

The War of Independence in Tipperary Town and District Part One: Chronology

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Introduction

What happened at Soloheadbeg on 21 January 1919 has national importance. In nearby Tipperary, the following two and a half years were the most extraordinary and the most difficult in the town's history, not excepting 1889-91, the period of the Plan of Campaign and the building of New Tipperary. Events in the town and district during the thirty or so months after the ambush more usually form part of the background in telling the story of the Third Brigade and the exploits of Treacy, Breen and their companions.¹ But the impact of this brief period on a provincial Irish town, on the day-to-day lives of its people, its commerce and its rituals, is also worthy of examination. References to the town and district in published sources touch on specific aspects and incidents ranging from elections to outrages but these allow no sense of a community under siege, which was much more about restriction and repression, fear and fatalism, as ordinary people got on with their lives in extraordinary circumstances. To give some sense of these pressures, day by day, week by week, month by month, this account is in two parts: a chronology as detailed as sources allow and an article to be published later discussing the impact of the War of Independence on the town and district.

This is the fourth article in a series intending to look in detail at a provincial Irish town during the first half of the twentieth century. The first article used the 1901 Census returns to explore the working of local government and its response to bad housing and poverty.² The extent of this poverty is also outlined. Of relevance to the story of the Irish Volunteers in the town nearly two decades later was the importance, at least in numbers, of shop assistants, the working background of many members of the Volunteers, including Denis Lacey, Seán Duffy and James Hickey (killed in Tipperary Military Barracks at Christmas 1920). For example, employed by businesses in Main Street alone were one hundred and eleven 'live-in' assistants. The largest business 'The Irish House' (fated to be attacked and burned in 1920) employed nineteen assistants. Pay and conditions were matters of some concern and shop assistants, organised into various associations to forward their interests were frequently in conflict with their employers and thus contributed to both the increased militancy of the period and more practically to the array of clubs, societies, associations and organisations that a young man could join.

The second article examined some of these collectives, especially those that were intent on redefining Irish identity.³ The IRB lurked in the background, sustaining the Fenian tradition of militant sub rosa separatism. Its national leaders like Seán McDermott stimulated and encouraged local leaders such as Willie Benn and Seán Duffy. For most of the first twenty

years of the century, IRB members were not centre-stage. Occasionally, from the shadows, the organisation directed set-pieces such as the annual Allen, Larkin and O'Brien commemoration and in 1907 the erection of a public monument in their memory and in the presence of key IRB figures like Charles Doran and John Daly (his nephew Edward Daly and nephew-in-law Tom Clarke were both executed in 1916). Very much centre-stage in the town were organisations such as the United Irish League and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, all linked to the Home Rule movement and with the spotlight on such prominent citizens as John Cullinan, MP for the area since 1900, Tom Dawson town clerk, Daniel Kelly, for many years chairman of the urban council and from 1903, the parish priest Canon Arthur Ryan.

Canon Ryan put a huge amount of his energy into promoting the Irish language and saw its revival as having a spiritual aspect, allowing Irish people redefine their sense of themselves. A friend of the Redmond brothers, Ryan was committed to the idea that a renewed Irish Catholic identity could be achieved within an Ireland with Home Rule institutions and remaining a compliant part of the Empire. This is discussed in the third article in the series.⁴ For fourteen years, locally Canon Ryan was the central figure in the Gaelic League. If each year, the Sunday closest to 23 November, the date of the executions of Allen, Larkin and O'Brien, was the opportunity for separatists to declare and renew their message, St Patrick's Day with Ryan as chief celebrant, allowed for homage to Hibernia. That day in 1914 for example, standing beside The O'Rahilly a member of the Gaelic League's national executive, Canon Ryan looked forward to the coming of Home Rule. A few weeks later the Irish Volunteers, yet another organisation for young men to join, was established in the town with great enthusiasm and when in June Redmond demanded and got control, Ryan was at the centre of events locally and also played a role nationally. The outbreak of war changed everything. The Volunteers split. Canon Ryan enthusiastically promoted recruitment to the British army. The Redmondite Volunteers briefly flourished and then withered.

Evidence of a different attitude, of very direct action instead of endless talk, was clear from what happened during Easter Week 1916, and not just in Dublin. On that Monday, as the rebels were adjusting to their first day in the newly declared Republic, in Tipperary Michael O'Callaghan a creamery worker and trade union activist, having fired some shots, was pursued by the police, fled to the countryside and when they finally caught up with him, he shot two of them dead and escaped abroad. (When less than three years later, two more policemen were shot dead, there would be no flight to the United States.) If Canon Ryan was in doubt about how matters were changing, later in 1916, a new branch of the Gaelic League, the aptly named Craobh Phádraig Mhic Phiarais was founded with Seán Treacy as the guiding light. Canon Arthur Ryan was not a member. Indicators that all was changing reached a crescendo in 1918 when the long delayed general election was fought just after the war ended that November.

General Election 1918

The point has been made that Sinn Féin went into the election campaign 'well supplied with money, workers and hope'. On the other hand the Irish Party 'was short of money and men; its organisation was a ramshackle remnant.'⁵ Indicating how ill-prepared the Irish Party was, is the fact that in twenty-five constituencies, they put up no candidates.⁶ Two of these areas were in Tipperary, the North- and Mid- constituencies. The last general election had been in 1910 when Thomas Condon and John Cullinan were returned unopposed for



Photograph c.1912, of prominent Tipperary town nationalists, on the occasion of a presentation to the MP John Cullinan. The four seated figures to the front of the photograph (left to right) are: Tom Dawson Town Clerk; John Cullinan MP; Canon Arthur Ryan PP Tipperary; P.J. Moloney (later TD).

