

THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EION MAC NEILL.

Vol. 2. No. 14. (New Series.)

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1915.

Price One Penny.

NOTES.

The following instructions may be found useful by those who desire to preserve their Volunteer military equipment secure from seizure and molestation at the hands of Mr. Birrell, the Home Rule Minister for Irish affairs:—

1. You must declare the bitterest and most irreconcilable opposition to the Home Rule policy of Mr. Birrell and his Government.

2. Your munitions of war must be purchased with money supplied by the English enemies of Irish Home Rule.

3. Your munitions of war must be imported into Ireland in defiance of the Home Rule Government but with the Government's foreknowledge. In the act of importation, you must arrest and hold as prisoners any officers of the Crown whom the Government may negligently allow to become witnesses of your proceedings.

4. Your leaders and principal adherents must have cotillions, and intimate friends in the Cabinet and in other high and august places.

5. Your declared object must be to nullify the Government's sincere devotion to Irish Home Rule and to their own solemn pledges to the Irish people, and to defy and bring to nothing the legislative power of the Supreme Parliament of the British Empire, by armed and organised resistance.

6. You must continue to proclaim this to be your object during the time when the British Empire is engaged in what both British parties declare to be a struggle for the Empire's very existence. Your purpose may be worded, "to send Home Rule to the devil," as such a phrase attracts general attention and is easily remembered.

7. Your real object, known to the Home Rule Government, will be to seize or create a suitable opportunity for the wholesale extermination of Irish Nationalists in those parts of Ireland in which they are in a minority or incapable of effective armed resistance. You

will not be deterred from this purpose by any considerations of its barbarous and dastardly character. The end must justify the means. The British democracy, no less than the British aristocracy and plutocracy will lament in appropriate language, as they have so often done before, any atrocities suffered by the common Irish; but they will none the less draw the desired conclusion that such atrocities create an imperative duty for the British people, acting as God's chosen instruments, to continue the suppression of Irish National rights and liberties and the economic exploitation of Ireland.

If you follow these instructions, the Government will permit you to provide and store up "munitions of war" to any extent. No concealment is necessary. You may make your arsenal of any such prominent place as a vacated town hall in a principal city. The heads of the Government, having described the least part of your enterprise as "a grave and unprecedented outrage," will bestow staff appointments at £1,800 a year on leading participants, and will proceed to direct their police to seize and confiscate the "munitions of war" belonging to Irish Nationalists.

For those who wish to disseminate "seditious literature," the course to be followed is obvious. The Unionist Press of Great Britain and Ireland is willing to publish any quantity of seditious literature, and complete immunity from interference on the part of the Home Rule Government can be guaranteed.

Our allies continue to illustrate the New Era, to add fresh polishing touches to the One Bright Spot, and to take additional Free Gifts from a Free People. All this has a much-needed educating effect, and the tentative measures of Frightfulness on the part of Nathan Pasha, Mr. Birrell's "subordinate," while they will frighten nobody, will put many on their guard and will help the steady movement of Irish public opinion.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw, writing to the London "Globe," once more brings a clear indictment of hypocrisy against British Imperialism. "He further says that the Unionists now control Parliament and will be in a position to claim at the General Election that it was they who saved the situation." In the meantime our statesmen are making every effort, so that whatever may befall the Nation the political machine may not suffer. They hope to save, not one, but many situations.

The "Irish Daily Independent," in a leading article, quotes and discusses a remarkable article in the "War Office Times and Naval Review." This military and naval organ, it appears, severely condemns the Unionist policy, continuously reaffirmed throughout the present Imperial crisis, of armed resistance to Home Rule. Humph! In a few months, who will mind what the "War Office Times" has said about it?

The "War Office Times" criticises the "Belfast News-Letter" and the "Northern Whig" for recent pronouncements. The Unionist Editors read the criticism and wink at each other. The "War Office Times" trusts that, if resistance is attempted, "prompt steps will be taken by the Government to cope with it, and that it will clap into jail and keep there the ringleaders of rebellion, or potential rebellion, in the North of Ireland." The military and naval organ ought to know that the Government has already taken prompt steps, that it has compelled several of the "ringleaders" to accept colonelcies and other similar punishments, and is trying to demoralise them with big salaries; also that, as a warning of what may happen to others, it has deported, deprived of livelihood, and placed under arrest a number of Irish Nationalists, and has seized and detained various lots of ammunition belonging to Irish Volunteers.

