

I.R.A. CARRY WAR
TO ENGLAND

LIVERPOOL DOCKS
BURNED

ACHILL MEN ARRESTED
AND INTERNED

WEST MAYO'S FIGHTING STORY

As told to—

Anthony Lavelle

Mr. Jim McCarthy (extreme left) organiser of last Sunday's parade in Tourmakeady, pictured chatting to three survivors of the Tourmakeady Ambush before the parade moved off, they are from left: MI (Red), Costelloe, Townswood; Tom Lally, Shrah, and Michael Walsh, Ahena, Claremorris.



This is the story, according to the facts now available, of the fight for freedom in West Mayo, by the famous and fearless West Mayo Brigade I.R.A. led by the late Brigadier Michael Kilroy, of Newport, whose death in December, 1962, deprived writers of a valuable source of information on the exploits of Michael and his group of daring fighters. Many still remain to tell the story and this paper has the honour to give it to its readers as told to staff reporters by men who fought side by side with Michael Kilroy in his campaign against the forces of occupation.

DURING the time the Tans were terrorising and murdering innocent people in Ireland the English Press did not allow the ordinary citizens of Britain to know the truth of what was happening in Ireland. The British propaganda machine called the I.R.A. murderers and British Government Ministers asked for new powers to stamp out murder in Ireland. In an effort to bring home the truth to the people the I.R.A. decided to carry out acts of sabotage in the principal English cities where the I.R.A. were formed into battalions.

SEVENTEEN FIRES IN LIVERPOOL

THE first acts of the war to awaken the English people took place in Liverpool on the 28th November, 1920, when a band of I.R.A. men set fire to 17 warehouses at Liverpool and Bootle. Later in that year farmyards around Liverpool were set on fire and telegraph and telephone wires cut in the area.

Among the members of the Liverpool Battalion I.R.A. arrested and interned afterwards were men from Achill Island and other parts of Mayo. One of these was former Achill Co. Councillor, Mr. Sean Lynchahaun (Sean Mor) who lives near Achill Sound.

This Old I.R.A. man gave the following account of I.R.A. activities in Liverpool to the "Western People."

Some of the English papers reported on the Sinn Fein activities as follows: The "Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury" on 29th November, had these headings: "Sinn Fein Outrages in Liverpool and Bootle"; "Seventeen Incendiary Fires"; "Military Guarding Bootle Docks".

Underneath these headings was written the fully story of the attacks—"Sinn Feiners committed a series of outrages in Liverpool and Bootle on Saturday night, the fire-brigade having to deal with eight fires in the city, along the line of docks, while in Bootle nine fires had to be fought. Unhappily more than the mere destruction of property marked the outbreak of violence. A policeman was fired at while chasing a suspected man and the bullet struck and killed a young

man named Daniel Warde. "In another part of the city shooting took place, but no one was injured. As some policemen were chasing men, revolver shots rang out, one of the constables had a miraculous escape—a bullet passing through his sleeve. The fires broke out simultaneously about nine o'clock and so serious were some of them that the firemen were on duty all night and far into the following morning.

"Cotton warehouses and timber yards were chosen for destruction. Great quantities of paraffin were used by the incendiaries who gained admittance to the warehouses and timber yards by cutting the padlocks with powerful bolt clippers. In two instances warehouses on opposite sides of the street were ablaze. It is impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the damage wrought, but beyond question it is very heavy. In Bootle the military are guarding the docks and the Chief Constable of Liverpool informed us last night that the public can be assured that every precaution is being taken. Liverpool has often had to cope with scenes of disorder but never in its history have there been scenes and incidents to parallel those of Saturday night when the stocks of several timber yards were damaged by fire. Not fire the result of some accident or negligence, but the deliberate work of misguided men, who think they are furthering a National cause by wanton destruction. The fact that all the fires broke out almost simultaneously and that the methods adopted in each case shows that the revolt comes from Sinn Feiners and the police are of the opinion that these men are strangers to the city. They appear to have worked in small groups and two occurrences point clearly to the fact that some of them were armed and ready to meet interference with violence.

