# POBLACHT NA h-EIREANN

# WAR NEWS No. 148

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Eighth Year of the Republic

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#### Manufactured "Evidence"

The daily press of the 19th inst. published an enemy official report stating that at 10 p.m. on Wednesday night, 17 inst., "a Ford military car containing 4 Irregulars, with arms" was captured at Phibsboro' and that "in an exchange of shots one Irregular was wounded." The report is absolutely false. There was no exchange of fire because the men arrested in the car had no arms. The reason for this lie is a sinister one.

In the press of the 20th inst. a second "official" report describing the capture of arms and ammunition at 58 Aughrim St. on the the night of the 18th mentioned the names of the same four men—Farrell, O'Kelly, Donnelly and Connolly—as having been arrested "in connection with this raid." Another stark falsehood. here were no men arrested in the house in Aughrim St., least of all the 4 in question, as it had been already stated that they were arrested in another street twenty-four hours earlier.

> In a further attempt to work up a case against these men and rope them into the elastic net of the Murder Bill, the enemy GH.Q. invented a third lie, since frequently repeated by the press, that the Ford car in which the arrests took place was used in a number of recent attacks in Dublin. The recent attacks refer particularly to the night of January 15th when small bodies of Republican troops, fighting with every disadvantage, took possession of the streets of Lublin and successfully attacked 10 Colonial posts and patrols inflicting 5 casualties. There were no Republican troops wounded or captured. It is evident that the Colonial authorities are now out for vengeance for this attack and are manufacturing evidence" on which the secret military "courts" may commit more murder.

# 'Tho Murder Gang Abroad

William J. Sims, who was arrested last week in a raid on the Banba Hall, Glasgow, pleaded guilty before the Sheriff of having been in possession of arms and ammunition.

The Procurator Fiscal said that Sims told rather a remarkable story of himself. He stated that while he joined the I.R. A. in 1921, he gave it up after the signing of the Treaty and became an officer of the secret intelligence department of the Irish Free State, and when arrested at the Banba Hall he had gone in the expectation of meeting a certain individual whom he had shoot.

#### CAPTURES

Detailed official reports are now to hand regarding the recent captures of enemy posts throughout the country. The number of prisoners taken at Ballymakeera were 127, not 90, as reported in the press. It will also be remembered that the press igave the number of attackers as 500.

#### BALLYMAKEERA, CO. CORK:

The enemy occupied 11 posts in the village with a total strength of 127 officers and men and an armament of 120 rifles, 5 Lewis guns and an armoured car. The total number of our forces actually engaged in the attack on the village was 55 men armed with 50 rifles and 4 Lewis guns, and accompanied by a whippet armoured car.

Our forces were divided into sections and approached into positions around the village at 6 a m. At 6.30 the general attack commenced and our men moved forward. The armoured car entered the village and opened fire on the enemy H.Q. at the same time covering the enemy armoured car which was drawn up close to the door. They held four strongly fortified sentry posts, out of which they had to be driven by Lewis gun fire and grenades before any attempt could be made on the village. This part of the operation was successfully carried out in the space of half-an-hour and then the real advance on the village began.

The most important post in the village, The Western House, was then rushed and taken successfully. The garrison in a house in the centre of the village next surrendered and we were then enabled to work from the front and back.

Two more posts in the Western end were then taken, sections of our men being all this time engaged in attacking the central posts in the village. The armoured car then proceeded towards the East end and assisted two sections, who were attacking the post of Creedona, to rush and capture it.

Ultimately all the sections closed in on the enemy H.Q. which contained their O/C and 40 men and successfully captured it. Our casualties, one seriously wounded. Enemy casualties, one killed and 17 wounded. All the armament above-mentioned captured intact. During the operation enemy n iforcements were repulsed by our forces stationed at Carrigaphooka. One of our men named Casey who was with his section at Clondrohid was wounded and captured by the enemy and brutally murdered.

### DOWRA, Co. CAVAN.

This post, a detached two storied building, was strongly fortified, steel shuttered and sandbagged. Rolls of barbed wire fixed to the ground and walls surrounded the front and sides. A high wall surmounted by barbed wire enclosed the back and yard. The front door, the only available means of entry, had a projecting three sided fortification of sandbags, reinforced with loopholed steel plating. The narrow passage of entry was at night time closed by placing a collapsable trestle of barbed wire along it. Sentries were stationed at the doorway.

On the evening of the 23rd December, a party of 3rd Western Division troops arrived at Dowra. The officer in charge with 10 men advanced on the doorway. Having successfully negotiated the barriers of barbed wire he came instructions from the Irish Free State Police to to grips with the sentry and disarmed him The remainder of the men immediately rushed the being a private dwelling.

## MOUNTJOY HUNGER-STRIKE

NINTH DAY.

To-day Miss Humphries and Miss Comerford enter on their ninth day of hunger-strike as a protest against being treated as criminals.

#### A RUNNING FIGHT

At 8 a.m. on the 9th inst., considerable numbers of Colonial troops from Bandon, Ballineen, Dunmanway and Bantry concentrated at Coppeen. Bodies moving towards the North-west encountered a few sections of Republicans at Shanacoshel. After a brief skirmish, the latter moved northwards to avoid being hemmed in by the Colonial troops approaching from Gurranareigh. At 11 a.m. enemy reinforcements from Bandon were engaged near Beal-na-Blath, but on the approach of further reinforcements, the Republicans withdrew and the enemy proceeded to Kilmurray. Simultaneously, a force of 100 Colonial cyclists were operating westwards towards Tarelton. A running fight on the hills around Tarelton follow d, but the Republicans, although greatly outnumbered, although suffered no casualties, and successfully withdrew despite the enemy's desperate efforts to surround them. Enemy casualties in these latter engagements not known.

Forty-three Colonials entered Milltown, Co. Galway, on the 17th inst. under Capt. Feeney, O/C Ballinrobe. They billeted themselves all over the town and left in the morning in the direction of Ballindine. They found on preparing to leave, much to their astonishment, that their Lewis gun and ammunition over which a guard of three had been placed the night before, had disappeared, having been captured by members of the North Galway column.

A prisoner named T. Coffey was so brutally ili-treated at the Naval Barracks occupied by Colonial troops at Dun Laoghaire that he had to be removed to hospital.

#### [Continued from Column 2]

building and a brisk exchange of fire took place, but the enemy soon realised the hopelessness of his position, our troops being in complete possession of the ground floor, and accordingly surrendered.

The following is the list of captures:\_\_

23 prisoners,

23 L. E. Rifles, 1 Martini Rifle,

22 Bayonets,

1 Webley Revolver,

1 Colt,

4 Bombs. 2000 Rounds .303,

Also all equipment, uniforms, etc., in barracks.

There were no casualties on either side. All prisoners being released unharmed. Although completely in our hands it was decided not to burn the post after capture on account of it