Not content with frightening the Unionist

Editors until they wink, the naval and military organ makes a general onslaught on the Unionists of Ulster, whom it describes as "the most bigoted, intolerant, irreligious, and uninteresting class of persons who reside on this terrestrial globe." The "Independent" accepts the bait and proceeds to make a comment which, if somewhat milder, is set in the same mould.

Now it is the duty of every Irish Nationalist, and above all of every Irish Volunteer, to make a determined and sustained effort to break down every manufactured delusion about the situation in Ulster. Ulster, before the Union, was the home of a high-spirited Protestant Nationalism, and Belfast in particular was the centre of the finest spirit of friendship and goodwill that has ever been exhibited by a Protestant community towards a Catholic community.

If a reactionary spirit has gained a temporary triumph in Protestant Ulster, the historical causes are not obscure. The production of "malice, hatred, and uncharitableness" has been the constant policy of British Imperialism in Ulster and throughout Ireland, so that a divided people might be held in subjection, their resources drained and exploited, and their growing national unity destroyed. The common people have been made the victims of a well-planned scheme of operations. They cannot be held chiefly responsible. In our own day we can see how similar operations, directed from high quarters and by a subtle Imperialist policy, are able to deceive and pervert, for the time at least, another part of the Irish people. For Irishmen, it is a fatal error, it is making themselves not merely the victims but the instruments of this barbarous policy of Imperialism, if they cast the blame upon a section of their fellow-countrymen, instead of seeking out, impeaching, and relentlessly exposing the leading criminals, who are not Irishmen at all but British statesmen. If your house is broken into, you do not waste your indignation on the tools used by the burglar. You seek justice against the criminal.

Who first inspired the policy of "rebellion" in the North of Ireland? The father of the present First Lord of the Admiralty, an Englishman, an ex-Minister of the Crown, Lord Randolph Churchill, and not as a mere personal impulse but as a deliberate piece of British Imperialist policy. He was accompanied on his first Ulster campaign by another ex-Minister of the Crown, Sir Stafford Northcote, and he gave the war-cry, "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right."

The late Lord Londonderry, Castlereagh's descendant, was Lord Randolph's cousin, and cousin to the "Northern Whig's" strong man, the present Lord Lieutenant, who, as we are told, has been sent to Ireland in spite of Mr. John Redmond. How well we can imagine the Imperialists of the "Home Rule Government" clapping the ringleaders of Imperialism in Ireland, their friends and daily familiars, into prisons made for Irish Nationalists!

There is no dividing line in Irish policy between the Imperialism of the Government and the Imperialism of the Opposition. The Government has formally declared that "the coercion of Ulster is unthinkable." Naturally, for "Ulster" means the cousins and intimates of Cabinet Ministers. The "Northern Whig" acknowledges the Government alliance and triumphs over the discomfiture of Mr. John Redmond.

If it were only discomfiture! But Mr. Redmond has been "compelled" by the Holy Alliance to turn upon Irish Nationalists and spread division and demoralisation among them—"compelled," says Mr. Patrick Egan, "in order to save the Bill." Is the "Bill" saved? A further plain question—how much worse off would Mr. Redmond have been if he had not accepted compulsion and had not interfered with the Irish Volunteers?

EOIN MAC NEILL.

ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT CONCERT.

The Committee in charge of our National Festival Celebration in Dublin are making strenuous efforts to render the occasion a memorable one. The Rotunda Rink has been secured for the Great Concert to be held on St. Patrick's Night. The Rink is by far the largest hall in Dublin, and has recently been fitted up to suit such entertainments. The seating accommodation is on an admirable plan, which permits of full view of the platform and offers admirable facilities to the audience to appreciate to the full the programme presented. The St. Patrick's Night Programme is deplete with a variety of vocal and instrumental attractions, and the names of the artistes are an indication that it will be both a National and an artistic success. The names include Messrs. Jay Ryan, Lieut. E. O'Connor Cox (Feis Ceoil Gold Medallist, Winner of Denis O'Sullivan Memorial Medal), Arthur Darley; Miss Joan Burke, Mrs. O'Moore (Feis Ceoil Gold Medallist), Miss Eileen Hayden, Mairin ni Criagain, Maire ni Shiubhlaigh; Mr. G. Crofts, Mr. Jas. Raul (Feis Ceoil Medallist), Sean O'Beirne, Seamus O hAodha.