"Liverpool fire brigade was called out to eight fires. In two cases Tabley Street and Jordan Street—two warehouses were involved in the same street. The calls to the brigade were received at the following times:

- 8.27 p.m. Vulcan St., Regent Rd.;
- 8.55 p.m. Daly Road, Sandhills Lane—timber yard;
- 8.55 p.m. Bying Street — cotton warehouse;
- 8.58 p.m. Daly Road, Sandhills Lane—timber yard;
- 8.58 p.m. Sparling St., Park Lane warehouse;

- 9.00 p.m. Tabley Street, Park Lane —two warehouses.
- 9.00 p.m. Jordan St., St. James Street—two warehouses.
- 9.00 p.m. Bedford Place — cotton warehouse;
- 9.15 p.m. Prince's Street — cotton warehouse;
- 9.15 p.m. Pacific Road — cotton warehouse;
- 9.15 p.m. Regent Road — timber yard;
- 9.16 p.m. Atlantic Street—cotton warehouse;
- 9.16 p.m. Haltic Street — cotton warehouse;

Extract from "Liverpool Daily Post" 10/3/1921:—

"Incendiary Fires on Merseyside"; "Simultaneous Outbreaks at 13 Farms—Six in Liverpool."

"Thirteen fires, the circumstances of which point to incendiaries, broke out almost simultaneously last night on farms on both the Lancashire and Cheshire sides of the Mersey. On the outskirts of Liverpool there were six outbreaks. At Childwaal, West Derby, Woolton and Wavetree, very considerable damage was done. At Sutton farm three stacks were destroyed at the same time; at Reed's Lane, close to Leasowe Station, a fire also took place; at Bidston, a dutch barn, containing stacks of straw, beans and peas was destroyed. There were three fires in Crosby district. Bottles were found which are supposed to have contained inflammable spirits. Five men were arrested.

"The circumstances attending these outbreaks point conclusively to the work of incendiaries. Whether they are associated with Sinn Fein or not remains to be seen. All the outbreaks occurred at the same time—between seven and eight o'clock. At Crosby evidence was available, bottles being found to show how the fires were started and the supposition is that this method or the introduction of a time fuse into the ricks was the method adopted by the incendiaries."

In the same paper there are accounts of the cutting of telephone lines on the Cheshire and North Western Railway system. About 500 circuits were affected. In some cases telegraph poles were cut down. The paper also gave accounts of armed and masked men visiting houses of relatives of R.I.C. men serving in Ireland and warning them to tell their relatives to resign."

The "Liverpool Daily Post" on

the 6/6/1921, says—"During the weekend the Liverpool Police have been actively engaged in rounding up suspects and on Sat. night four men were taken into custody and removed to an unknown destination although the report is that they were taken to Ireland for interment. The names of the men are: Hugh Early, Edward Moran, Michael and Peter Horan.

INTERNED IN BALLYKINLAR CAMP

IN all twenty-two members of the Liverpool Brigade of the I.R.A. were captured and shipped to the Ballykinlar Internment Camp in the North of Ireland. They were released on on December 12th, 1921, and received an enthusiastic welcome when they arrived back in Liverpool.

The "Liverpool Daily Courier" carried the following account of the scenes: "Ex-Internees Arrive"; "Enthusiastic Scenes in Liverpool"; "Band of Irish Pipers."

Ten of the 22 Liverpool Sinn Fein Ex-Internees arrived at Lime Street Station, Liverpool, from Holyhead on Saturday afternoon. Their faces were quite bronzed, and they were apparently in splendid health.

"Their names are: Messrs. H. Early (described as the Liverpool Commandant of the I.R.A.); J. McManus, P. J. Rowlands, E. O'Connor, T. Tighe, R. Duggan, Phil Coyne, J. McLean, Fred Moran and John Lynchahaun.

"The train arrived soon after 3 o'clock, by which time a crowd of several hundred sympathisers had assembled at the Seelhorne Street entrance to the Station.

"When the ex-internees stepped from the train a bodyguard of thirty or forty men were lined up in double file on the platform. There were also present Councillor P. J. Kelly and a number of priests.

Mr. Hugh Early was the first to alight from the train and saluting the bodyguard there was enthusiastic hand-shaking. The appearance of the ex-internees at the exit was greeted with loud cheering.

A procession was afterwards formed, headed by a band of Irish Piper, they marched through the streets to St. Joseph's Hall, where the ex-internees were entertained to tea.

(To be continued)

Sligo Driver Opened Car

Charge Against Straide Motorist Adjourned

Weather Forced Crossmolina Dancers Indoors

Kiltimagh Students' Successes At Sligo Feis Ceoil

Anglia, 19
Anglia, 19
Anglia, 19