

unconscious by the raiding party, was left inside when the house was set fire to. The young man recovered consciousness in time to crawl to safety. Virtually the whole population of Balbriggan was driven to take refuge in the open fields. Councillor Derham testified that three old people and two children subsequently died as the result of terror and exposure.

Croke Park, November 21, 1920.—On November 21, 14 officers of the Imperial British forces were assassinated under conditions hereafter to be referred to in Dublin hotels and boarding-houses. That afternoon the Croke Park reprisal occurred. Mr. Nolan testified that he was one of 8000 persons present at a football match at Croke Park, Dublin, on November 21, 1920, when the Imperial British forces surrounded the field, and, without provocation or warning, fired with rifles and machine-guns among the spectators, killing ten men, one woman, and three children and wounding about 62 others; 200 more were injured in the resulting panic. The firing lasted 10 or 12 minutes. He saw the Imperial British forces fire and rush and fire. And he saw the slain and wounded players and spectators fall. No shot was fired from the crowd either before or after the massacre and no member of the Imperial British forces was injured.*

What is a "Reprisal"?—The evidence would seem to show that the term "reprisal" may be used to cover any case in which wholesale damage is inflicted upon property or life in Ireland. Reprisals consist sometimes in promiscuous killing of unarmed men, women, and children, as in the case of the football crowd at Croke Park; but, usually, in the burning, looting, and "shooting up" of Irish towns, such as Thurles, Balbriggan, Galway, Mallow, Templemore, Cork, Tuam, Hospital, Limerick, Granard, Tubercurry, Achonry, Tipperary, Ballylory, and scores more.

Mallow.—In Mallow barracks were a troop of the 17th Lancers and a detachment of the "Black-and-Tans." Mr. Dempsey, the chairman of the Urban Council of that city, testified that on September 27, 1920, Irish Republicans raided the barracks:—

"To my knowledge, in the actual raid on the barracks there was no person from Mallow, with the possible exception of one or two. About 25 of them held up the barracks, and about 25 more kept a lookout and waited for them in automobiles. They did this while a number of the men were out with their horses exercising them outside of the town. So the raiding party surprised them and held them up and compelled them to hold up their hands, with the exception of five or six—they were not in the barracks square at the time. These five or six ran out with rifles and revolvers and began firing, with the result that in the melee the sergeant-major, who wasn't in the barracks, and who was out with the other men, was shot, unfortunately. They took all the arms they had on them and all the arms in the barracks, and they sent out for a doctor and a priest for this man who was injured."

And the Republicans departed without burning the barracks or taking prisoners. In Mallow Town:

"Everybody knew what was coming, from what had happened in other towns. The senior officer at Buttevant is in charge of the district that Mallow is in. He and some officers came to Mallow by motor immediately to see

* Major Barnes (House of Commons, November 24, 1920) asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland what were the total deaths, men, women, and children, respectively, occasioned by firing on the crowd at the Croke Park football ground on November 21; how many men, women, and children, respectively, were wounded; whether a child was bayoneted; whether the military and auxiliary police suffered any casualties; and, if so, what were the number of dead and wounded, respectively?

Sir H. Greenwood: Ten men, one woman, and three children (under fourteen) were killed, or have died as the result of their injuries. These figures include the case of a woman who was crushed to death and of a man who apparently died from shock. Twelve men have been detained in hospital for treatment of wounds and injuries. Fifty persons were treated in hospital, but not detained. I have no information as to how many of these cases were those of men, women, or children, respectively. No child was bayoneted. There were no police or military casualties." (*Loc. cit.*, vol. 135, cols. 453, 457.)

what had happened. The three ministers of the town waited on this colonel, and they asked for protection of the town from reprisals. The officer in charge of the troops gave a guarantee that no reprisals would take place. He gave a guarantee to the Roman Catholic priest, to the Protestant rector, Canon Hermon, and the Presbyterian minister, Rev. W. Bakes. I forgot to mention that the clergymen in consultation had also wired General Macready, who was commander of the forces in Ireland at this time."

"About four o'clock in the afternoon an aeroplane came from Fermoy, the second largest military station in Ireland, and dropped a communication in the barrack yard. After that it flew to Buttevant, and then flew back to Fermoy. We concluded in the town that it was some sort of agreement between the forces."

"About half-past ten a lorry of troops arrived in Mallow from Buttevant, and about five minutes after two more lorries arrived with troops from Fermoy. Fermoy is about sixteen miles east of Mallow and Buttevant about seven miles north."

"The first thing they did was to fire revolver and rifle shots and scream and fire around the town. The first thing after that they did was to raid some of the public-houses and loot them and get drunk. And then they marched to the town hall, the seat of the town council. It was a fine old building—about 150 years old. The stairways of the hall and the doors and the ceilings, of course, were all timber. They were sprinkled all over with petrol, and some incendiary bombs thrown into it, and it was all set afire."

In the Mallow "reprisal" the soldier killed was not assassinated or "ambushed," but was shot in the course of a raid for arms, after he had attempted to shoot members of the attacking force. The Republican forces that conducted the raid were not residents of Mallow. The citizens of the town appealed to the Imperial High Command at Dublin and to the competent local military authority for protection; and a deputation was assured by the officer in command of the district that they would receive protection. The burning and sacking of the town did not take place while the soldiers were in a fever of passion aroused by the sight of their dead comrade, but many hours after his death. Furthermore, the burning of the town was carried out, not by the troops of the local barracks, only a small number of whom participated, but by soldiers who came in lorries from Fermoy and Buttevant, many miles distant. Finally, the numerous circumstances, such as the dropping of messages at Mallow and Buttevant by an aeroplane sent out from headquarters at Fermoy, the complete equipment of the lorries with incendiary bombs and gasoline sprays, and the simultaneous arrival of the lorries from distant parts, all indicate that the burning and sacking of this town was planned in cold blood and executed with full knowledge of the military authorities in command of the Imperial forces. The term "reprisal" would seem to us to connote, sometimes, a retaliation appropriate neither in kind nor in degree.

It appears that the town or village doomed to "reprisal" was usually the actual seat of an attack upon a member of the British forces, as in the case of Galway, Balbriggan, and Mallow. But the source of the reprisal at Tipperary on November 1, 1920, seems to have been an ambush at Thomastown, six miles away. In another instance no known attack was said to have been made on the British forces within a radius of twenty miles of the reprisal. In such cases the use of the term "reprisal" would seem to extend to anticipatory retaliation.

Testimony has been submitted to us which purports to show that during 1917 Imperial British Forces perpetrated in Ireland seven murders, eighteen armed assaults on unarmed men, and eleven raids on private houses; arrested 349 civilians, court-martialled thirty-six, and deported twenty-four; forcibly dispersed two public meetings; and suppressed three newspapers.

During the year 1917 the testimony shows that not a single member of the Imperial British forces was slain in Ireland, except a member of the R.I.C. who was struck while leading a baton charge and afterwards died of his injury. In 1917 the Irish citizens are alleged to have endured 450 outrages, including seven murders, and refrained from retaliation.

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