

AN T-ÓGLÁC

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GENERAL NOTES

There is always a tendency during times of truce to relax one's vigilance, as far as avoiding enemy espionage is concerned. It is time that the enemy is expressly and unequivocally bound by the terms of the truce against any form of espionage, but the mere fact of the presence of enemies in our midst, mingling freely with the people, renders it important for all Volunteers to be on their guard against allowing information to reach individual enemies or matters to come under their observation which would be of use to them in the case of a resumption of hostilities. Civilians should be warned, also, against the danger of thinking that secrets which they guarded faithfully during the period of warfare—such as the habitats and resorts of Volunteers—may now be freely spoken of. It is the duty of Volunteers to convey this warning to any civilians so circumstanced.

The diary of Cork No. 3 Brigade for the month of June gives a striking picture of the extent to which the movements of the enemy were restricted in that area by the incessant activity of our troops. There were no less than 13 cases of ambushes prepared during the month in which the enemy failed to turn up, although in two cases buildings were burned in the vicinity of enemy barracks without bringing the enemy out. In only one case, at Roscarbery on June 25th, did an ambushing party succeed in getting into touch with the enemy and caused many casualties. The town was held by our troops for 2 hours. Mail trains were held up on seven occasions and on four of these occasions valuable enemy stores were also seized on the trains. Seven buildings which were about to be occupied by the enemy were destroyed by fire and six coastguard stations. There were 4 successful sniping operations. Telegraphic and telephonic apparatus were seized on 19 occasions and wires were cut twice. In raids on lighthouses, a revolver, two telescopes and 5 cwt of explosives were captured. A marine station was attacked with loss to the enemy and an R.I.C. man was deprived of his revolver and ammunition and released unhurt. Two houses of active supporters of the enemy were destroyed as counter-reprisals, one of the owners being suspected of giving information to the enemy.

The diary of the Cork No 2 Brigade for May also shows signs of how the enemy were restricted in movements in this area. Eleven ambushes were prepared without the enemy turning up. Enemy stores were captured on four occasions including goods in one instance valued at £500. Railway lines were torn up twice and a train held up once. There were five sniping operations including an attack on lorries. Enemy mails were captured and practically all the roads through this area were kept effectively blocked.

The report of Kerry No 2 Brigade for June shows that a successful ambush was carried out immediately outside Blackwater Coastguard Station, causing heavy enemy casualties. There were 3 other ambushes prepared in which the enemy failed to materialise, and the enemy lorries were attacked with effect by five Republican snipers. In a skirmish at Brosna the enemy suffered casualties. Mails were raided twice and telegraphic apparatus was also captured. A building about to be captured by the enemy was destroyed by fire. In a series of raids 100 fog-signals which were useful for filling a certain make of rifle cartridge, were captured. Six roads and three bridges were put "out of action" and a quantity of electric batteries and wires was seized: The report says: "At Ballyseedy the O.C. had a mine placed under a tree which was obstructing the road, in such a manner that if the tree was removed the mine would explode. In trying to remove the tree 3 of the enemy were wounded."

The June diary of Kerry No 3 Brigade shows that two ambushes were prepared which failed to materialise owing to enemy timidity. A quantity of electric batteries and wires, flash lamps fuses, field glasses, binoculars and telephone apparatus was seized in a series of raids. At Chaeriveen, on the night of the 12th June, it is reported, "all motor boats plying between Caheriveen, Valentia Harbour, and Valentia Island were dismantled by a party of 5 men. These boats were been constantly used by the R.I.C. and Auxiliaries for their conveyance to No 2 Battalion area.

The June diary of the West Limerick Brigade shows a successful ambush was carried out at Abbeyfeale on the 2nd, with the assistance of

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BRITISH SABOTAGE IN IRELAND

The following figures published in the "Irish Bulletin" of the destruction of property and premises of Irish citizens by enemy forces from January 1st. 1920 to July 11th inclusive will be read with interest.

