

The Battle of Clonmut

My great grandfather was Jack O'Connell who survived the Battle of Clonmult in February 1921. Jack and the flying column were surrounded in a farmhouse by the British Army and there was no way out. Two of the IRA men had tried to warn them, but they were shot before they could do so. It was the shots that told the men they were in trouble. It was a standoff and it was only then the British Troops set fire to the firehouse that they faced the hard truth there was only one way to survive it. Jack was the acting Commander and together they agreed they would have to make a run for it and break through the British line. They lined up inside the door, Jack went first, and they followed 2 by 2 after him. It may have been the surprise, but Jack got through while the next two were shot down. The remaining men faced with certain death by shot or by fire – surrendered

Lucy O'Connell