Tipperary East and South. Now it was their turns to have to fight an election, Condon against Pierce McCann and Cullinan against P.J. Moloney. Since 1910 the electorate increased almost threefold. In 1918 all men over twenty-one and women over thirty had the vote. In Tipperary South constituency for example, most of the voters had never previously exercised their franchise. Cullinan had been returned unopposed in 1900. In fact no election campaign had been waged in the constituency since 1895. Cullinan in his early sixties (he died in December 1920) and a native of Bانشa had been an important leader during the land struggle and on four occasions was sent to prison. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the GAA.⁷ For Cullinan therefore, a man long involved in politics, actually having to fight an election was a novelty.

PJ Moloney, about fifty years old in 1918, a native of Gortdrum near Tipperary, who had a pharmacy in that town and also had the local workhouse contract, was chosen as Sinn Féin candidate at a convention in Cahir on 3 November.⁸ Two weeks earlier the local press published a letter from him outlining how Sinn Féin viewed matters: Ireland was a nation and freedom was the birthright of all nations; this desire for freedom never died in Ireland in spite of centuries of oppression; nothing less than full freedom was acceptable; this was not an extreme position as freedom was a 'natural right' and thus 'God-Given'; opinion was

moving in support of complete sovereign independence and therefore doubters should get on board; Europe would be remade in the post-war conferences and this include Ireland. 'We know that our claim is founded on Right and Truth and Justice.'⁹ No mention of Unionist opposition and lots of hostages to fortune.

A few days after this letter was published, the UIL held its convention to pick its candidate, in Tipperary Town Hall.¹⁰ The chairman was Canon Arthur Ryan, with Tom Dawson the town clerk in prominent attendance. South Tipperary was probably contested, because Cullinan was willing to stand again (it is unlikely another candidate would have bothered) and less obviously perhaps, because of Ryan's determination. In his keynote speech, Ryan admitted that they were out of practice at fighting an election but that 'methods of patriotism combined with commonsense' would carry them through. Unsurprisingly, much was made of the character and record of their candidate, the point being that he was sound and 'manly' unlike their opponent. It cannot have helped that the weakness of the Irish Party was highlighted during the meeting when speakers, obviously still angry, continued to draw attention to the fact that the previous May when a 'Defence Committee' representative of Sinn Féin, Home Rulers and Labour was being put in place to fight conscription, they were unable to have some of their people accepted, most notably Daniel Kelly, long time chairman of the urban council.¹¹

Equally inopportune was Canon Ryan's defence of John Redmond and the choices he made at the start of the war. Cullinan's speech emphasising the spread of his support - farmers, shopkeepers, professional men, clergy and 'several representatives of labour' - only served to seem old-fashioned. Experience was stressed. Sinn Féin were 'faddists and theorists'. Moloney's letter in the local press was attacked as a 'glowing and charming picture of constitutional Sinn Féin' only serving to 'gull' those outside Sinn Féin. More to the point, Cullinan noted that nothing was said about the armed struggle needed to secure an independent republic. While this was prescient, it was probably not wise to continue to draw attention to how boring the Irish Party had become and sound patronising at the same time, declaring how in his 'youthful days, he was an extremist himself' but had listened to the warnings of their leaders about going too far.

It is revealing to compare the registers of Moloney set against Ryan and Cullinan. Moloney delivered sweeping statements in elevated tone about freedom being the birthright of all nations. As with religious dogma, too much definition might serve to confuse. In fact Moloney's discourse had a lot in common with the expression of religious belief: those who are attracted to the message but think it impossible, should abandon their own judgement and have faith. On the other hand, those willing to compromise with 'Right and Truth and Justice' were 'weaklings'. In contrast, Ryan and Cullinan speaking for the Irish Party were clearly comfortable with the language of commerce and compromise. The tone was Victorian: there are references to being 'manly' and showing 'pluck'. Their problem was how to sell Home Rule, something that had been tossed about for decades and was looking decidedly shop-worn, especially when there was a bright shiny new product on the market.

Reference was earlier made to the importance of the annual Manchester Martyrs commemoration held in late November. During the election campaign it was planned that Moloney would be the main speaker at this event. Did anyone believe his declaration that it had nothing to do with the election? However, the authorities intervened and the drama planned for Sunday night 24 November, with bands and a torchlight parade, was cancelled.

The candidate delivered his speech the following night. The suspicion might be voiced that the local authorities were being helpful to the other side.¹² In his statement to the Military History Bureau, Michael Fitzpatrick gave his account of what happened.