WHOLLY DESTROYED.

Shops	361
Farmhouses	368
Farm out-buildings, (Barns, haggards, cattle sheds, etc.)	185
Factories and Works	22
Creameries	40
Crops	366
Halls and Clubs	95
Private Residences	291
Other Premises	19
Furniture only	36
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	1,783

DESTRUCTION IN BELFAST.

Houses and shops	82
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	1,865

PARTIALLY DESTROYED.

Shops ... 994 =	1,355
Farmhouses ... 31 =	399
Farm Out-buildings, (Barns, haggards cattle sheds, etc.) =	185
Factories and Works 9 =	31
Creameries ... 12 =	52
Crops ... 2 =	368
Halls and Clubs 44 =	139
Private Residences 604 =	895
Other Premises 3 =	22
Furniture Only — =	36
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1,699 ..	3,482
Houses and Shops 41 ..	123
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1,740 ..	3,605

GROSS TOTAL : 3,605.

ORGANISATION OF COMPANIES

1. The Volunteer aim in its system of organisation is to ensure in its Company a convenient unit for acting as a self-contained force. In this unit all men are to be Riflemen and Scouts; and the services outlined are in view of military action in this country. The Captain of a Company must study carefully the organisation of his force as laid down in this scheme. He must remember in the first place that he is dealing with Volunteers whose directing principles in discipline and service are good-will, mutual confidence and common patriotism. In forming the Sections and arranging

the groups for the Special Services he must have before his mind how men are likely to work together, and how speedy mobilisation may be secured in case of emergency. In this connection the importance of having Section Commanders within easy reach of himself and his Officers on the one hand and of the men in their sections on the other will readily be seen, It is to be emphasised that the Captain has ultimate responsibility in all matters affecting his Company, but while realising this he should never take upon himself the burden of attending personally to all details that arise in the ordinary work of the Company. It should be his special care to see that the duties of his junior Officers and non-commissioned Officers are properly allotted and executed. A suitable division of duty will lead to efficiency, will give the Captain himself an opportunity for working out schemes for securing the greater efficiency of his Company, and will give the junior Officers and non-commissioned Officers training in their responsibilities and duties. Everything that has been said regarding the Captain in relation to the Company applies similarly to First and Second Lieutenant in relation to their Half Companies. They will be called upon to attend to matters in greater detail than the Captain but they, too must be careful not to perform all minute functions. As the Captain must help and instruct his Lieutenants, so they must act towards their Section Commanders.

2. The Captain may form a Company Council composed of himself, his Lieutenants, the Adjutant and Quartermaster, and the four Section Commanders. This Council shall be summoned at the discretion of the Captain to advise on matters submitted for its recommendations. It shall have no authority over matters of discipline, efficiency and command, for which the Captain alone is responsible. In practice it will be found of great advantages for the suggestions called forth and the association of Officers and non-commissioned Officers will be useful in helping harmonious work and unified action.

COMPANY OFFICERS

THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES

1. The Captain—Is responsible for the efficiency, discipline, training, equipment, and conduct of his Company. He shall command it in peace and war, subject only to the authority of his Superior Officers. Under this scheme he shall assign certain duties and activities to his Officers and non-commissioned Officers but he must at all times realise that the ultimate responsibility for every task his Company is called on to fulfil rests with him. He is obliged to see that every duty allotted is capably performed. The organisation of his Company as set out here is in his hands. He divides it into suitable sections and appoints the

Commanders for these. He chooses the groups to form the Special Services, and appoints Commanders for these groups. He appoints the Adjutant and Quartermaster and performs such other duties as may be required by his Superior Officers or by this scheme of Organisation.

2. The First Lieutenant—Is responsible for the efficiency, discipline, training, equipment and conduct of the Right Half Company. In the event of removal or absence of the Captain he shall act in his stead, and his orders shall have the same force and receive the same obedience as if issued by the Captain. (See General Note on Company Organisation, etc.)

