

Person Interviewed: Mrs. Mary Twomey, Ardura, Ballydehob, Co. Cork,
Interviewed by: Daniel Hurley, Lisheen, Church Cross, Co. Cork

Mistaken Identity

My granny told me a story that her mom told her when she was a little girl. The story goes like this.

One day in the summer of 1920 when the independence war was raging and the Black and Tans were in Ireland a jeep of them arrived at my granny's house in Dreenlomane, Ballydehob. The house is in a very isolated spot. My granny called the Black and Tans a "bad breed of British soldier". They were hated and feared everywhere.

In the house at that time was my granny's mom and dad, and her oldest brother whose name was John was a tiny baby. They were only a few years old so you can imagine, my granny said, how frightened everyone was when the soldiers arrived.



My granny, Mary Twomey, was born in Dreenlomane, Ballydehob, Co. Cork.



My granny's house

Also in the house was my granny's Uncle Jerry who had red hair. It was him that the Black and Tans wanted to interrogate because they were looking for a man with this kind of hair.

Uncle Jerry was in bed at the time and when my granny's dad heard the soldiers coming he tried to get him out of bed and out of harm's way. But the soldiers were too quick and got

to him before he could escape. As far as my granny can remember they didn't take her Uncle Jerry away that day because this red head was not the one they were after. So Uncle Jerry was free to fight another day!



Dreenlomanne School where my granny went to school was one of the places where a strong force of the Black & Tans camped in 1921.

Written by Daniel Hurley