I recall the occasion of the big parade ... when police and military tried to break up the parade at the Manchester Martyrs' Monument. Police had pulled Liam Gogan from the plinth of the monument as he was leading the Rosary in Irish. Without hesitation, being in the foremost rank of the parade, I stepped up and took his place and continued the Rosary. My comrades grew tense and we fully expected a serious fight to begin. Over the heads of the crowd from my position I saw Seán Treacy, Dan Breen and some others taking up vantage points nearby, with their hands inside their coats, indicating that they were armed and ready to fire if the RIC or military again interfered. However, they did not molest me, and when the Rosary was concluded the order was given to the parade by Seán Duffy, Battalion O/C, to move off in column of route, which we did, and later dismissed without further incident. The fight that started at Soloheadbeg two months later could as easily have begun then.¹³

On the following Sunday, it was the turn of Cullinan's campaign to stage their big event, a rally in the Town Hall. Canon Ryan, clearly directing events, proposed that one of his curates take the chair. In spite of being a closed venue, there were interruptions and heckles from Sinn Féin supporters, leading Cullinan in his speech to complain about harassment in the campaign generally. It must have been very difficult for candidates like Cullinan, men with decades to service in the great causes of the past, to try and bring a message to people, many of whom were not listening and who contemptuously were trying to prevent that message being delivered. Reminding people of the advantage of paying judicial rents some thirty years earlier was like expecting gratitude for a wage increase now firmly in the past. A voice of a different Ireland was heard at the close of the meeting when the usual vote of thanks to the Reverend Chairman was proposed, only to be greeted with jeers for some of the audience. Cullinan proposed that Canon Ryan (who had a fine voice) conclude proceedings by singing 'God Save Ireland' but this rendition was drowned by the opposition belting out 'A Nation Once Again', a metaphor perhaps.¹⁴

Polling was on 14 December and there was a very obvious Volunteer presence; in Tipperary town under the command of Maurice Crowe and described by him in his later account as 'police duty'.¹⁵ Counting of votes did not begin until Saturday 28 December, and took place in Clonmel court house. The town was quiet because it was the last of the Christmas holidays but by early evening people began to gather to hear the declaration: Moloney (Sinn Féin) 8,744; Cullinan (Irish Party) 2,701. In his speech, presumably made without laughing, Moloney emphasised that each had not interfered with the other's campaign and that 'they were all Irishmen.' Sinn Féin, he told his listeners, could obtain a republic without bloodshed. Cullinan, in part explaining not so much his defeat as its scale, made much of the fact that he went through the entire campaign without personally asking a single person for their vote. Then seeming to pass the torch, he declared that if Sinn Féin could win for Ireland what he and his colleagues had failed to deliver, he would be behind them.¹⁶ The turnout was about 78%, with Moloney receiving three-quarters of the votes cast.

A few weeks earlier, in October, Moloney's house in Church Street had been the venue for the historic meeting at which the South Tipperary or Third Brigade of the Volunteers,

was officially established and ratified in the presence of Richard Mulcahy representing Volunteer HQ.⁷ Two things are misleading about this picture suggesting that the wings of the Republican Movement were at ease with each other. In spite of Volunteer HQ being represented, the Brigade was not controlled from Dublin, as the following weeks would demonstrate. Secondly, the Volunteers and Sinn Féin were not like a pair of well-matched horses pulling the carriage of state towards an agreed destination and at an agreed speed. The election result with the extraordinary success of Sinn Féin, was a loud if not very clear expression of support for a Republic. In keeping with their platform, the new members of parliament would reject Westminster and meet in Dublin to unilaterally constitute an Irish parliament and put their case before the victors in the Great War about to meet in France. But what then?

The leadership of the Third Brigade, of course pleased with Moloney's electoral success, had ideas of their own about what next.

Chronology Tipperary Town & District 1919-21⁸

1919

- 5 Jan** (Sun) Public meetings Tipperary towns re. prisoner release
- 13 Jan** Tipperary Workhouse handed back to Guardians by military
- 14 Jan** Tipperary Fair
- 21 Jan** (Tues) Ambush at Soloheadbeg, two RIC McDonnell and O'Connell killed
First Meeting of Dáil Éireann
- 22 Jan** Tipp SR proclaimed a 'special military area' - no fairs, markets, auctions
Inquest on constables at Military Barracks
- 23 Jan** AGM of UDC - Daniel Kelly unanimously elected chair for twelfth year
Burial of Constable O'Connell - St Michael's Cemetery Tipperary
Meeting of Tipperary town AOH to affirm support for Cullinan
- 25 Jan** 6 a.m. military and police turn back people bringing goods to market
- 26 Jan** (Sun) Letter of condemnation from Archbishop Harty read at masses
Bitter condemnation from Canon Ryan and other priests
Similar reaction at masses in Solohead
Cappawhite dance disrupted by military
- 27 Jan** Intensive police searches farms and houses and some temporary arrests
Auctioneers transfer cattle sales to Co Limerick
- 2 Feb** ITGWU meeting planned for Donaskeagh banned
- 3 Feb** Board of Guardians protest about martial law - suggest ambush was government plot
- 5 Feb** Police and military intensive activity - rumours and fears about having soldiers billeted and possibility of curfew
Searches including Alleen
- 6 Feb** Searches Donohill and Cappawhite, Shrough
- 7 Feb** Searches Bansha and Aherlow
- 8 Feb** Searches Kilross and Emly
Market Yard Tipperary occupied by soldiers to prevent market
- 9 Feb** (Sun) Anacarty dance prevented by large party of police and military

