

UPTON

TRAIN

AMBUSH

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Upton train ambush

The IRA mounted an attack on a train carrying British at Upton County Cork. According to a study of the Region Cork was by far the most violent county in Ireland during the war of Independence and had several active guerrilla brigades. Of these the Third (West Cork) was one of the most effective and it was a unit from this Brigade that carried out the Upton ambush. Five days after the Dushanbeg ambush, plans were made for an attack at Upton and Inneshamon railway station on a train travelling between Cork city and Bandon. The ambushers led by Charlie Hurley were 13 strong but had only 7 rifles the remainder being equipped only with revolvers or semi-automatic pistols. They took up position at the station ten minutes before the train pulled in imprisoning the station master clearing the station and taking cover behind sacks of grain and flour taken from a store. The train was carrying around 50 British soldiers of the Essex Regiment who were mingled with civilian passengers throughout the train's carriages. The IRA party was therefore quite heavily outnumbered and outgunned. However they were not warned of this as two IRA scouts who were supposed to have been on the train up.

They also wrongly believed that the British troops were all in the central carriage. As a result when the IRA opened fire on the train there ~~was~~ were heavy civilian casualties. The New York Times reported that a shower of ~~f~~ bullets was rained on the train practically every compartment being swept. The firefight lasted only ten ~~the~~ minutes. but in that time six civilian passengers were killed and ten wounded in the firing between the British and IRA. Six British soldiers were also injured three of them seriously. two IRA volunteers were killed outright another was fatally wounded and two more were badly wounded but survived. Charlie Hurley who had led the ambush was among wounded being struck in the face by a bullet. IRA leader Tom Barry later wrote: Through some miracle the nine unwounded and two wounded got away across county in small parties with British following close behind. ~~There~~ ^{see} civilian passengers one unwounded and two wounded were detained by the British on suspicion of belonging to the ~~an~~ ambush party. Shortly after the Upton ambush Charlie Hurley was killed in another ambush at Crossbarry

Countries: England
Ireland

People: Charlie Hurley