3. The Second Lieutenant—Is responsible for the efficiency, discipline, training, equipment and conduct of the Left Half Company. In the event of the removal or absence of the Captain and First Lieutenant he shall act in their stead, and his orders shall have the same force and receive the same obedience as if issued by either of his Superior Officers acting in the capacity of Company Commander.

4. Section Commanders—In the Company of full strength there are 11 men ranking as Section Commanders viz:—

- (a) Adjutant.
- (b) Quartermaster.
- (c) Four Commanders of Sections.
- (d) Five Commanders of Special Services.

5. The Adjutant—Is responsible to the Captain, whom he shall assist in all operations and all routine duties. He shall perform, under supervision of the Captain, all Clerical and Secretarial work of the Company. He shall keep a register of the Company members, with a detailed record of their attendances on parade. In keeping this register each Section Commander will call the Roll of his own Section, marking the attendance of each man and indicating in a special way absentees and late comers. Section Commanders will then report to Adjutant in the following manner:—

Section No. _____
 On Roll _____
 On Parade _____
 Absent, excused _____
 Absent, without excuse _____

The Adjutant shall also attend to the initial training of recruits and shall allot these recruits in due course to suitable sections.

In the event of the removal of all the Commissioned Officers of his Company by enemy action or otherwise the Adjutant shall immediately report to the Commandant of his Battalion for instructions.

6. The Quartermaster—Is responsible to the Captain. He shall keep a proper record of all the Company

Stores, and will see that at all times they are in safe keeping and good condition. He is responsible for the manufacture of weapons of war and for the general equipment of the Company. In time of peace he shall organise and develop commissariat and quartering of the Company. He shall be responsible for the Company funds and shall collect and record the weekly subscriptions of the individual members of the Company. The amounts collected are to be reported weekly to the Captain.

7. The duties of the remaining non-commissioned Officers are mostly of a routine military nature, and will be dealt with by the Directors of the respective Departments.

MENTIONED IN DESPACHES

The following appears in the June Diary of activities of Cork No. 3 Brigade:—

"On June 17th the O.C. _____ Company, armed with Peter the Painter Automatic was surrounded on three sides in a field in his area by military on foot. He was ordered to put up his hands and immediately he fired five rounds on them, and got away safely under fire from 30 enemy rifles. He then hid his revolver and proceeded to Bandon to warn Brigade Officers who were to hold a meeting in the area. On his way he drove into a cycling party of military and was taken prisoner. He was placed in charge of one soldier and conveyed along the road to Timoleague. When going round a turn in the road he dealt the soldier a blow in the face at the same time hitting him with his knee in the stomach and secured his rifle. The soldier bolted to join the rest of his party but O.C. _____ Company shot him and got away safely with the captured rifle."

In the report of the attack on enemy military at Mitchelstown Fountain on July 10th in Cork No 2 Brigade area the following occurs:—

"The three soldiers continued sniping from the corner until one revolver man attacked the three of them in the open street at point blank range and put the three soldiers to flight. He ran after them and slightly wounded one soldier. These soldiers doubled round a side street where they were attacked by two other revolver men but they succeeded in making their escape. The first mentioned revolver man then retreated through the open street, disarmed a wounded soldier, and picked up a second rifle and some ammunition and retreated safely. The Battalion Vice-Commandant and Company O.C. commend the bravery of this man as highly worthy of recognition."

A successful ambush was carried out by troops of the Cork No 2 Brigade at Tallow (outside their area) on June 30th in which the enemy suffered heavily.