- 10 Feb** Monthly pig market prevented
- 11 Feb** House (A&K Ryan Cumann na mBan) Church St searched for third time
Similarly house (W. Ryan) St Michael St
Monthly cattle fair prevented - very large military presence - road blocks and searches - restrictions on pub opening hours
- 12 Feb** Weekly dance class in Town Hall prevented
Searches continue Tipperary district
- 14 Feb** Connors' Brothers (Greenane) arrested - teenagers
Intensive searches around Emly
Cappawhite fair prevented - large military presence
- 17 Feb** Maurice Crowe's home Glenbane searched
- Feb** **(Flu Epidemic)**
- 19 Feb** Seán Allen Tipperary & Wm. & Jas. Ryan Donohill arrested
Searches around Donohill
Searches around Knockavilla
One of Connors' Bros. (Tim, age 11) taken to Dublin
- 25 Feb** House searches Tipperary town
- 3 March** Fifteen year old County Council worker arrested - released within a few days
- 6 March** S Fahey SF activist, teacher in Tipperary ordered to reside outside Munster (brother of Frank Fahey TD)-
- 7 March** Death of Pierce McCan MP
- 8 March** Ten arrests including Barlow Bros. - also Maurice Crowe and P. Moloney
- 12 March** 'John' Hogan noted in press as 'missing' past two months
- 15 March** Special meeting S. Tipperary UIL chaired by Canon Arthur Ryan
'youth and inexperience' now in control of politics
- 17 March** No processions because of martial law
- 18 March** S. Fahey arrested and taken to Cork
- 19 March** Some of those arrested 8 March released from Cork Gaol
- 20 March** Meeting of business interests in Town Hall to protest about restrictions and huge commercial losses to town
- 22 March** Board of Guardians add their support to protests of 20 March
- 27 March** Special meeting of UDC does the same
- 29 March** Board of Guardians to protest and demand release of political prisoners
- 2 April** 'Owing to the unsettled state of the country' failure of James O'Neill to sell
The Irish House - largest shop in town
- 3 April** Questions in House of Commons re. continued detention of young Connors
- 7 April** Courts martial in Cork of Barlow Bros
- 17 April** Connors & young Hogan released
Searches Glenough and Hollyford
- 21 April** Maurice Crowe & Patrick Moloney arrested
- 27 April** L. Breen arrested near Tipperary - given 9 months (17 June)
- 28 April** Houses searched Tipperary town - including A & K Ryan Church St. (yet again)
- April (late)** Two small memorial crosses removed from Soloheadbeg ambush site
- 5 -6 May** Houses searched Alleen and Donohill

- 7 May** Large crowd at Limerick Junction to meet Irish-American delegates
- May (mid)** Creamery workers strike -
- 13 May** Rescue of Seán Hogan at Knocklong - Two RIC Wallace and Enright killed
- 14 May** Frantic police and military activity
- 17 May** Patrick Moloney jailed for three months
- 4-5 June** Barronstown Races permitted - large crowds
- 7 June** B. Shanahan Grantstown jailed for four months (arrested at Alleen 5 May)
- 8 June** (Sun) Friendly football match east and west Tipperary town prevented by police - names taken
- 10 June** Monthly fair resumed (also held in July and August but prohibited after ambush near Lorrha in North Tipperary 6 Sept)
- 13-14 June** 2000 troops deployed in searches S. and SW of Tipperary town - spotter planes used
- 16 June** 'Special Military Area' controls rescinded
Patrick O'Halloran Scallaheen arrested.
- 17 June** Court martial in Cork of Maurice Crowe
- 18 June** **D.I. Hunt killed in Thurles**
- c.20 June** Release of Arthur & Matthew Barlow on health grounds
- c.25 June** Tipp. Quarter Sessions, compensation claims by families of constables killed at Soloheadbeg
- 4 July** North and South Ridings Proclaimed - S.F., G.L., Vols. etc banned
- 8 July** Court martial in Cork of Patrick O'Halloran - six months hard labour
Some sixty extra police to Tipperary district - Kilfeakle and Lisvernane Barracks reinforced
- 20 July** Large scale police and military activity in Aherlow to prevent 'Aeridheacht' (Gaelic League festival)
- July (late)** Legal proceedings against police for holding the child Connors Feb -April (Settled c.20 Nov £75 damages)
- Aug** Much industrial unrest
- 1 Aug** Searches Scalaheen - two arrests (P. Ryan & T. Fennelly) - released
- 14 Aug** Tipperary Show - good attendance
- Aug (late)** American journalist (Hearst newspapers) harassed by police - met PP and PJ Moloney TD
- 30 Aug** Intensive police and military activity - arrests of J. Black, Martin Breen. R. Condon, P. Dalton, T. Fennelly, P. Ryan and T. Twomey - charges relate to activities on 1 Aug and membership illegal organisations - men remanded to Cork
- 4 Sept** Trial of these seven in Tipperary - considerable police and military presence
Martin Breen given 3 months HL - the others 2 months each
- 7-9 Sept** (Fermoy disturbed)
- 9 Sept** Military begin using armoured car in their patrols
Intensive military activity south of Tipperary - Busy monthly cattle fair in Tipperary
- 12 Sept** **Dáil Éireann declared illegal**
Massive search of all houses in Tipperary with S.F. connections