In view of the fact that the Organisation Committee propose dividing portion of the proceeds to the Irish Language and to the Irish Volunteer Funds, we trust that their enterprise will be rewarded with a bumper house.

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THE WAR.

The course of events in Belgium and France has been similar to that of the previous week. The French have gained a number of small successes, none of which is of great importance, and the reason of which is to be found that the German troops have been reduced to a minimum on this front to further the advance in Poland. Even so, at places the Germans have been able to score small successes here and there in the West. A noteworthy feature of the French operations is their evident anxiety to secure control of Alsace. Their object here is not military at all, properly speaking; they are merely seeking the moral effect of a re-occupation with its accompanying possibility of passing the Rhine south of Strassburg. As a matter of fact this would not be possible with more than a raiding party without the previous reduction of Neu Brisach and the forcing of the Rhone-Rhine Canal. This last is an important obstacle often overlooked on the assumption that there is no intermediate line between the Vosges Mountains and the Rhine. A more intelligible objective is the extrication of Verdun, which the French are also seeking—their latest move being against the German bridge-head at St. Mihiel, south of the place, where a slight advance was made.

But any minor French advances were sorely needed by the Allies in view of the plight to which the Russians have come. The defeat of the last was very heavy indeed, as appears from the enormous numbers of prisoners taken—over 100,000. It is true that the Russians on their extreme right have steadied themselves and are striving to regain some ground, but the occupation of Przrasnysz and the reported bombardment of Ossowietz indicate that in the district more immediately North of Warsaw the German advance is holding its own and a little more. Similarly on the southern flank the heavy fighting round Stanislaw shows that here, too, the Russians are being hard pressed. Russia is so stolid and mighty that when the tide sets against her the fact is not obvious at first, but the fact remains that, since the beginning of December, the offensive has lain with Hindenburg despite his great numerical inferiority. Russia's losses have been colossal—for example, 60,000 officers! Now Russia can afford to lose officers less than any other Power, for she lacks the educated population from which to replace them. Again, the blockade of Russia is absolute: she can get in no munitions of war, and she is not sufficiently industrial to be able to manufacture them herself. While this blockade continues Russia can get no equipment for her new levies, and for some months yet she will have no port. She will then have Archangel, but that will be inadequate to make up the leeway.

In view of these facts it is not surprising to find the Allies endeavouring to force the Dardanelles. The continued bombardment of the forts and reported mine-sweeping operations prove that it is no mere demonstration but a systematic attempt against the channel: the Anglo-French squadron is as powerful as can ever be spared for the purpose. Whether it will succeed or not is another thing. If proper defensive measures have been taken, the attempt should fail; and there is no reason to suppose that the Germans have left anything to chance. How far the Allied fleet has succeeded in its task it is impossible to say: it is certain that they have so far made no attempt against the Narrows—the most formidable section of the Straits. Here the channel is only a little more than three-quarters of a mile wide, and the current sets at the rate of four knots an hour TOWARDS THE AEGEAN. Thus if the mine-sweepers steam against the current their progress would be so slow that they should easily be sunk; while if they steam in and sweep outwards they must run the gauntlet of all the forts before they start. It is very doubtful whether the ships lying off Erenkeni, further down the channel, could keep the forts in check by indirect fire, judging by the way they could not.

So far there has been no mention of an army landed to reduce any of the forts by taking them in reverse. Such an attempt against the forts in the Gallipoli Peninsula on the European side would be very unlikely to succeed, and in all probability will never be made. On the Asiatic side an army could be landed inside the island of Tenedos, but where the army is to come from it is hard to see. At present the Allies have very few troops to spare. Moreover, even suppose the forts on this side are reduced, it by no means follows that the European forts would fall: the latter are the stronger and the better placed, and could not be dominated across the channel. Altogether this enterprise of the Allies is an exceedingly difficult one, and only justified by the great strain upon Russia. Its success is problematical, and even if it comes to pass will be a very slow process. It may be that if the Dardanelles are forced at all it will not be until Russia is no longer in a position to profit by it.

