



**TIPPERARY HISTORICAL
JOURNAL 1993**

© County Tipperary Historical Society

www.tippstudiesdigital.ie

society@tipperarycoco.ie

ISSN 0791-0655

The day Dinny Lacey died

By William Grogan

It was pattern-day in Kyle, Sunday 18 February, 1923. I was then nine years old. We had been to Mass in Bansha, and as we approached my home in Ardane in the Glen of Aherlow we heard shooting and knew from the crows that had risen above the trees that something was wrong.

Later we heard that Free State troops, as if tipped-off that Republicans leaders were in the Glen, had poured into the area from several sides. They marched out from Tipperary town, and also from Galbally at the Limerick end of the Glen. They even came by train from Waterford. The train was pulled up at the Cappagh level-crossing gates to let them off. They had a machine-gun, and this made all the difference that day.

As the Aherlow river was in flood Dinny Lacey, who had been staying locally, couldn't cross it. We heard later too that his parabellum had jammed or fallen, and at that moment he was killed. The bullet-holes are still in the door of the house where he had been hidden; it is now used as a store. The window-pane through which the shots came is still also visible, never having been replaced.

From Byrne's house at Ashgrove, where some Republicans were hidden, shots were fired at a Free State soldier walking along the road 200 yards away. They hit and instantly killed a young boy named Eddie Quirke, aged 11 or 12, a son of James Quirke. The family kept his felt hat for a long time, and you could see where the bullet had gone clear through his head.

A Free State soldier was also killed that same day. Around 4.30 in the afternoon the bodies of Lacey and this man, which had been laid out in an outhouse, were taken on a horse and common-car into Bansha. Someone remarked how strange it was that, although they had been enemies in life, now in death they were together.