- Around twenty search parties - forced entry
13 Sept Premises of Tipperary Club James Street ransacked by military
20 Sept Special measures reintroduced in Tipperary County - people travelling to
 Tipperary market turned back by soldiers with fixed bayonets
c24 Sept RIC barracks barricaded with sandbags and lattice wire
 Many houses searched
Oct (early) Many protests about renewal of restrictions on commerce
16 Oct Protest meeting of women in Tipperary regarding political prisoners who are
 on hunger strike
22 Oct Release of prisoners - crowds at Limerick Junction to welcome their return
 (Dalton, Condon, Black, Fennelly, Toomey and O'Halloran) confrontation with
 police in Tipperary town
 Tipperary Club again searched
 Tipperary Quarter Sessions - further hearings re compensation arising from
 Soloheadbeg Ambush (MacDonnell's claim £5000)
10 Nov Tipperary Club raided
11 Nov Raided again in bigger operation - Jerry Kiely and Daniel Noonan arrested -
 unrest on streets
13 Nov Successful dance in Town Hall - Tipperary Branch of the Comrades of the Great
 War Association - music provided by army band
20 Nov Police and military raids - eight arrests: Moore, M. Fitzpatrick, Duffy, Kelly,
 Carroll, Moloney, Allen and Foley
21 Nov The Irish House sold to Neville Bros.
c.27 Nov Raids around Dundrum area
27 Nov Trial in Tipperary of the eight arrested on 20 Nov
Nov (late) Because of permits needed, slump in motoring
4 Dec Breen & Condon released from Mountjoy 22 Oct, re-arrested
Dec (late) Release from Mountjoy of Con Moloney and Seán Duffy
- 1920**
- 15 Jan** Elections UDC - 5 SF; 5 Lab; 8 Independent elected from candidate list of 14 SF;
 9 Lab and 8 Independents
18 Jan Attack on Drombane Barracks
20 Jan 'The Sacking of Thurles'
21 Jan Protest by ITGWU Suir Castle re. land distribution
 T. Toomey (member TUDC) released from Mountjoy and re-arrested
26 Jan Ban on fairs and markets (and large gatherings) in County Tipperary lifted
 One consequence - large number of dances all over the district
27 Jan P.J. Moloney MP elected chairman Tipperary UDC
7 Feb Noted that Tipperary Club James St., still closed
10 Feb First fair since August 1919
 Searches Shrough and Kilross
12 Feb PL Ryan Auctioneers - first sale since Jan 1919 (had moved sales to New Pallas
 in Co Limerick)
21 Feb Mathew & Arthur Barlow arrested at their home in Shrough

- 25 Feb** Searches Breansha
- 29 Feb** Large military presence at ITGWU meeting in Thomastown about land distribution - nine arrests
- 6 March** Press reference to intensive police and military activity past months in Knockavilla/ Dundrum - houses ransacked
- 7 March** Attack on Doon Barracks
- 8 March** Maurice Crowe arrested and returned to Mountjoy
Seán Fitzpatrick, John O'Meara, Seán Allen, Michael Edmunds arrested and taken to Cork Gaol
- 16 March** Court decisions regarding compensation claims by relatives of constables shot at Soloheadbeg
- 17 March** Kickham Band paraded and played for first time since Jan 1919 - Military confined to barracks
- 29 March** P.J. Moloney MP arrested at his home
Also Seán Duffy
- 30 March** **Arrival in Tipperary of first Black & Tans (around thirty men)**
- 1 April** Seán Carroll arrested and taken to Cork Gaol
- 2 April** House of Ms. Mary Quinlan Church St searched
- 3 April** House of revenue official in Tipperary town raided by Volunteers and records taken
Kilfeakle Barracks burned - vacated for 9 months
- 13 April** **(Tues) National General Strike**
- 14 April** **Strike Continued**
Martin Breen, Maurice Crowe and Maurice Toomey released from Mountjoy, also Seán Black
- May (early)** Release of P.J. Moloney MP after hunger strike
- 27 May** Attack on Kilmallock Barracks (Maurice Crowe in charge)
- 29 May** *Tipperary People* newspaper sold at auction to local businessman for £3000
SF election meeting at Kickham monument
- 2 June** Barronstown races - police refused to do duty - order kept by Volunteers
- 3 June** Local elections County Council & RDC - SF success
- 4 June** Attack on Cappawhite RIC Barracks
Attack on Drangan RIC Barracks
- 7 June** Recognition by Tipperary UDC of Dáil Éireann
- 8 June** Intensive search for Dinny Lacey
- 10 June** Ambush c. Emly
- 11 June** Maurice Crowe arrested in Kilross
- 16 June** PJ Moloney TD back in Tipperary after release from Wormwood Scrubs
Intensive police search in home of Michael Edmunds (O'Connell Road)
- 20 June** Major search and question operation by military and police, in and around Tipperary
- 22 June** Dispute in Dublin-Cork train at Dundrum - drivers refuse to carry Black & Tans - impasse until following day when police left the train
- 24 June** Similar dispute Waterford-Limerick trains
- 26 June** Transfer of members from Tipperary Workingmen's Protection and Benefit Society to ITGWU (Cathal O'Shannon presided)

