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WAR NEWS NO. 61

Tuesday, 19th September, 1922.

Seventh Year of the Republic.

Price Twopence

FACE THE FACTS.

Churchill's war has continued for 3 months. What has it brought its authors? The admitted F.S. casualties to date are 185 killed and 674 wounded in action and 45 killed and 59 wounded "accidentally"—a total loss of 963 troops. In money the late General Collins said on Aug. 13th that the first month of the war had cost £40,000,000 and every subsequent day £1,000,000. Despite this prodigal expenditure of blood and treasure there is no sign of the end. Within a week the F.S. Command has lost two Brigadier-Generals and one member of G.H.Q. The South which was "practically free from irregulars" on Aug. 21st has been practically impassible to them ever since, so impassible that Kenmare taken by I.R.A. on the 9th was on the 18th reported still unrelieved. Almost daily for eight weeks the F.S. Headquarters in the West has announced the "final rout" of the I.R.A. but on the 12th the I.R.A. captured the town of Ballina with its population of 4,500 and its large F.S garrison. In Dublin and the Midland counties the position of the F.S. troops is as perilous, and barracks and posts have fallen to small Republican columns often without a shot. The bald fact is that the F.S. forces have failed. Murder gangs and prison torturers are trying to make good in their stead. Their activities but emphasise the failure dogging every step of the bloody path into the Empire. When will it end? Mulcahy has compromised before. He can compromise again. The L.R. a. who defend the Republic have not and cannot compromise. Mulcahy admits that the real will of the people is for "ultimate independence." He can have peace to-day if he honours that will, or war for years if he persists in denying it. It is for him to choose.

Murder Verdict Against Mulcahy.

THE SLAYING OF CAPT. KENEFICK

On Sept. 12th at Coachford, Co Cork an inquest was held on the body of Captain T. Kenefick, I.R.A., murdered after arrest by F.S. troops on Sept. 8th when returning to Cork from his mother's funeral. Seven witnesses were examined. The first proved the hold-up of the car in which deceased was travelling unarmed. He was searched and his correspondence read but nothing incriminating was found, and he was about to resume his journey when he was recognised by a second party of F.S. troops. He was then taken into custody. The second witness swore that those who took deceased prisoner were F.S. Officers in uniform. He could identify at least one of them. He saw deceased tak in into a car with three of the F.S.

party. The third witness noted that the car in which deceased was was different from the others in that it had a wire cage over it. The fourth witness saw this car with deceased in custody turn into a side road off the main Coachford road. Later it returned and deceased was not in it then. The fifth witness described the search for the body which was eventually found by following the tracks of the car and though well hidden its place of concealment was marked by oil on the road dropped as the car waited while the murderers did their work. The head was battered in and there were two bullet marks through it. The sixth witness, a Coachford hotel keeper, proved the billeting on him of 31 F.S. soldiers on the morning of the murder. The O/C was, he understood, Gen. Dalton. The seventh witness was a doctor who described the wounds and the battered head and said none of the injuries to the head were caused after death.

The jury returned the following verdict: "We find that Capt. Kenefick was wilfully murdered at Nadrid, Coachford on Friday Sept. 8th 1922 by a party of F.S. troops and we bring a verdict of wilful murder against the Officer in charge of the F.S. troops at Coachford on the morning in question and RICHARD MULCAHY AS MINISTER OF DEFENCE and that the cause of death was shock and hæmmorage due to laceration of the brain caused by bullet wounds."

Cant. Kenefick's widow came to identify the body. She found her husband's face so disfigured that she did not recognise him. She identified him by his clothes. She declared she was glad that he died for the Republic, for had he fallen fighting for the Free State, she said, "I would never have got over the disgrace of it."

Murder Will Out.

Cosgrave and Mulcahy in their Secret Dublin because he would not give the name District Weekly Intelligence Summary,' dated 2/9/22 issued from British H.Q. Parkgate Street and signed by Major-Gen. G. F. Boyd. circulate the following:

"Several leading Republicans have been murdered under very revolting circumstances, probably as a reprisal for Collins. although the Provisional Government endeavour to put the blame on the Republicans themselves."

The murders of Cole. Colley and Daly are then described and the Summary continues:

"The shots at the time of the murder of the 2 men (Cole and Colley) at Whitehall on the 20th were heard by an N.C.O. of the 1st Batt. of the Cameronians who later saw the dead bodies. He states that immediately after the shooting he saw a Ford car containing 6 men, 3 in P.G. uniform and 3 in trench coats, proceeding north from the scene of the shooting."

Gen. Boyd who thus criticises his friends secretly in his Weekly Intelligence Circular was of course careful not to produce his N.C.O. at the inquest.

The National War.

ATTACKS IN 23 COUNTIES.

During the week ending Sept. 8th. there were 99 attacks by I.R.A. on F.S. troops. As a comment upon the war which was to be over in a few days it is instructive to notice that these attacks were carried out over an

Continued at Foot of Next Column.

The F.S. Prison Policy.

AT WORK IN CORK AND LIMERICK.

The maltreatment of prisoners appears to be a calculated policy of the F.S. Army leaders. From the provinces come accounts of brutalities inflicted on I.R.A. captives similar in every detail to those which have made Wellington Barracks infamous. We have received a signed statement dealing with the case of Vol. Sean McGuckin, Cork, who was practically kicked to death by officers of the Dublin Guards who visited Cork Male Prison to "interrogate" the prisoners. At the beginning of McGuckin's interrogation he was asked if he was an "irregular." He replied no, he was a member of the I.R.A. He was promptly beaten & on his refusal to answer further questions he was kicked and savaged, being eventually pushed through a window which was closed. He was picked up unconcious, and is now in hospital, Afterwards the Dublin Guards Officers wantonly fired upon the prisoners wounding one.

A despatch from Cork mentions also the following cases:

Kevin Bradshaw cruelly beaten in Cork jail on Sept. 8th for what reason has not transpired.

Another prisoner—name not yet Murder will out. The British Allies of known-assaulted and beaten brutally of his Company Capt.

Three Fianna boys arrested, taken to Imperial Hotel, F.S. H.Q., forced knees and threatened with death. One who answered back was beaten by F.S. officers.

A Limerick message states:

At one a.m. on August 28th, Capt. Stapleton, Free State Officer in Limerick, turned out Republican prisoners into the yard of William Street Barracks in their bare feet; put them up against a wall, threatened, abused and called them the vilest names. He was under the influence of drink at the time.

area of 23 counties. The following was the distribution: Dublin County 14 attacks; Cork 14; Tipperary 13; Waterford 7; Kerry 6; Offaly 6; Louth 6; Galway 4; Limerick 4; Donegal 3; Roscommon 3; Mayo 3; Wicklow 2; Clare 2; Leitrim 2; Sligo 2; Meath 2; Westmeath 1; Kildare 1; Monaghan 1; Cavan 1; Carlow I; and Wexford I. In these operations the F.S. Army lost 63 killed and wounded and 51 prisoners. Three F.S. barracks were captured.

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