

The Orange Terror

How Ulster Catholics Are Tortured by Uniformed Hooligans: Official Apologia

The following statements have been received by the Irish Provisional Government (says the *Weekly Freeman* for March 4):—

On February 13, at 3.30 a long lorry of "A Specials," with an officer in military uniform in charge, raided Lynn's house in Market Street, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim. The search lasted about three hours, and it is stated that a shot-gun and ammunition, a bayonet and some papers were taken away.

At 3 p.m. two "Specials" went to Ballycastle barracks, carrying service revolvers; they proceeded up Carey Road, in the Cushendall direction. Between 3.30 and 4 p.m. they were observed by several civilians to be running back in the direction of Ballycastle, carrying their caps and revolvers in their hands. One of these "Specials" was noticed to be bleeding in the face. They went into the R.I.C. barracks, and it is stated that they alleged they had been fired upon in the vicinity of Carey Road Church.

"SPECIALS'" CONDUCT.

At about 3.30 p.m. on the same date a number of "Specials," who, it is alleged, were under the influence of drink, arrived on the scene of the alleged ambush and fired rifles and revolvers indiscriminately. They held up a number of civilians and turned them back on the road. They continued this conduct for two or three hours and then returned to the town, where they indulged in similar tactics.

On the following morning (Tuesday), February 14, a notice was posted up in Ballycastle, threatening severe reprisals if "Specials" were shot or wounded. Civilians in the vicinity of this alleged ambush are positive that they heard no firing in the district when the two "Specials" went to Carey Road on the previous afternoon.

RESULT OF BRAWL.

Several people state that when going through that road one of the two "Specials" was wearing sticking plaster on his face, the result of a brawl on the previous Saturday night in the barracks, when he sustained injuries which necessitated medical attention.

A Catholic employee in a Protestant firm in Belfast was on strike with the other employees for ten weeks, and when the strike finished recently he was reinstated. The foreman (a Protestant) of this firm is considered a fair-minded man.

On Monday evening last, when this Catholic employee was putting on his coat on leaving for home, he discovered two Snider rifle bullet cartridges in the pocket. The object of this was quite obvious—to get him held up and searched, and when the ammunition would be found upon him he would be imprisoned, thus losing his job, so that his place might be taken by a Protestant. Fortunately, he discovered the "planted" ammunition in time, and at once acquainted the foreman of it, so as to safeguard himself against the attempt to implicate and victimise him.

CATHOLIC HOUSE WRECKED.

On February 15, five respectably dressed men went to the house, 49 Spring Street, off Woodstock Road, Belfast, occupied by the Catholic family of Mrs. Devine (widow) and her son and two daughters. These five men burst in the door and asked for the son. The two daughters escaped by the back; the mother tried to prevent the men opening the kitchen door, but they forced it open and savagely beat her on the head with the butts of revolvers.

While this was taking place a crowd of about 50 men kept guard outside, held up the street, and ordered the inhabitants of the other houses to keep indoors on pain of being shot. After Mrs. Devine was beaten the men looted the house, carrying off everything portable they could find. Mrs. Devine had been in occupation of this house for 19 years. Her son, Patrick, has not been able to live at home for the past seven weeks. Mrs. Devine and her two daughters are now staying in a Catholic district, and her son is in another part of Belfast.

PUBHOUSE WRECKED.

At about 12 o'clock on Wednesday, February 15, two men in civilian clothes approached Coyle's publichouse in Trafalgar Street, Belfast, and attempted to batter in the

door. The "Special" Constables at the corner of the street, instead of preventing the men from damaging the premises, appeared to direct and encourage them in their work by signs and nods.

Then about a dozen more civilians came to help the two who were already attacking the premises, and a woman (a Protestant resident in the street) shouted to them to stop as "the military have got word and are coming."

On February 18 three "Special" Constables in uniform accompanied by three civilians went into the Seamen's Institute, Belfast, where the "Specials" are stationed, came out after a while, and walked down Corporation Street towards Flynn's publichouse. The three civilians kept on the same side of the street where Flynn's publichouse is situated, and the three "Specials" on the other side. When the three civilians came to Flynn's publichouse, one of them looked in the window and nodded to the other two, who threw a bomb through the window. The bomb exploded.

BOMB THROWERS ESCAPE.

Three men (Catholics) made a rush after the bomb throwers, who were running away, but were held back from pursuing them by the three "Special" Constables, who also proceeded to search those three men. While they were being searched a police-sergeant came on the scene, and a Catholic resident shouted to him to follow the men who threw the bomb and who were at this time running up George's Street.

The sergeant gave chase, but did not succeed in capturing any of the bomb throwers.

At about 1.45 on February 23, three shots were fired from Messrs. Gunning and Campbell's mill, North Howard Street, Belfast, at a coalman carter who was driving one of Messrs. Davidson's carts. The carter, who is a Catholic, was proceeding down North Howard Street towards the Falls Road. Fortunately the man was not hit by the bullet.

SHOTS AT A CARTER.

It was reported in Belfast at 3 p.m. on February 23, that a man named James Rice, an employee of the Co. Down Railway Co., was fired at, but not hit. A quarter of an hour afterwards a regular onslaught of firing was made in Catholic streets in the Newtownards Road. The report in one of the principal Orange newspapers states that this man Rice is a Protestant, thus implying that the subsequent shooting was something in the nature of a reprisal. As a matter of fact, Rice is a Catholic.

A COOKSTOWN COMPLAINT.

The following telegram from Cookstown was received by the Provisional Government on Thursday:—

"Seven masked 'B Specials' raided Killymoon Castle at 8.30 last evening, raised hell till 9.45; covered O'Sullivan with rifles, abused and maltreated him, and said they would have him dead or alive. Threatened to shoot Mrs. McCarthy, who fainted. If Hall not removed from there at once there will be murder."

"Killymoon" is the residence of Mrs. McCarthy. Mr. O'Sullivan is Quartermaster, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Northern Division. Mr. Hall is District Inspector of "B Specials."

THE RULE OF THE RIFLE.

The provocative conduct of "B Specials" all over Tyrone has given rise to much indignation amongst the Catholic inhabitants.

On Wednesday, farmers from the townland of Letteree, Dromore, were on their way with milk to Shaneragh creamery when "Specials" at the point of the rifle compelled them to bring the milk to a creamery, the manager of which is a Unionist. The "Specials" remained until the milk was taken over. On the return journey, it is alleged, that they called on the manager of the Shaneragh creamery, and told him that if he took in any milk from the district he would be shot. They said they were acting under orders.

Two motor drivers on their way from Dromore to Omagh were shot at in the townland of Clanabogan by "B Specials," but fortunately they escaped without injury.

In Fintona, several people on their way home from an entertainment were held up and searched by "Specials." A Protestant worker, Jos. Wright, who was wounded by "B Specials" last week in Fintona is still under treatment in the Tyrone County Hospital. In Omagh several people are held up every night and searched.

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NAPIER'S LEADING FOOTWEAR AND REPAIR
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