The Turks have also been in conflict with the Russians in the Caucasus: in this district two or three encounters have taken place without any definite result. An offshoot of the part of Islam in the war was the serious mutiny of an Indian native regiment at Singapore, in which several European officers lost their lives. The significant fact is that the troops who mutinied were all Mahomedans, and marines off the Japanese warships in harbour were requisitioned to suppress the disturbance.

The fairly general strike in England comes as a further embarrassment to the Allies. With the entire industrial region of France occupied

by the Germans, the French as well as the English themselves were very largely dependent on England for munitions of all kinds. It is probable that strong measures will be taken if necessary to make the men continue work, but all the same a certain degree of hold-up and inconvenience is bound to ensue. And there is always the danger that such disturbances will recur.

The German submarine war against English trade has been pretty effective. A considerable number of ships have been announced definitely as sunk, and a number of others are returned as overdue—some of which doubtless are also victims of the blockade. The report has not been confirmed, but it must be borne in mind that confirmation in such a case is very hard to obtain. A transport carrying troops is sunk at once just like a warship, and the crew is never saved. Such, for example, was the fate of several Japanese transports sunk by Skrydloff's fleet in the Sea of Japan. All this submarine activity, though it will not ruin British trade, will seriously injure it: insurance rates will be raised, ship-owners will hesitate to venture their vessels, seamen will be unwilling to sail, goods will depreciate at the ports. Germany has lost all her sea trade, so she stands to make a net gain on the business from now on.

The expectation that the central empires could be starved into defeat has proved unfounded. The natural resources of the two countries have been turned to account more fully than was thought possible, by an extremely judicious redistribution. Moreover, the closing of the Dardanelles has diverted practically the entire grain harvest of Rumania into Germany, who has now sufficient supplies to carry on until next harvest with a little to spare. Hence for another year at least there can be no prospect of starvation ending the war.

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addressed to the

IRISH PRESS BUREAU,
30 Lower Abbey Street, DUBLIN.

The Irish Volunteer

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1915.

Headquarters' Bulletin

The General Council of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Sunday, 21st inst., Professor Eoin Mac Neill, President, in the chair.

Reports were received from the various members of the Headquarters Staff and from the County Delegates.

A scheme of mutual insurance for Volunteers was considered.

It was agreed that the attention of Companies should again be directed to the necessity of renewing affiliation fees as soon as they become due, and that the Organisers and County Delegates should be asked to exert themselves to see that affiliations be promptly renewed in their respective districts.

The Central Executive met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, 24th ult., the President in the chair.

The usual reports were considered and the necessary orders made.

In furtherance of the views of the General Council, it was decided to order all Companies to make a levy of a penny per man per month on their members for purposes of affiliation, the total proceeds to be forwarded to Headquarters each month as an affiliation fee; the minimum fee to be, as heretofore, five shillings per month or fifteen shillings per quarter, but Companies whose membership is in excess of sixty to pay extra at the rate of a penny per man per month.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,
Dublin, 24th Feb., 1915.

APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments are ratified by Headquarters:—

Wexford Regiment.

1st (Enniscorthy) Battalion.

"F" Coy. (Ferns).

Captain—Wm. J. Brennan Whitmore.

1st Lieut.—Patrick Doyle.

2nd Lieut.—Patrick Ronan.

2nd (Wexford) Battalion.

"A" Coy. (Wexford Town).

Captain—Seán Synnott (Acting Commandant).

1st Lieut.—Patrick Furlong.

2nd Lieut.—Michael Redmond.

3rd (New Ross) Battalion.

"A" Coy. (New Ross Town).

Captain—Philip Lennon.

1st Lieut.—John O'Kennedy.

2nd Lieut.—William Murphy.

P. H. PEARSE,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street.

Dublin, 24th Feb., 1915.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

FINANCE.

The problem of monthly income and expenditure engaged a large part of the attention of the General Council and of the Central Executive at their recent meetings. There would be no problem at all if the Council and Executive could see their way lightly to expend the sums subscribed for arms and military equipment upon routine expenses; but the Council and the Executive are, very properly, opposed to this, and believe that it is necessary and possible to raise the funds for current expenditure in other ways. The Defence of Ireland Fund is ear-marked for purely military purposes, and so vigorous an organisation as ours ought to be able to provide for mere rent and office expenses out of the weekly contributions of the men. The chief fault lies in the laxity of the Companies in sending forward their affiliation fees. Even very live and active Companies, constantly in touch with

Headquarters on other matters, are often sinners in this respect. It is a point which every County Board and Company Committee must look to at once.

