

THE BURGATIA BATTLE

I Live in the townland of Burgatia in Rosscarbery. Across the fields from where my house is a house that was known as the Burgatia House during the War of Independence. Opposite the Ryan's petrol station on the N71.

On February 1st General Tom Barry and his men (known as the flying column) marched from Abigail Rosscarbery and arrived at Burgatia house owned by "Lord Tom Kingston". They imprisoned the people living there, had a meal and slept.

Tom Barry and his men were planning to attack the R.I.C Barracks in Rosscarbery the next day to free part of West Cork from enemy forces.

The next day two local sentries Sonny Maloney and James May reported that Black and Tans with rifles were gathering on the end

in front of the house and the woods to the west. The enemy began to shoot at the flying column from two sides the only way out the men was to the east. One of the men was Vol Brennan from Castledonovan was shot in the leg.

The members of the flying column had yet to fire a single shot. But as the British got nearer General Tom Barry gave the order for thirty IRA rifle to open fire on the British. The British soldiers turned and ran but later would seriously regret having come so close to one of the most wanted men in Ireland, but had not managed to arrest him.

Two months after the Bulgatia battle on the 30th of March 1921 General Tom Barry and his men captured the R.I.C Barracks and ended British occupation in Rosscarbery. Sources: Traolach Ó Donnabháin and Con Ó Callaghan Cork Rebel