- 2 July** Ambush near Dualla, one RIC Tobin killed
- 4 July** (Sun) Military returning from St Mary's suddenly cordoned off centre of town and searched everyone
- 5 July** Mail taken from postman Tipperary-Cullen route
Police search Duggans James Street and Quanes Dillon Street
- 12 July** Attack on Rearcross RIC Barracks - one RIC Stokes killed
- 13 July** 'Emly Attack' soldiers and military disarmed (Maurice Crowe trial 25 Sept)
- 14 July** Arrest of Maurice Crowe in Kilross
Military establish base in Golden
Intensive military activity c. Emly
- 19 July** Three children knocked down by military lorry on Main Street -
Shooting in Emly -
Special court in Tipperary - charges against Michael Edmunds - dismissed for lack of evidence
- 20 July** Cleeve's cart driver and men saving hay shot at from Black&Tan lorry
- 24 July** Intensive search of premises in Tipperary town - soldiers with fixed bayonets across Main, O'Brien and Church Streets
- 30 July** Ambush at Oola - two soldiers killed Disturbances Tipperary town
- 31 July** Military riot in Tipperary town - reprisals - all windows on Bridge Street smashed - including damage to Ernie Lyons Pub, Station Road (closest pub to military barracks and a military hangout)
Windows smashed Main Street - 'Wild Scenes'
Inquest on the two soldiers Tipperary Barracks abandoned because of twenty jurors summoned, only one appeared
- 1 Aug** Large reinforcements to Tipperary, with armoured cars and machine guns - gunshots in west of town, Andrew Hayes shot by mistake, died - Houses searched
- 3 Aug** Military and Police apologise to Mr Lyons
- 4 Aug** Shop shuttered, streets empty by 10p.m., police and military patrols
- 11 Aug** Reports regarding random shooting by Black and Tans
- 12 Aug** Official inquiry in Military Barracks about recent events in town
Houses in Abbey Street searched, 3 a.m.
- 13 Aug** Petrol removed from Limerick Junction by Volunteers
Emly residents warned to remove SF propaganda painted on house walls
- 16 Aug** **D.I. Wilson shot in Templemore**
- 30 Aug** Mail trains boarded at Goold's Cross by Volunteers and mail taken
- Aug (late)** Gas Works strike
- 1 Sept** (Wed) Packed special mass for Terence MacSwiney who on hunger strike
- 3 Sept** T. Hartnett arrested in Bansha with incriminating documents
- 4 Sept** P. McCarthy Dundrum, SF activist and Gaelic teacher arrested
- 7 Sept** Premises of D. Doherty St Michael Street searched by military and police - shop assistant D. Noonan arrested and incriminating material seized
- 8 Sept** 'Templemore Bleeding Statues' hysteria manifested in Cashel
- 12 Sept** Select Vestry St Mary's on good relations with RCs and deprecate sectarianism - Similarly Clonbeg

- 20 Sept** Circular to merchants Tipperary town warning them not to supply RIC
- 22 Sept** Armed police entered Godfrey's Bank Place and Lipton's, took goods and stated that when bills forwarded, would be paid
- 23 Sept** Court martial Maurice Crowe re. Emly attack 13 July - got three years PS
- Sept** Flying Column formed under leadership of D Lacey
- 5 Oct** Searches 3 a.m. O'Callaghan's O'Brien St (vice-chair UDC) and Gillane's O'Brien Street
- 8 Oct** Windows house of W. Casey, Main Street, smashed by soldiers (Casey, chair of Tipperary branch Comrades of the Great War)
- 8 Oct** Court martial of D. Noonan- got one year HL (arrested 7 Sept)
- 13 Oct** Mail from Tipperary to Limerick Junction intercepted
- 14 Oct** Death of Seán Treacy in Dublin
- 16 Oct** Court martial of T. Hartnett, gets six months HL (arrested 3 Sept)
- 18 Oct** Murder by Black& Tans of Dwyer Brothers in Ballydavid
- 21 Oct** c.1 a.m. some dozen drunken soldiers tried to gain access to premises of James Hogan, Main Street
- 23 Oct** Black & Tans assault people on Street and wreck Allen's St Michael Street
On return journey to Limerick, attack people in Coffey's Forge
- 25 Oct** **Death of Terence McSwiney**
- 28 Oct** Thomastown Ambush - several British soldiers killed (1st engagement of Flying Column) Reprisal burning of houses and assaults Tipperary town that night great deal of military activity, armoured cars on streets, shots fired, some arrests
- 29 Oct** Continuing disturbances
- 30 Oct** Continued disturbances - shops raided and looted
- 31 Oct** (Sun) 'Thousands of pounds worth of damage was done in Tipperary on Sunday night by a small body of soldiers.'
- 1 Nov** Burial in St Michael's cemetery Tipperary of one of soldiers killed 28 Oct
- 3-5 Nov** Military court of inquiry
- 8 Nov** Houses in Tipperary town raided
- 9 Nov** and searched, including Moloney's
- 9 Nov** (Tues) Largest November fair in years
- 11 Nov** Compensation claims for c.£6000 lodged for wrecking of town
- 13 Nov** Aherlow (Inches Cross) Ambush - four police Bustrock, Mackessy, Miller and O'Leary killed
Reprisals: burning of Moloney's and Liptons
- 14 Nov** Reprisals continued - houses burned
P. Lynch killed from indiscriminate rifle fire in Golden
- 15 Nov** Outrages continue in and around Tipperary town, including burning of hay
Damage estimated c.£40,000
- 16 Nov** Four policemen killed in Kilcommon
- 20 Nov** Arrest of William Benn and William Donovan - used as lorry hostages and released
- 21 Nov** **Bloody Sunday**
- 22 Nov** Arrests in Tipperary - P. Mortell, O'Brien St.; J. Cussen, O'Brien St.; W. Bresnan,

