

THREE SHOT DEAD AND EIGHT WOUNDED.

ROSSCARBERY BATTLE.

The terrible tragedies and armed conflicts reported to-day involve the deaths of 14 policeman, and the wounding of many others, while about 6 civilians are also reported dead.

The heaviest death-roll in any ambush since that near Macroom resulted from an encounter at Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick, yesterday, 9 policemen being killed and 2 dangerously wounded.

District-Inspector Craven and Cadets Houghton and Bushe were killed in the ambush at Ballinalee on Wednesday, while 8 others were

A thrilling story of the fatal encounter at Ballinalee was obtained from semi-official sources by a special representative of the "Irish Independent."

The fight lasted from 9.30 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday evening. There were in all 17 Auxiliaries, who were returning in two motor lorries from Granard to Longford, travelling a couple of hundred yards apart.

No shot was fired, and there was nothing to indicate that an ambush had been prepared. The lorries were travelling at between 15 and 20 miles per hour. When they got to a place 2 miles from Ballinalee on the Granard side

the attack was begun by the explosion of a mine on the road.

The leading lorry was near the bottom of a slight hill and approaching a bridge when the mine exploded. It did not blow up the lorry, but it threw it across the road, stopping the engine.

FORCED TO SURRENDER.

The second lorry pulled up. Immediately a terrible fire from rifles and revolvers was directed at the Auxiliaries. They took up positions beside the lorries and in the dykes. Attacked from positions on both sides of the road and from the rear, they were hard pressed, but returned the fire as fast as they could.

The number of the attacking party was estimated to be 50 or 60. A severe fire came from an entrenched position 40 yards from the road and on a hill overlooking the spot where the lorries lay. Another group of attackers was in position 300 or 400 yards from the other side of the road.

The engagement lasted three-quarters of an hour, both sides continuing to fire as fast and as persistently as they could. Towards the end the casualties amongst the Auxiliaries was so great—2 men dead, one dying, and 8 wounded—and their ammunition being exhausted, there was no option except to surrender.

The attacking party in the latter stage of the fight, when the fire of the Auxiliaries began to slacken, closed in on the cadets and had them completely surrounded.

TENDING THE WOUNDED.

From the start of the fight the attackers called to the Auxiliaries at intervals to surrender, but the request was refused, until it was absolutely hopeless to fight any longer. At the surrender

about 12 men, dressed in civilian clothes and all carrying rifles or revolvers, and some with both, jumped out on the road. The leader announced his name and said he was a Commandant.

The lorry struck by the mine had not been captured, but one of the attackers fired a bullet through the petrol tank and, putting a match to the petrol the lorry was

when brought to the Infirmary in Longford, and he died within half an hour.

THE WOUNDED MEN.

Of the wounded cadets, two are very seriously wounded, and one of these is not expected to recover. Most of the other 6 are suffering from serious wounds.

Several of the wounds are so torn and lacerated that it is alleged they must have been caused by dum-dum bullets. The top of one man's shoulder is ripped up as far as his neck.

Another man's forearm is very much shattered.

It is stated that District-Inspector Craven belonged to Barrow-in-Furness, and was a retired Lt.-Commander of the Navy. Cadet Houghton belonged to London, and Cadet Bushe came from Nottingham district.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY REPORTED.

It was rumoured last night in Longford that one man had been arrested and another shot dead in Ballinalee yesterday evening, and also that a house had been burned down.

The business premises of Mr. J. O'Reilly, Rathmore, Aughnaclyffe, was burned down yesterday.

THE DEAD AND WOUNDED.

The names of the dead, as given by the Press Association, are:—

Lt.-Commander D. J. F. W. Craven, R.N., D.S.O.; S. A. Houghton, Sussex Regt.; R. G. Bushe.

Wounded—Seriously—District-Inspector L. B. Taylor, M.C., Somerset L.I.; F. B. Greenfield, R.N.v. Badly wounded—W. F. Lee, Warwickshire Regt.; S. Moyles, S. A. Lambert, Northants Regt.; T. Richardson, D.C.M., R.F.A. Slightly wounded—Keeble, L. G. Chesterton, R.A.F.

The wounded men were conveyed to Dublin by a special ambulance train yesterday, their removal to Stevens's Hospital being personally superintended by Sir William Wheeler. Six were taken on stretchers, and 4 of these appeared to be in a serious condition. Two were able to walk. It is stated that operations will be necessary in every case.

On inquiry at Stevens's Hospital it was ascertained that the lives of at least 4 are believed to be in danger. The men received numerous wounds in the head, body, and legs, and the escape of some of them is looked upon as marvellous by the medical staff.

SALVING OF OTRANTO RECALLED.

The death of Lt.-Commander Craven, writes "Londoner" in the "Evening Standard," recalls the saving of the Otranto the month before the armistice. In connection with that gallant and skilful business, Craven, who was in command of a destroyer, was awarded the D.S.O., while the American Government decorated him at the same time.