A NEW ORDER.

With a view to increasing the amount available for ordinary expenses, without drawing on the war treasury proper, the Executive has issued a new order to Companies. It lays down that a penny per man per month is to be levied in each Company and forwarded to Headquarters as an affiliation; the minimum affiliation, however, to be still five shillings a month. This will entail no extra burden on weak Companies, but it will ensure that the stronger Companies contribute to general expenses in proportion to their strength, and it will secure an appreciable increase in the monthly revenue of Headquarters. Companies should put the scheme in operation at once in accordance with the detailed instructions which will be issued. Companies will also note that the Headquarters Organisers and the Delegates to the General Council are authorised to collect affiliation fees.

ARMS.

The sole reason why the Council and the Executive think it so necessary to insist on these points is that they are jealous of the expenditure of money collected for military purposes on any other purpose whatsoever. By far the most urgent need of our force is to complete its armament. Much has already been done, and a good many Companies may be said to be fully armed; some have even a reserve of arms. These are the Companies which had their wits about them when we were importing arms in large quantities every week. The unprecedented demand upon arms of every kind made by the European war has, of course, made it more difficult for us to arm the remainder of our men than it was to arm those who were wide awake in the beginning. But it should be understood that a Company can always be armed if it is determined to be armed, and the Company which finds itself unarmed in the heel of the hunt will have only itself to blame.

COMPANY EQUIPMENT.

The Captains and Transport and Supply Commanders of all Companies are, it is to be presumed, busying themselves in looking after the Company equipment on the lines laid down in recent orders. The approaching Easter holidays will give an opportunity to many Companies to take the field under conditions approximating to those of actual service. Camps and field operations are already being talked of. The chance of a day or two's genuine training should not be lost. Every Battalion and Company should draw up a helpful and educative programme, and carry it out with the greatest detail and thoroughness.

IRISH BATTLES.

XI.—THE BATTLE OF NEW ROSS.

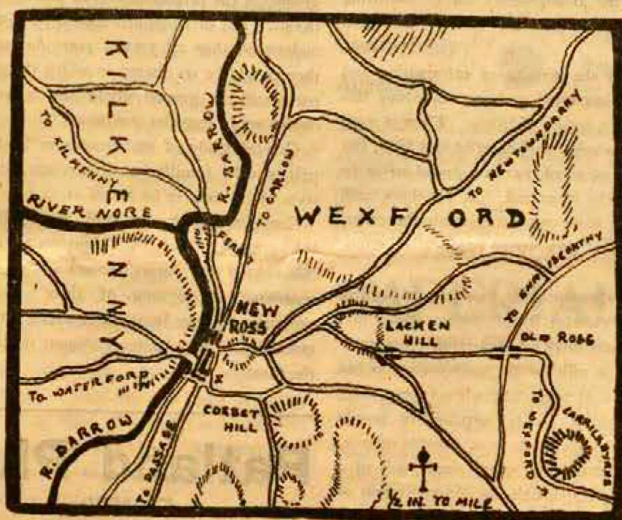
PRECEDING EVENTS.

After the capture of Enniscorthy the victors established their camp at Vinegar Hill. On the 29th of May, 1798, the day following the battle, the peasantry from all the surrounding country poured into the camp. There was great confusion, and many counsels were put forward, but it was at last decided to march on Wexford, whence a deputation had been sent urging the rebels to lay down their arms. A detachment was left at Vinegar Hill, and the main body marched towards Three Rock Mountain, three miles from Wexford, where they encamped.

The following day a body of the peasantry came into action against an advanced party

Barrow, being in the direct line of communication between Waterford and Kilkenny and the Capital, was a position of importance to both Irish and British. It was occupied by General Johnston with about 1,500 British regular troops, supported by regular bodies of yeomen, and well supplied with artillery. The infantry and artillery were drawn up in a line outside the south and east walls of the town. The cavalry were on the quay, and the yeomen on the bridge.

On the 4th of June the Irish army was reported to be at Carrickbyrne Hill, six miles from the town. In the evening they advanced, drove in a British outpost on Lacken Hill, and occupied Corbet Hill, a mile and a half from the walls. Both sides remained under arms all night.