- J. Doherty, D. Kirby, James St., D. Kelly, Davis St., - C. Power sought but escaped
- 27 Nov** P.J. Moloney T.D. appeal in press that robberies (mainly coal and potatoes) in the town by 'men, women and boys' cease.
- 28 Nov** Patrol shot at in town - two arrests
- 7 Dec** House searches and arrest of W. Hogan, Greenane, P. Hogan and J. Murphy, Bansha
- 8 Dec** Arrests - F. O'Meara, T. Ryan, Bohercrowe.
- 10 Dec** Martial Law - Tipperary, Cork, Kerry and Limerick
- 12 Dec** Attack on Rearcross Barracks
- 16 Dec** Ambush in Kilcommon, four policemen Halford, Harden, Palmer and Smith killed
- 17 Dec** Body of Michael Edmunds found shot dead in the Hills
- 18 Dec** Two Volunteers killed in Kilfeakle
- 21 Dec** James Hickey (The Arcade) arrested
- 26 Dec** Hickey 'killed trying to escape' Tipperary Military Barracks
- 28 Dec** House to house searches in Golden area - one arrest
Flying Column narrow escape from O'Doherty's Seskin
House burned as reprisal
- 1921**
- 3 Jan** Cinema in James St destroyed by fire
- 4 Jan** Martial Law operational - includes regulation that all houses have to post list of occupants (also forbids use of carrier pigeons)
- 8 Jan** Findings military court of inquiry re. death of James Hickey (26 Dec 1920) - military blameless
- 11 Jan** Monthly fair (Tuesday)
- 15 Jan** Limerick Junction RIC barracks attacked - recreation hall burned Dundrum and Anacarty Barracks also attacked
- 17 Jan** Policeman Boyd killed in Cappawhite
- 28 Jan** Military funeral two soldiers killed ambush New Bermingham (24 Jan) all businesses forced to close
Compensation claims Thomastown Ambush and urban reprisals (£200,000 plus)
- 31 Jan** Failed Black & Tan attack Cleary's Main Street
- 3 Feb** Dromkeen ambush - eleven policemen Adams, Bell, Bourke, Doyle, Foody, Hayton, Kingston, Millin, Mollaghan, Pearce and Smith killed
- 5 Feb** Arrests in Tipperary - including Seán Allen, Simon Ryan, John Hayes, Michael Halloran
- 13 Feb** Eleven lorry loads of soldiers searched people coming from mass in Hollyford - one man (Quinlan) shot and killed
- 14 Feb** Some of those arrested (5 Feb) in Tipperary released
- 15 Feb** Reprisals threatened if roads blocked by Volunteers east of town not repaired - roads repaired
- 19 Feb** Michael Ryan Rathclogheen killed c.Golden - blamed on IRA

- 23 Feb** Some roads around town trenched
- 24 Feb** Dundrum Barracks attacked - rifle fire
- 28 Feb** Seán Allen executed in Cork Gaol
- 1 March** Limerick Junction and Anacarty Barracks attacked - rifle fire
IRA drilling party c. Kilross fired on - one killed (Looby) and several wounded
- 4 March** Policeman Beasant killed in Cashel
- 5 March** Visitor to town from American White Cross - heard evidence
- 6 March** Patrick Hogan killed near Cashel
- 7 March** UDC meeting obstructed
- 8 March** Spring Assizes (Clonmel) - substantial compensation claims
- 12 March** Shots fired at military police in Limerick Junction
- 13 March** All males leaving Solohead chapel searched (Sunday)
- 14 March** Ambush at Ballyglass
- 15 March** Some arrests
- 17 March** Four arrests
- 20 March** Confrontation Black & Tans and 'crowd' stealing coal from Tipperary Railway Station
- 22 March** Three lorry loads of Auxiliaries shoot at Maid of Erin when passing through town
- 29 March** British propaganda posters around town - asks 'Who buys Ireland's cattle, butter and bacon?' and ends 'Stop the murder of police and soldiers.'
Military raid Greenane House (Mansergh) - two hour search yields nothing
Female worker Cleeve's Creamery arrested
- 1 April** Rifle fire Fair Green, Hutments and Henry Street
- 8 April** Last issue of *Tipperary People*
300 idle in town including 120 ex-servicemen
- 16 April** First issue of *Tipperaryman*
- 23 April** Murder of Timothy Cranley, St Michael Street
- 25 April** Military inquiry re Cranley - IRA blamed
- 26 April** Official reprisals re. Cranly - contents of five named houses to be destroyed (O'Callaghan, Henry St.; Ryan, 62 Main St; Allen, St Michael St; Ryan, Limerick Junction and Quane, New Tipperary)
Two Allen Bros. St Michael Street arrested
- 28 April** Warning posters around town - anti-IRA- threats regarding hands in pockets
- 30 April** Shop assistants strike - continued into Summer
Release of Allen Bros.
- 1 May** P. Moloney and J. Duffy killed at Gortdrum
- 2 May** Military court of inquiry re. these killings (made public 9 June)
Volunteer murdered by Black & Tans at Gortdrum
- 6 May** Newtown (Anacarty) Ambush - policeman Kingston and volunteer killed
- 12 May** Court Martial of Thomas Walsh Stonepark re. Inches Cross Ambush (13 Nov 1920) - not guilty
- 15 May** One policeman Nutley killed and two wounded Bansha - coming from mass
Intense military activity around Bansha and Glen - Ardane School taken over to accommodate them

