POBLACHT na h-EIREANN

WAR NEWS No. 29

Wednesday, 2nd August, 1922

Seventh Year of the Republic

Price Twopence

SHOOTING UNARMED MEN.

The shooting of Mr. Harry Boland in the dead of night by F.S. Years of brave and tireless service to troops who could easily have overpowered him, unarmed as he was, close comradeship with Michael Collshould teach Irishmen what is in store ins whose dangers he shared and for them. Recently several statements whose safety he guarded, were in the have been sent to us from houses raid- end counted against him as a crime ed by F.S. troops making it clear that and he was shot down without mercy assassination, not arrest, was the because he loved the independence of object of the raiders. Because of the his country. As he lay on his death indelible stain on the name of men of bed, still under an armed guard of our own race, and because we had those who shot him, his mother hoped that the culprits would be drast_ pleaded with the F.S. authorities for ically dealt with by their Officers, we parole for Gerald Boland, his brother, did not make these statements public. that he might come from Mountjoy to But the midnight shooting of Harry comfort the dying soldier. And even Boland in a raid plainly ordered by that was refused, Kevin O'Higgins the Free State command and carried of the Provisional Government brusout by a party of men among whom quely dismissing the appeal with the there was at least one responsible words "paroles have been refused in Officer must end any further silence just as distressing cases." But the on our part. It seems that, both cause that men like Harry Boland by incitement and direct order, the make doubly sacred by their trium-Free State troops are being authorised phant sacrifice is the cause of Justice to alopt the most cowardly of the and Liberty itself and can never fail. tactics of the Auxiliaries—the shooting of unarmed men on one of the three craven pretexts: 'failing to halt,' 'attempting to escape,' or 'resisting arrest." Thus Churchill's policy is being put into "effective" operation in Churchill's way.

Absolution Reserved for Free Staters.

We received last week a letter from Mountjoy Jail stating that Absolution had been refused to Republican prisoners who made their confessions to the Chaplain and the Assistant Chaplain. Both priests gave as the reason for their refusal an instruction from His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin that until Republican soldiers had given an undertaking not to oppose the Provisional Government, Absolution was to be withheld from them. We have now verified this information and publish it with an expression of our abhorrence that the sacred rites of the Catholic Church should be put to the same uses as Churchill's guns. We have learned too that out of the 600 prisoners in Mountjoy not one gave the undertaking.

HARRY BOLAND.

Big-hearted Harry Boland, gallant, generous, dauntless, has followed his friend and comrade Cathal Brugha. the Republic, much of it spent in

IN THE FIELD.

THE GENERAL SITUATION.

The general situation as outlined in the Official Bulletins issued last week from Field General H.Q. shows guerilla fighting in the parts of Ireland north of the line held by our troops from Waterford to the Shannon. There has been little activity along this line for the last few days. The enemy is still confined to Waterford City and has as yet made no effort to advance from it. Around Kilmallock the Provisional Government has concentrated vast forces, accompanied by artillery and many armoured-cars. Our troops are ready for an attack and though the town may be made untenable by shell-fire, positions are prepared to the rere which must be overcome before any serious advance further South can be made. Minor actions are of almost hourly occurrence in this sector, I.R.A. columns penetrating into territory held by the enemy and inflicting losses upon him-

In recent Official Bulletins the following details of actions on the various fronts are given. The dates are those upon which the Bulletins were issued:--

IN THE FIELD (Continued)

25/7/22. Armoured train at Inchieore wrecked by Republican troops.

At Edenvale House near Ennis, the Mid-Clare column were attacked at 4 a.m. while resting. Though heavily outnumbered the column fought its way through the F.S. lines without the loss a of man.

In an attack on a F.S. post in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway an I.R.A. column inflicted 4 casualties on the enemy.

26/7/22. Three F.S. troops disarmed by 4 unarmed I.R.A. in Wexford. At Ferrycarrig, in the county, F.S. troops dismounting from an armoured car were attacked by Republicans and lost two men wounded.

27/7/22. An I.R.A. patrol captured the F.S. Commandant, 4th Brigade, First Western Division at Ennistymon.

28/7/22. At Eyre Court, Co. Galway a party of 8 I.R.A. attacked and captured the Free State Barracks. The garrison of fifteen men put up a spirited defence until a breach was made in the front wall by means of a mine gallantly laid under fire. The F.S. troops then surrendered, probably believing themselves outnumbered. The 8 I.R.A. captured the 15 men with rifles revolvers grenades and ammunition The prisoners having been disarmed were released.

Republican columns are very active in North Offaly where the enemy posts are frequently attacked and their lines of communication cut.

F.S. troops were ambushed in North Frederick Street and King's Inns, Dublin on the 26th suffering a number of casualties.

A Republican column with bombs and rifle fire attacked F.S. posts in Bray, Co. Wicklow, and Newbridge Barracks, Co. Kildare on the 26th.

In the Glenties, Tirconnail a strong patrol of F.S. troops were ambushed by I.R.A. on the 27th-The enemy lost two killed and many wounded.