X REPRESENTS THREE BULLET GATE.

of the Wexford garrison, and annihilated it. News of this disaster caused the British to abandon the town, which was immediately occupied by the insurgents.

The army was now divided in two. One corps, consisting principally of the men who had fought at Oulart and Enniscorthy, was to march on Gorey. The other, under Beauchamp Bagenal Harvey, was to take New Ross for its objective.

PRELIMINARY MANOEUVRES.

General Harvey marched from Wexford to Taghmon on May 31st at the head of 30,000 men. Less than a quarter of these had firearms, for which there was a moderate supply of ammunition, the remainder being still armed with pikes.

The town of Ross, situated a little to the south of the junction of the rivers Nore and

of them. Musgrave describes their advance thus:—

"They moved down with slow but irresistible progress, like an immense body of lava, which, issuing from the bowels of Vesuvius, spreads desolation over the plains of Calabria, and from which man alone can escape, and this by flight only."

The enemy's dragoons made a desperate charge to stop this determined advance, and were thrown into confusion by a stampede of bullocks as at Enniscorthy. Some other squadrons of cavalry, broken up among the hedges, were fired on by musketeers and charged by pikemen. The supporting infantry were hurled back in their turn, and the whole mass of men, Irish and British mixed up together, fighting every inch of the way, rushed through the Three Bullet Gate into the Main Street. In the long and bloody struggle that ensued several pieces of British artillery were taken and turned on their owners. At last the town was cleared of the garrison, who still managed to hold on to the bridge. The peasantry, streaming in, thinking the conflict over, lost all discipline and scattered to seek provisions.

Meanwhile the British forces had time to rally, and now, returning to the charge, took the peasantry at a disadvantage, regained the main streets, and after a fierce conflict, in the course of which fire burst out in several places, recaptured most of the town. Almost at the same time Harvey succeeded in rallying his own fugitives and led them back to the assault. Once more the Main Street was the scene of fearful carnage, the Irish charging as usual into the very mouths of the cannon, piking the gunners, and turning the weapons round on the enemy.

Again the enemy gave way, and again victory broke up the discipline of the Irish. There was no commissariat, and so the men had to scatter to obtain the food they so badly needed. It is not surprising that many should have become drunk. At any rate, the British rallied a second time, and once more, taking the peasantry by surprise, almost cleared the town.

But a third time the Irish returned to the assault. The guns they had taken had been re-taken, and were turned on them again, causing terrible losses, their own ammunition being almost exhausted. The town was burning fiercely, and in the midst of the flames soldier and peasant fought desperately hand to hand. A last charge at the guns was beaten back, and the Irish retreated slowly from the town. Over three thousand Irish lay dead in the streets of Ross and the fields around it. The enemy lost 8 officers and 250 men.

There was no pursuit, for the British were almost exhausted, and the Irish were by no means routed. After ten hours' fighting, discipline, which they had deserted in victory,

THE BATTLE.

General Harvey's plan was to attack in three divisions on three different points. An accident, however, prevented this. At four o'clock in the morning he sent a messenger to demand the surrender of the town, who was shot by a sentry. Thereupon the men of the first division, without waiting for the command, charged for the Three Bullet Gate. The indecision of the leader of the second division communicating itself to the men, they were seized with panic and retreated from the hill in disorder. The third division took little part in the action, and so the first division was left to bear the brunt of the fighting.

This division, however, played its part well, and broke through the first line of the enemy. They moved partly in columns, and partly in lines, pushing four pieces of artillery in front

kept them together in defeat, so that they regained Carrickbyrne in safety.

The British signalled their victory by committing abominable atrocities on the defenceless inhabitants of Ross.

The Irish army, a few days after the battle, advanced again to Lacken Hill, where they maintained their position until the general advance of the British on Vinegar Hill. Thus the reverse had little immediate result, but as it led to the general retreat of the Wexford armies which culminated in the disaster of Vinegar Hill, it must be considered as the turning point of the Revolution.

COMMENTS.

At the time the defeat at New Ross was held to be due to bad generalship, and Harvey accordingly resigned the command. Poor as his tactics undoubtedly were, there were much more important causes of the disaster. Of these the most obvious is lack of discipline, exemplified first in the mad rush of one division into action, and later on in the scattering of the army through the town. In the latter case defeat could easily have been avoided had the precaution been taken beforehand of telling off certain bodies to remain under arms while the remainder foraged.