- 16 May** Court Martial in Cork P. O'Halloran and J. Witheroe re. shooting (28 Nov 1920)
- 20 May** Reprisals - houses destroyed (Kennedy, Coolgort; Dwyer, Ballydavid)
- 26 May** Bansha Barracks under fire
Road obstructions removed under duress
- 30 May** Two prisoners (O'Brien and Purcell) shot dead - Tipperary Military Barracks
- 31 May** Military court of inquiry - shot while trying to escape - (verdict released 2 July)
- 2 June** Alleen and Gurteen Creameries closed for one month by gov. order as reprisals for road obstructions
- 3 June** Large body of armed men enter and search Tipperary PO
- 5 June** Soldier wounded in Thomastown
White Cross church-gate collection - records and money seized
Six arrests during day
Military station Ballynacourty fired on - subsequent searches - two arrests (Lynch and Spencer, latter released)
- 6 June** Two arrests including L.J. Dalton chair of County Council
Crime: no permit for collection
Golden RIC barracks fired on
- 15 June** Two explosions in Aherlow
- 16 June** Court martial in Cork of J. O'Connell re. incident Limerick Junction (12 March) - not guilty
- 17 June** Mail seized Limerick Junction and censored
Bansha RIC barracks fired on
Roads blocked Cluen
- 18 June** Armed and masked men seized customs records from office in Tipperary
- 22 June** Military fired on at Ballinahow
Tipperary Quarter Sessions: claims for compensation
- 24 June** Military court of inquiry re church-gate collection 5 June - six charged
- 27 June** Ballynacourty military station fired on
- 28 June** Houses James Street searched
Mail seized Tipperary-Cappawhite route, also Bansa and Galbally
- 29 June** Armed men seized J. Buckley from Moloney farm Gortdrum, killed him
- 30 June** Shots fired Bank Place
Public houses searched
Goods train held up at Bansha and food for military destroyed
- 1 July** Black & Tan killed c. Bansha
- 2 July** Around twenty young men under heavy military guard forced to repair roads at Thomastown
- 3 July** Ambush near Limerick Junction (Boherdota) - two policemen killed
- 5 July** Emly RIC barracks fired on
- 10 July** Dundrum Barracks under heavy fire (8th attack)
Police fired on in Cappawhite
- 11 July** Truce

References

- ¹Examples include, D.G. Marnane, *Land & Violence* (Tipperary, 1985); D. Ryan, *Treacy* (Tralee, 1945); Breen, *Fight* (first ed. 1924); S. Fitzpatrick, *Recollections of The Fight for Irish Freedom* (Author, n.d.); P. Cranley, *Just Standing Idly By* (Author, 1993). Also the following Bureau of Military History witness statements: S. Fitzpatrick (W.S. 1259); M. Fitzpatrick (W.S. 1433); M. Crowe (W.S. 517); A. Kennedy (W.S. 963); S. O'Carroll (W.S. 1702); P.H. O'Dwyer (W.S. 1432); T. Crowe (W.S. 1658).
- ²D.G. Marnane, 'Tipperary town one hundred years ago: the evidence of the 1901 Census' in *THJ* (2001), pp. 1-26.
- ³D.G. Marnane, 'Tipperary town one hundred years ago: issues of identity' in *THJ* (2002), pp. 169-94.
- ⁴D.G. Marnane, 'Canon Arthur Ryan, the National Volunteers and Army Recruitment' in Tipperary in *THJ* (2006), pp. 150-73.
- ⁵P. Maume, *The Long Gestation Irish Nationalist Life 1891-1918* (Dublin, 1999), p.211
- ⁶For the election generally see J. Coakley, *The Election that made the First Dáil* in B. Farrell (ed.), *The Creation of the Dáil* (Dublin, 1994), pp. 31-46 and B.M. Walker (ed.), *Parliamentary Election Results in Ireland, 1801-1922* (Dublin, RIA, 1978)
- ⁷*Tipperary People*, 24 Dec 1920.
- ⁸*Tipperary People*, 8 Nov 1918. According to press reports, Austin Stack then in Belfast Gaol was to be the candidate but he opted instead for Kerry West. See Moloney's obit *Nationalist*, 6 Sept 1947 and *Tipperary Star*, 13 Sept 1947
- ⁹*Tipperary People*, 18 Oct 1918.
- ¹⁰*Tipperary People*, 25 Oct 1918
- ¹¹*Tipperary People*, 10 May 1918
- ¹²*Clonmel Chronicle*, 27 Nov 1918. (The last available issue for 1918 of *Tipperary People* is 15 Nov.)
- ¹³Michael Fitzpatrick (W.S. 1433, Bureau of Military History) Fitzpatrick gives the date as 23 Nov.
- ¹⁴*ClonmelChronicle*, 4 Dec 1918
- ¹⁵Maurice Crowe (W.S. 517, Bureau of Military History). See J. Augusteijn, *From Public Defiance to Guerilla Warfare* (Dublin, 1996), p.83
- ¹⁶*Nationalist*, 1 Jan 1919
- ¹⁷Fitzpatrick, *Recollections*, p.9
- ¹⁸This chronology is based mainly on newspaper reports, published sources and some Bureau of Military History witness statements.