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Cork No 2 Brigade. One rifle was captured. Telephonic apparatus was taken on three occasions and a Courthouse recently in enemy occupation was destroyed. Mails were also raided and roads blocked. It is mentioned that Auxiliaries travelling in train through the area mixed with women and children in the carriages so that they could not be attacked. The report of the Abbeyfeal ambush says:—Notices re "Enemy Association" were posted on dead walls facing houses occupied by riflemen. It was known that one R.I.C. constable examined Courthouse every morning. A poster was placed in such a position that he should see it. Posters were posted on previous Sunday morning. R.I.C. man as expected saw poster and a patrol of 7 left Barrack and came along the street. Seeing posters they made towards them with the intention of tearing them down. Our riflemen open fire with good effect. One rifle was captured from enemy.

The June diary of the Belfast Brigade shows that a body of Republican troops attacked an enemy raiding party during curfew and in a fight lasting 45 minutes inflicted heavy casualties on them. There was another successful attack on an R.I.C. patrol. Republicans regularly patrolled some districts in Belfast during curfew hours for the protection of the Catholics. Two garages where enemy repairs were executed were raided and the cars in the garages set on fire and badly damaged. In other raids binoculars, cameras, etc. were seized. On June 3rd a daring attempt was made by four Volunteers to rescue the Republican prisoners in Belfast Jail but unfortunately the plan did not succeed.

The Antrim Brigade report the destruction of a road bridge in the month of June and the seizure from an enemy rate-collector of rates, a revolver and ammunition.

In an ambush at Castleisland in Kerry No 2 Brigade area on July 10th in the vicinity of the enemy barracks 3 enemy rifles and 300 rounds of ammunition were captured and heavy losses inflicted on the enemy. The gallantry of three Volunteers, who lost their lives on the occasion, is described under the heading "Mentioned in Despatches."

The houses of two prominent supporters of the enemy were burned as counter-reprisals by the North Wexford Brigade during the first week of July.

A BIG "ROUND-UP"

The following is portion of a report of the biggest round-up attempted by the enemy anywhere. It took place in the Cork No 2 Brigade area in the districts embracing Lombardstown, Banteer, Rathcoole,

Millstreet, Kilcorney, Ballinagree, Donoghmore and Bweeng:—

"This round-up was carried out on June 24th. The enemy had about 6,000 troops engaged in this operation. They were practically 3 days moving into a position before they began to search properly in a closing in movement. Rumours were afloat for some time back that there would be a big round-up in those areas. Consequently we did not consider those districts safe.

On June 24th. it was reported to us that military horse and foot were coming from the West through Caherbarnagh and on the 23rd it was reported that those had arrived in Millstreet and had pitched Camp there. It was also reported on the 23rd that the enemy were coming on from the East through Banteer and Nadd and that they were camped on the South at Anyganchay. When the enemy began to close in on this area they moved from the East starting from Boolemore and holding a line to Nadd; and from North and West starting from Millstreet (the Auxiliaries operated here with the Military.) The troops coming from the South did not cross the Musherua and adjoining mountains but held a line on the South side of the hill from Mauma to Nadd. Horsemen operated on the North or Kilcorney or Rathcoole side of those mountains.

There were about 14 lorries and 2 armoured cars engaged on the roads from which the encircling movement started. They were also on the roads going through the country being searched. The troops operating from the West, East and North, swept all the country towards the Musherua mountains travelling six paces apart and driving on before them all the male population between the ages of 16 to 60. They were all in position about 3. P.M. and began to close in at about 4. P.M.

The Auxiliaries entered one house in Kilcorney Coy. area and took out a young man a Volunteer they took him a few fields from his house where they tortured him and turned a machine gun on him and shot him dead. The Battalion O.C. has already reported this outrage. The Auxiliaries did not arrest anyone in the district they searched but they badly beat everyone they came in contact with. The military were not offensive to the people, they treated them alright.

There were about 600 male population rounded up. All released except 16. The troops going back marched those on to Kanturk with them on June 25th after camping the previous night in Rathcoole Company Area.

Any of the arrested men were not wanted men. Their round-up was a failure. They did not get a single wanted man or a man against whom they could honestly place a charge."