This lack of discipline was mainly due to lack of organisation. Attempts were occasionally made to organise the men, but continual marching and skirmishing made this impossible. There appears to have been no smaller units than baronies, and even these were not completely organised. The result was that there were too few captains and too many generals. Had the Army of Wexford been organised in small units there would have been no need for General Harvey and his staff to rush round the streets of Ross in a vain endeavour to restore order among their victorious irregulars.

A second mistake was made in not occupying the houses when the town was captured. The peasantry did all their fighting in the street. The soldiers knew better. After each recapture of the town they took care to seize the houses, and hence the appalling disparity in number between the casualties of each side.

The attack in column is a point of interest. At Oulart and Enniscorthy, while their numbers were still small, the peasantry attacked in lines, advancing from hedge to hedge. At New Ross their numbers gave them confidence to attack in massed formation, the columns being linked together by lines, which probably used the hedges as before. Thus their weight of numbers gave them an earlier, if bloodier, victory.

It must be remembered that the Army before Ross was under fire for the first time. They were not the men who had fought at Oulart. Except for those who were engaged in the skirmish at Three Rock, the peasantry underwent their baptism of fire at this terrible battle.

This makes their behaviour in the face of rifle and artillery fire all the more praiseworthy, and the throwing away of the victory won twice over all the more deplorable.

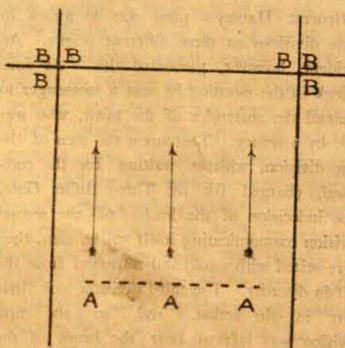
Combat Reconnaissance in Ireland.

I.

An inevitable feature of all warfare in Ireland at all times has been the frequency of tactical surprise by reason of the peculiarly intricate character of the ground. This would be just as much a feature of military operations in Ireland at the present day as at any former period, and too much stress cannot be laid upon the point. The only way to provide against it is by thorough scouting persistently maintained. The present article proposes to deal with the arrangements for reconnoitring after contact with the enemy has been made.

Ordinarily the services of information and security are regarded as being something distinct from the tactics of battle. There is some ground for a general opinion of this kind, but these two aspects of warfare should never be too completely separated. At all times each should have some connection with the other, and in Ireland they would practically become one.

Indeed, when we come to study the subject a bit more closely, it will seem curious that anyone should think of neglecting precautions within half a mile of the enemy that no one would dream of neglecting when twenty miles away from him. To be surprised by hostile fire at close range is an unpardonable offence, and the commander of every single unit of a battle line is responsible for the protection of his own flanks and rear against surprise. An example taken from a bit of Irish terrain will explain what is meant.



In the cut the dotted line A—A—A is a skirmish line moving forward in the general direction of the arrows across an ordinary field, the hedges bounding which are indicated

by the solid lines. It is supposed that the main position of the enemy is still several hundreds of yards away, and so there is no immediate prospect of coming under a general hostile fire. But suppose that the commander of the attacking troops, knowing this, calmly concealing half a dozen riflemen, who would be so placed as to cripple the entire attack by advances without reconnoitring to his front. In that case there are on each flank three pockets—marked B—B—B—each capable of enfilade fire. Now to obtain this result it is only necessary for one of the pockets to be held: and this means that all must be reconnoitred.

In a subsequent article some methods will be suggested for carrying out these minor combat reconnoissances: the object of the present one is to emphasise the absolute necessity for such a system of training as will provide for it, and provide thoroughly for it. In the ordinary way the orders for an attack comprise definite instructions for the clearing of dangerous ground in the neighbourhood of the advancing troops. But in Ireland it should be distinctly understood that all ground must be cleared: there would be no district in which the general nature of the ground would not be such as orders would consider dangerous.

Careful study of ambuscades in Irish campaigns will familiarise Volunteers with the style of training to be aimed at.

Constant practice at field work will also help greatly. Also any Volunteers who study this subject and form a sound system should contribute an account of their views and experiences to the IRISH VOLUNTEER, and thus gradually bring about a common doctrine in the force.

