not give a single case. I mentioned one specific case, the commandeering of a motor car by Dwyer himself, and he admitted that one instance.

"During the reign of terror I had attended the local I.R.A. on many occasions, and my motor car was placed at their disposal. Of the local I.R.A. who were wounded then, only one of them was now amongst those Irregulars.

"Recently the local Irregulars attacked some British troops from Bere Island when they visited Castletown. One of the Irregulars was wounded and

I was compelled to attend him being escorted each time by armed men to where he was hiding. At the interview to which I am now referring, Dwyer told me that if I had refused to attend that man I would have been shot, and he also added that he held me personally responsible for the welfare of the wounded man. On the following day, Tuesday, 19th September, Liam Dwyer and another Irregular again visited me and demanded the £100 fine. I refused to give them any money, and again stated I did not recognise their authority. They then handed me the following document, written in manuscript:

Banishment Order.

(COPY).

"H.Q. 5th Battalion,
"5th Brigade, Cork,
"19:9:1922.

"Dept. O/C.

"To Dr. P. V. Murphy, Castletown-Bere.

"1. You are hereby ordered to leave the 5th Cork Brigade area, which includes the districts of Castletownbere, Bantry, Drimoleague, Skibbereen and Skull, being alternative penalty imposed on you on your refusal to pay £100 fine for having, on the 3rd day of August, 1922, written to a friend in a foreign country, the contents of which were destructive to the good name of the Irish Republican Army.

"2. This order is to be carried out within twenty-four hours from receipt by you.

"3. The confiscation of your motor car will follow your departure from the area.

"4. A repetition of the above offence will warrant the employment of the extreme penalty.

"Signed,

"Liam Dwyer,

"(Commandant)."

"Having read that, I told Dwyer that if they took my car it would be without my authority or consent. For answer they turned to me and said if I had not left the district within the time specified, they would take the matter into their own hands.

"Seeing that Berehaven district has not yet been occupied by National Troops, and that the few Irregulars there are holding the district under armed terrorism, I decided to leave the place, and I came to Dublin to report to the proper authorities."

The signed statement made to the authorities is dated September 28th, 1922. The signatory is a well-known medical practitioner in County Cork. His elder brother was a national school teacher, and was the victim of an atrocious murder by the Black and Tans in May, 1921, in County Longford. He was murdered as a reprisal for an ambush in the Ballinalee district, and because his wife and himself were friends of Major-General McKeon.

The Making of Soldiers

"The sterner the discipline the better the soldier, the better the Army." This is the opening sentence in Stephen Graham's fascinating book, "A Private in the Guards." Mr. Graham entered the British Army as a private during the recent European War. He had all the disadvantages from the military standpoint, of culture, highly developed individuality and artistic temperament. His book reveals how he overcame these shortcomings and submitted to the military process of being "broken in" as a soldier. The following excerpts indicate what he understood by discipline:—

"A strong discipline," says Graham, "is the foundation of heroic exploits in the field. In time of necessity, when a thousand men must fight to the last though all be wounded or killed, in order that a much larger number may march into safety, it is only a strongly disciplined body that will not accept prematurely the chance to surrender. When small parties of men get cut off from the main body or lose themselves in the enemy's lines, they can nearly always

injure or kill a few of the enemy, and sometimes many, before they themselves are put out of action. It is only men who have been taught never to entertain the thought of surrender who will do this.

COLLECTIVE HEROISM.

“ When in general action of any kind the front-line troops frequently find themselves in face of what seems inevitable death, the impulse may come to stampede and run for it, causing endless confusion in the rear and giving the battle to the enemy. But sternly disciplined troops know that if they run from the face of the enemy they will be shot down from behind, and indeed they would themselves be ready to shoot down inferior troops stampeding through their lines. They do not entertain the hope of escape, and consequently their minds are at rest—as the mind of the machine gunner voluntarily chained to his machine may be said to be at rest. The avenue to the rear is absolutely closed up *in the mind*. Such equanimity is produced by discipline. Stern discipline can manufacture collective heroism.

OBEDIENCE ESSENTIAL.

