

21 May 1921

DIED FROM WOUNDS.

Timothy Hennessy, a native of County Limerick, who was wounded and captured during the recent Kildorrery ambush, has died in Cork military hospital.

HENNESSY—In proud and loving memory of Tim Hennessy, F Coy., 3rd Battalion, Mid-Limerick Brigade, who died in Cork Military Hospital, May 17, 1921, from the effects of wounds received in action at Straherlos May 1, 1921. Solemn Requiem Mass offered up to-day (Tuesday) at Bohermore Church.—Inserted by Comdt. O'Connell and comrades, Mid-Limerick Brigade.

20 Jun 1953

FAMILY THAT PLAYED BIG PART IN DAYS OF TRIAL

ON Thursday, 4th inst, we learned with deep regret of the death, at her home in Ahabeg, Killonan, of Miss Margaret Mary Hennessy. The deceased lady was sister of Lieut. T. Hennessy, Killonan Company, I.R.A., who was wounded in an encounter with British forces at Shraherla on the 1st May, 1921, and died in hospital later.

The late Miss Hennessy will be remembered with respect and admiration by members of the I.R.A. Flying Column, not only of Mid Limerick, but also of East Limerick and East Clare, on account of the ever ready welcome and remarkable hospitality shown to them on all occasions by herself, her mother and her sister (now Mrs. E. O'Farrell) in face of the greatest personal risk to themselves and their property.

HAVEN OF REST FOR I.R.A.

Notwithstanding the fact that their only brother was away on active service with the Flying Column, their home was an "open house"—a haven of rest where all I.R.A. men were welcome and well cared for. Towards the end of April, 1921, a large scale round up was carried out by the British forces in Killonan, Highpark and Caherconlish districts. A large force of R.I.C. and Black and Tans, who had travelled some distance on foot, surrounded the home of the deceased lady at Ahabeg, Killonan, in the early hours of the morning and three members of the Flying Column—Timothy Murphy, Edward Punch and Moigan Portley—were captured, while in the nearby farmhouse of Mrs O'Connor a fourth member, Michael Hennessy, Ballybricken, was also captured. Timothy Murphy and Edward Punch were immediately recognised by R.I.C. from the city. In one of the bedrooms in Ahabeg House all four members were set upon by the Black and Tans, who freely used ash plants and the butts of their rifles, with the result that the walls were spattered with blood.

STOOD SEVEREST TRIAL.

Each member of the Hennessy family was subsequently submitted to the severest interrogation regarding the identity of the other prisoners, but no amount of threats or abuse could compel these gallant ladies to give the slightest clue to their tormentors.

To add to this long and severe trial, a week later Mrs. Hennessy and her daughters learned, that the only son in the family, Timothy Hennessy, was mortally wounded in an encounter with British forces at Shraherla, a fact which brought renewed searching and persecution to the family home. All this suffering was borne by the deceased lady, her sister (Mrs O'Farrell) and her mother, with marvellous fortitude and unabated patriotic zeal, from which it is evident that their love of country was second only to their love of God. To such families Ireland owes the preservation of her faith and national spirit.