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IRELAND IN MR BELLOC'S WAR MAP.

The admirable general map prepared to illustrate Mr. Hilaire Belloc's articles on the war in "Land and Water" has a certain amount of interest for Irish Volunteers, by reason of its drawing attention to some of the principal strategic features that would play a prominent part in the event of an army landing with a view to an advance on Dublin. In the main it is the defensive side of the question that is set forth.

Four rivers are set forth in this map as possible obstacles to an advance eastward—the four whose general direction is north and south: Shannon, Erne, Barrow, and Bann. These rivers form two general lines covering the East Coast; the Erne and Shannon forming the outer line, the Bann and Barrow forming the inner. The first of these lines is very strong, many large lakes lying along it, and the district between the two rivers being filled by a very mountainous district. The towns on this line are Derry, Enniskillen, Athlone, Limerick, Mallow, Cork. The second line is not so strong, but is stronger than would appear at first sight: south of the Bann is a district of mountains down to Dundalk, and south of that again—the Boyne is a possible line, while the Bog of Allen is a formidable obstacle around the upper reaches of the Barrow.

The other features marked on the map are are railways capable of being used to bring troops westward to reinforce these lines, and of these four are set out: Belfast-Coleborne-Derry, Dublin-Athlone-Galway, Dublin-Mallow-Cork, Rosslare-Waterford-Cork. There is only one lateral line to transfer troops from point to point in a north and south direction. This embraces the harbours of Larne, Belfast, Dublin, Kingstown, Wexford, Rosslare.

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I am informed that the summer training camp scheme will be discussed at the next meeting of the Central Council, and it is expected that the details in connection with the camp will be issued to the sluaighte in the course of a few weeks. Although the chief function of the camp is to give the present officers of the Fianna, especially those from the country sluaighte, the opportunity of a week or a fortnight's solid training, I think it would be very advisable to broaden the scheme so as to admit boys of the right stamp from centres where no sluaigh of the Fianna at present exists. I am quite sure there are a great many boys scattered through the country who have not had the opportunity of belonging to our organisation and who would be only too eager to attend the training camp if the matter was brought under their notice. Our greatest difficulty would be to get in touch with such boys, but I do not believe that this difficulty is insurmountable. In fact, with the co-operation of the Irish Volunteers it might be a comparatively easy task. If the Central Council adopts my suggestion they ought to communicate with the officers of Volunteer Companies in such centres where no sluaigh exists. By this means we might succeed in bringing together not only our present officers but also the material for future officers for new districts, and so help enormously the growth as well as the efficiency of our organisation.

It is a healthy sign in national life to find that after the series of crises through which our country has passed our people are again beginning to see things in their true perspective. This is evidenced clearly by the renewed interest in the boys' movement and a greater activity in reorganising the Fianna through the country. With the passing of Captain Mellows as a Fianna organiser the organising of new sluaighte must be carried on entirely by local initiative. Very little help is available from Headquarters. Captain Dalton has reorganised the Fianna in Limerick, and he has

now a membership of sixty boys, which he expects to double before the camping season arrives. It was Captain Dalton who started the Fianna in Limerick some years ago and has worked energetically since. As was the case with nearly every Fianna officer, his energies were divided during the past year between the Irish Volunteers and Fianna. As we have already lost nearly two-thirds of our officers through the adult movement, we in Dublin are very pleased to hear of the return of our old comrade.

The introduction of extern lecturers has certainly increased our interest in the Cadet Classes. Wednesday's lecture by Lieut. Seumas O'Murchadha on Field Entrenchments was intensely interesting and pleased everyone. It was also very fortunate we had the opportunity of putting his instruction to a practical test so soon after his lecture. Last Sunday's work in this branch of infantry training was really fine, particularly as my own "head cover" was so blended with the natural surroundings as to deceive even the officer who inspected the work. I am looking forward to the next day's work on field entrenchments.

Our social officer, Captain Eamon Martin, promises us a gala night on the 20th inst. at the Fianna Ceilidhe. All Volunteers and others who are giving military service to their country are cordially invited. The sale of tickets are restricted to Volunteers, C.A.'s, and Fianna. The double tickets are Four Shillings, and single tickets—but who wants a single ticket?

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