

MONUMENT AT KILMICHAEAL

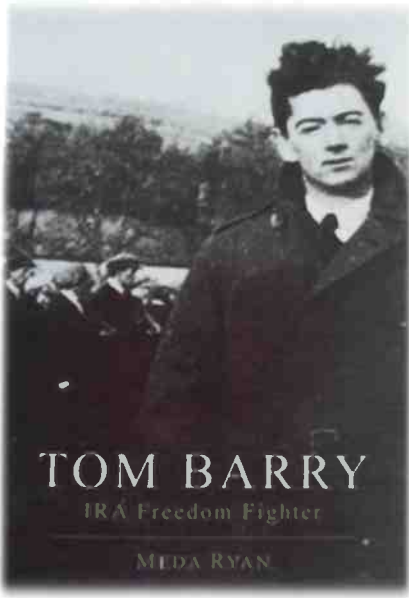


It was Sunday morning the 28th day of November 1920. There was an ambush carried out by the Irish Republican Army during the war of Independence. It was located near the village of Kilmichael in County Cork.

Tom Barry a rising star in the Third Brigade of the IRA sent word throughout West Cork that he was mobilizing a Colum for a major attack. The Colum were concealed in the rocky hills very close to the side of the road.

Early that morning Tadgh Hurley known as “Leather” a travelling man was staying in a safe house nearby and was passing by the site. The Colum took him into the rocks and between the furs. They gave him a shotgun and gave him their plan.

When the fight was over Tom Barry said to Tadgh Hurley “You shot the biggest Devil in the Lorry”. The travelling man pleased with his day continued his journey and enjoyed telling his story to the locals.



Jim Fehily

Story teller



Information
on the site
of
Kilmichael ambush

AMBUSH ACTION

Tom Barry and his men assembled at the site at 8.15am in cold and wet conditions. They were fortified during the day with tea supplied by the local people. The scout at the northern end of the ambush site signalled the approach of British Auxiliaries at 4.05pm. At that moment, five armed IRA men on a horse drawn sidcar, who were initially unaware of plans for an ambush, came into the ambush position and were ordered to gallop up a nearby lane, out of sight. Within fifteen seconds a party of Auxiliaries arrived. The driver, observing a man dressed in army uniform, (Tom Barry) standing on a wall at the Command Post, brought the Crossley Tender with its nine occupants almost to a stop within metres of the stone wall. Barry threw a Mills bomb, an automatic sounded and a whistle blew, signalling the Volunteers to open fire. The tender continued with the driver dead, killing a few yards from the wall. Some Auxiliaries disembarked onto the road where hand to hand fighting occurred. Revolvers were used at point blank range and at times, rifle bolts replaced rifle shots. In less than five minutes the occupants of this vehicle were killed.

Barry was aware of the presence of a second lorry in a stationary position about thirty metres on the Command Post side of No. 2 Station. Its occupants were taking fire with this section Barry and his men at the Command Post decided to attack the British from the rear, by moving single file, in crouched positions up the road. The Auxiliaries were heard to shout, "we surrender!" As some Auxiliaries threw away their rifles, the surrender cry was repeated. Firing stopped, while Barry and his still unbreathed men continued to advance. Suddenly three members of No. 2 Station broke cover, one remained and two sprinted. The Auxiliaries began to fire again with revolvers and their IRA men were shot. When Barry saw what had happened he ordered his men to engage in rapid fire and not to stop until requested to do so.

The Auxiliaries were now trapped between Barry's men and Section No. 2 survivors. The "we surrender" cry was heard again from the Auxiliaries, but Section No. 2 was ordered to keep firing. After a short time the "we surrender" command was given by Barry and the sound of gunfire was replaced by an uneasy silence. Jim O'Sullivan lay dead. Michael O'Sullivan and Pat Barry were wounded seriously but did not leave. Section Auxiliaries were dead, one was wounded but survived and the driver of the second lorry had escaped, was captured, tried and shot.

From
the monument
at Kilmichael
----->

