

Aaron White's and Jack Barry's project
on

WEST CORK

1916 - 1922



Safe Houses

There was a very famous safe house down there by Dunnycove. IRA men would be shot or injured and they would be taken down there to recover. Cumann na mban would look after them.



Tom Barry

There was a man called Tom Barry and he was up to no in newcestown, which is north of Bandon and he stole a race horse there, because he had no way to come home I suppose, and rode all around the country side and he landed on in Dominic and Caolfinn's house (a guy called Jim Duggan owned the house at the time) but it was a safe house.

Safe Houses

There were a lot of safe houses around at the time. They weren't that elaborate. Quite a lot of them were near the sea. If you were in the house and you had to escape and the roads were blocked you could always get out on a boat

Picture of Tom Barry



Safe Houses

There a safe house up the back road, up where Dennis Leary used to live, there was a guy called Lar O' Leary owned a safe house. They knocked on his door at about 5 O' Clock in the morning. He looked out and he thought they were dead. he told the sisters to get a pound for them. He wanted a pound to go to the pub with them and a pound was a lot of money in those days. So they came down to Coughlan's Pub at Chapel Cross and they drank most of the pound and then they went to mountain house and they drank the rest of the pound. They went to Dunowen to a safe house owned by wheltons, it was near Scannells place, and they slept for 24 hours.

What they did that time was they went from place to place by sea rather than going across country by road, they would get caught easier on the road. These were a few fellas from Clonakilty and they used to be out here a lot and they were involved in the attack on Clonakilty barracks, in 1920, it was a big battle. There was a mine down in Dunmore, Brightess Mine, and to make the tunnel under the ground you need to use explosives so my Grandfather worked down there and I'd say he was stealing the explosives and some of the explosives were used in the attack. They made a big bomb to blow up the barracks in Rosscarbery. There were two guys and they couldn't escape from Rosscarbery and they hid in a potato garden for two days and two nights and the British were looking for them. There was a priest who walked down through the garden and he saw them but he said nothing. They made their escape the second night and they went down to a place called Millcove and there a local guy who brought them across on a boat across from Rosscarbery bay over to a place beyond Fisher's Cross called Ballinacoon.