

A visit to the scene yesterday by your Charleville representative elicited some of the principal details surrounding the tragic occurrence which has cast a melancholy gloom over the whole of East Limerick. Caherguillamore House, about a quarter of a mile from Holycross, lies on the direct road between Bruff and Fedamore. It is a splendid mansion of antiquated appearance with about 25 acres of land attached, and was for some time the residence of Lady Fermoy. It formerly belonged to Lord Guillamore, who is an uncle of Mrs Nigel Baring, of Rockbarton, Holycross. Lady Fermoy vacated the residence some months ago, and it has since been under the management of a caretaker. From particulars gleaned in the locality to-day it appears preparations were made for the holding of a dance party at Caherguillamore House on St. Stephen's night by some local members of the Sinn Fein organisation, and invitations were sent out to a large number of persons, including ladies. A large number, comprising upwards of 140 or 150 couples, attended, and all arrangements possible were made to make this social gathering a success. The dance started about 6 o'clock on Sunday evening, and nothing occurred to mar the harmony of the function until shortly after 1 o'clock on Monday morning when the whole place was surrounded by a large force of constabulary from Limerick and Bruff, who were evidently apprised of the matter beforehand, but it is stated a number of military also accompanied the police. When some of the constabulary approached the building it is alleged they were fired on by a number of men who were on the watch. The police returned the fire, inflicting a number of casualties, but not before one of their number was fatally wounded by a revolver bullet. A scene of confusion followed, and a general rush was made by the members of the dance party to escape from the building. But the police, however, made prisoners of 132 men, and these were subsequently conveyed under strong constabulary escort to Limerick. A number of youths were also apprehended, but were subsequently allowed to return home. Some young men, it is stated, attempted to escape, attired in female clothing, but they were made prisoners after being searched by female searchers who accompanied the police. The name of the dead policeman is Constable Alfred C. H. Ogsden, R.I.C. He is a native of London, and aged about 30 years. He was a member of the Bruff constabulary force, and was not long stationed in the district.

The civilian casualties are reported to be as follows—John Quinlan, aged 35 years, an American citizen and a motor mechanic by trade, killed; Martin Conway, aged 27, a farmer, residing at Holycross; and secretary of the local Sinn Fein Club, killed, Thomas Sheehan, aged about 22, farm labourer, killed. It is also reported that a farmer named Dwyer, from Herbertstown district, is amongst the list of those fatally wounded, but the report is not confirmed.

Amongst those wounded are—Denis Conway, labourer, Bruff; Joseph Ryan, an extensive farmer from the Loughgour district; also his brother, Robert, who was badly wounded in the arm, and a man named John Gavan, who was shockingly lacerated. A report that he is dead is unconfirmed. ©Irish Newspaper Archives