

## Troubled Times in Ireland

Ireland was ruled by the British from 1801 until 1922. The old I.R.A. were fighting the British to get independence from England in the west Cork area from 1919 to 1921. The English brought in special soldiers to defeat the I.R.A. These were known locally as the Black and Tans because of their uniforms.

On February 7<sup>th</sup> 1921 my dads granny who was about 7 years old, was on holidays at her aunts house at Mohonagh, Skibbereen, when the news came through that her first cousin, Patrick O' Driscoll, aged 24 years was shot dead accidentally by one of his fellow soldiers in the old I.R.A. while out on patrol. He was brought home to the house late that night and it was decided to bury him secretly in Aughadown graveyard to avoid trouble from the Black and Tans who were stationed in the Townhall in Skibbereen at that time. During the night the Black and Tans got the news from an informer of Patrick's death and raided the house in search of him. In the dark of night they turned everyone including eight young children out of the house. The children were frightened and cried and then heard a gun shoot. While the soldiers were ram sacking the house, one of them got accidentally shot while looking up the chimney for guns.

In 1922 Patrick O' Driscoll's body was exhumed from Aughadown Graveyard and taken to Killcose Church where mass was said. He was then reburied in the family plot in the Abbey Graveyard near Skibbereen. The funeral was led by the Brigade band from Bantry where shots were fired over his grave. All the shops were closed on that day as a mark of respect!

Date: 2/3/17

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