“ Modern warfare is predominantly one of machines. The human element on the positive side is valuable and perhaps indispensable for victory, but the human element on the negative side is dangerous and absolutely out of place. In fact, for the private soldier in action the one thing needful is obedience. Imagination, thought, fear, love, and even hate are out of place, and through stern discipline these can be excluded. He needs to be at least as dependable as the machines. The whole Army has to work like a machine, and the weakest bit in it will be the first to give way. Discipline is the necessary hardening and making dependable. The best troops, however, have a little bit of energy and movement over for when the machines go wrong.

“ A human being is naturally undisciplined—in fact, some animals have much more discipline in them and more obvious capabilities for discipline than a man. Because a man has thought and conscience that they have not. Personal conscience is one of the hardest things to modify or eliminate in any training. And yet it may be one of the most dangerous things that may be left. For it may easily turn a man from obedience to his superior officer at a critical moment. It may suggest pity for a wounded enemy or would-be enemy prisoner with whom the Army dare not encumber itself. It may cause the hand to waver at the moment it should strike without hesitation. In short, it may whisper in the soldier's ear the dreadful monition, “ Thou shalt not kill.” It may give him sleepless nights and unfit him for duty when, if he had the simple army conscience, he might leave all responsibility on the shoulders of his superior officer and sleep like a child and awake refreshed—to kill and fear not. . . .

Value of Training.

“ When a country engages in war the National will is towards victory, and no one wishes to be a slave. Hence the unquestioned way of discipline in time of war.

“ The enforcement of this discipline, however, is often more terrible than the ordeal by battle itself. After what a man goes through when he is properly trained he will suffer comparatively little in the face of the foe. Or, to put it in another way—the task of the N.C.O. or Officer at the front in handling well-disciplined men is child's play compared with the task of breaking them in from civilised happiness and culture.

“ It is always to be borne in mind that the drill sergeant is training men, not so much to drill correctly and smartly in the end of ends, as to go unflinchingly to death in war, and for that purpose he has not only to train the muscles but to break or bend the intelligence.”

Such is the task which confronts those who are endeavouring to make soldiers for Ireland to-day. They need help and co-operation in order to discharge the duty which they have been called upon to perform. Let it not be said that they were denied these things.

Some Military Maxims.

Security.

The best commanded armies have marched, have manoeuvred amidst the unknown. It was unavoidable. They have, however, got the better of that dangerous situation, they have come out of it victoriously by resorting to security which enabled them to live without suffering damage in an atmosphere full of dangers.

A constant preoccupation, while we prepare and combine an action against the enemy, must be to escape his will, to parry any undertaking by which he might prevent our action from succeeding. Any military idea, any scheme, any plan, must, therefore, be connected with the conception of security. We must, as if we were fencing, attack without uncovering ourselves, parry without ceasing to threaten the adversary.

Security is based on two elements, two mathematical quantities—**Time** and **Space**—and it contains a third element, the resisting power of the troops.

This notion of security which we express by means of a single word divides itself into:

1. **Material security**, which makes it possible to avoid enemy blows when one does not desire to strike back or cannot do so; this is the means of feeling secure in the midst of danger, of halting and marching under shelter.

2. **Tactical security**, which makes it possible to go on carrying out a programme, an order received, in spite of chance unfavourable circumstances produced by war; in spite of the unknown, of measures taken by the enemy of his own free will; also to act securely and with certainty, whatever the enemy may do, by safeguarding one's own freedom of action.

Defensive Positions:

Owing to their volume of fire, modern arms make manoeuvring under fire impossible; owing to their range they make it necessary to take up fighting positions at a great distance, to deploy very far away; owing to the rapidity of their fire, such necessities may be enforced by even relatively small numbers.

Any occupied position unavoidably delays the adversary, provided the position be a good one. What is a good position in the modern sense of the word? A ground favourable to the defensive, which in its turn is composed of **fire** and **steadiness**; it is a site provided for this end with—

Points from which one may observe and fire at a long distance.

Obstacles that is . . . strong points.

If that twofold condition is fulfilled, the enemy is compelled to manoeuvre from a distance until the last moment (assault of the obstacles) to bring into action all his means—artillery, infantry; that is, to advance painfully, to lose time when he should be going forward as rapidly as possible.

Preparation in War:

Preparation in modern war is more necessary and must be pushed forward more than in the past.

The necessity of pushing preparation as far as possible is to be found in the conduct of any tactical operation.

—“ Precepts and Judgments,” by Foch.

APPOINTMENT.

Staff Lieutenant McGuinne has been appointed Adjutant to O/C. Troops, Portobello Barracks.

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